



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fifteen- Issue Four

April 2024 Lúmus
"The time when wild geese fly in V formation"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

What I Think About Artificial Intelligence

Jared Quwustenuxun Williams
Author and Educator

Someone asked me what I think about AI.

I sat there thinking about my answer. I wasn't the only person they asked, they asked a small group of us. I listened to others talk about the advancements and the implications of this emerging technology. I heard people talk about

job loss, deep fakes, chatbots, and the whole idea that technology is supposed to give humans more time to create art, not replace humans creating art. I waited for someone to say what I was thinking, but it never came. Made me think maybe I was on to something or I was crazy, but isn't that the zone where magic happens?

When it came my turn to talk, I opened with thoughts about the few experiments I've been part of with AI. A friend of mine had thrown prompts at an AI art generator trying to get Salish or West Coast Indigenous regalia or art from the construct. This friend would throw prompts at the software and then show me the

image that resulted from his words. Yet every time he sent me a picture it was dead wrong. Every picture was some pan-Indigenous mashup of cultures from Latin America to the northern tribes. Nothing specific, nothing I'd call Salish. Even after I tried correcting his prompts the images it produced were pan-Indigenous and broken.

Then the realization hit me. Information about Indigenous cultures, especially Salish culture, isn't available on the internet. Most of our culture is secret, intentionally or forcibly; we haven't shared our teachings, our images, our regalia, in any real way on the Internet. And the internet is the source material that this software

utilizes to create. So in a very powerful way, our way of living exists in an AI blind spot.

Furthermore, I couldn't help but see that our oral culture hadn't been written and distributed. In a strange way, the idea of history being written by the so-called victor had only further increased the rarity, and therefore value, of Indigenous ways of knowing. Following that logic, this concept spans the globe as many Indigenous cultures intentionally have only passed down their knowledge verbally through their families.

In conclusion, I said that AI is the newest form of colonization. A colonization of art, writing, and photography.

But this time they can only colonize themselves as we, Indigenous people, have not been complicit in the creation of this bank of knowledge. So when AI is tried as a source for Indigenous insight it fails time and time again.

So TLDR AI is just another, faster, automated, version of colonization that is currently confined to mostly colonial perspectives and art form.

Now, I am sure I didn't get it 100% right as I am not an AI buff or a tech bro. But as someone who spends their time in the forest, these are my thoughts. Love to hear yours. Because we'll only understand this world, and each other, if we share ideas between people.



The Lion is a Symbol of Integrity

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

Gordon Hunter (1863-1929) moved to Victoria in 1891. He practiced law in Victoria and was the first official reporter for the BC Supreme Court, and then became the Crown Solicitor. In 1902, Hunter was appointed Chief Justice for the BC Supreme Court and held this position until his death in 1929.

Chief Justice Hunter was renowned for his "high order of ability and a rare combination of talent, powerful intelligence, penetrating eye and his formidable vocabulary". He upheld the letter of the law, regardless of whether it was a popular choice. He also played a significant role in immigration incidents surrounding the Panama Maru and the Komagata Maru, declaring the government's orders-in-council were used outside their jurisdiction to impose discriminatory immigration measures.

Hunter owned four acres of waterfront on the east side

of Shawnigan Lake (now the Easter Seals Camp). Rockvale, built in 1908, included a main house, guest houses, a water tower (still standing) and beautiful gardens with ponds and statues.

George Selkirk Gibson (1897-1942) a Scottish immigrant, came from a family of wood carvers. After a few stops along the way, Gibson fell in love with Shawnigan and moved here, in 1910, to raise his family. Although he is a relatively unknown craftsman, most people would likely have seen and appreciated the exquisite work that he produced. He worked with architects Samuel Maclure and Francis Rattenbury doing the architectural carvings for houses and buildings that they designed. He was commissioned to carve the significant pieces in Hatley Castle; Christ Church Cathedral; the Neptunes on the CPR building; many interior details of the BC Legislature and special chairs for the visit of King and Queen. This all

happened from his studio in Shawnigan Lake, which is why is not known as well as he deserves.

And how do these men relate to each other, you might ask?

Hunter's personality is demonstrated in his commission of a stone lion that was built on his Shawnigan property in the 1920's. The impressive lion, which still guards the lakefront today, was positioned so that its posterior pointed directly toward the legislative buildings in Victoria. This alignment was due to the fact that Judge Hunter was appalled at what he perceived to be the abuse of justice in Victoria. To emphasize his belief that politicians were making an "ass out of justice", the lion is an exact duplicate of the lions on the steps of the legislature. George Gibson, the architectural carver from Shawnigan Lake, sculpted the lion for Hunter.

The lion has been on the property for almost 100 years, and it is an iconic



figure for summer residents and visitors.

With the redevelopment of the Easter Seals Camp, there is a plan to remove the lion. The Shawnigan Lake Museum has asked Easter Seals to reconsider this decision, due to its historical significance and the connection to local carver George Gibson. Many of Gibson's relatives still live in the area and have voiced concerns about the potential removal.

The museum has encouraged Easter

Seals to keep it in place. However, if that is not an option, would consider the possibility of re-locating to the front of the expanded museum. That would likely be very expensive...the lion was sculpted on top of a rock. Moving it without damaging the lion is highly unlikely, if not impossible. Losing it altogether should not be an option.

If you have any memories to share about the lion, please send them to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Shawnigan Focus

Sylvan United Church Spring Sale

Judy van der Boom
Sylvan United Church

With Mother's Day celebration one day after the Sylvan UC Spring Sale, it will be a great idea to attend this event on May 11 between 9 am – 1 pm. Members of the congregation have been nurturing seeds for plants for sale on this day. There will be a good collection of seasonal, and some perennial plants available.

In the sanctuary, "Hand in Hand" will be on hand to offer an array of gently used clothing, accessories and other treasures. Our bake sale will again have all kinds of baking and sweets for sale, and when you are ready, we'll have a warm cup of coffee or tea and a home-baked muffin available for you to enjoy at the kitchen window. The Scouts will also be there with hotdogs for those who fancy something heartier.

Our own treasures and crafts table may have something for you as well.

We would like to invite you and check out what we have to offer at:

Sylvan United Church
985 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road in Mill Bay

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca
www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

Family Storytime

runs from April 8 to May 13, at 10:30 am. Weather permitting, we meet outside at the Mill Bay Centre playground for songs, stories and rhymes. For ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Siblings welcome!

Making Paper Beads and Jewellery:

Learn how to create beads out of paper! Learn techniques to seal beads, dip in colour, and more. See examples of jewellery created from the type of paper beads you make. Free.

Monday, April 8, 6 – 7:30 pm

Red Dress Day is May 5 but we will have a display at the end of April to highlight the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People. Watch for a display and craft project.

Learning with Syeyutsus Speaker Series

continues with presentations every other Wednesday, noon to 1pm. You can register online to watch from work or home or you can

call or visit the branch to sign up to watch in the library!

Apr 10: Bruce Granville Miller on his book, Oral History on Trial: Recognizing Aboriginal Narratives in the Courts

Apr 24: Nicola Levell on her book, Mischief Making: Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, Art, and the Seriousness of Play
LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5 pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

Conversational Spanish meets 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Tuesdays. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting. Beginners welcome.

Conversational Scottish Gaelic is a fun way for people interested in learning Scottish Gaelic to practice together. Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

10am - 8 pm, Monday and Tuesday

10am - 5 pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

The Big Fix



The End of an Era
Construction of the E&N Railway, on Vancouver Island, began on April 30, 1884. The railway bridge that crossed Shawnigan Lake

was, in recent years, dislodged by a pumper truck and substantially damaged. The bridge had been built, sometime between 1884 and 1886, on sandstone piers. The

sandstone was sourced from a local quarry.

As a result of the accident, the more than 130 year old bridge was removed and, very recently, the original piers were dismantled.

Shawnigan Weather - March 2024

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network and Weather Underground
Reported by Grant Treloar

Weather Icon	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Average High	10.4	10.6	9.0	11.0	9.9	11.4	10.1	11.2	10.1	11.1	9.8
Average Low	1.7	2.3	0.5	0.9	-0.7	2.3	0.4	2.4	1	2.0	0.3
Extreme High	22.2	20.3	16.9	20.6	16.1	21.7	17.4	20.5	17.5	20.8	17.0
Extreme Low	-11.7	-2.1	-2.3	-3.1	-2.6	-2.8	-2.7	-2.0	-2.1	-2.5	-2.4
Precipitation	119.2	135.1	130.7	106.1	120.4	96.2	99.1	92.3	90.2	107.4	110.1
Days w precip	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	17	21	19	20
Year Precip	469.2	607.1	421	510.1	386.6	477.5	320.5	472.9	311.1	516.9	359.8
Precip since Oct 1	1003.9	1283.4	959.1	1132.0	889.7	1108.5	725.3	984.0	715.3	1127.0	822.4

Rank since 1914: 25th warmest, 53rd driest

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
Lake Temperature	5'	5'	8'	8'	8'
Lake level change	+4cm	+6cm	+11cm	+4cm	-4cm
Surface Elevation	116.83	116.68	116.67	116.59	116.55

Get involved with the Old Baldy Mountain Park Management Plan

The CVRD is developing a 10 to 15 year management plan for Old Baldy Mountain Park in Shawnigan Lake. Help us identify and consider park elements that will increase outdoor recreational opportunities and provide a variety of park experiences while preserving and enhancing the natural beauty, ecological health, function, and benefit of the park.

Participate in the plan!

- Park Survey open from March 9 to April 9, 2024, online at planyourcowichan.ca or pick up a paper copy at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- Open House event: Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, Saturday, April 6, 2024, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Find out more at PlanYourCowichan.ca



The Waterfront at Cowichan Bay

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

In 1958 E. J. Hughes travelled for the first time from his home at Shawnigan Lake to draw *The Waterfront at Cowichan Bay*. Hughes went by train from Shawnigan Station, getting off at Cowichan Station. From there he walked down Bench Road and considered the view to the south.

He chose to draw the scene from “the verandah of an empty cottage which was for sale,” he told his dealer Max Stern. “I didn’t think the owners would mind.” After a day of considering the subject, he then walked back to Cowichan Station in plenty of time for the returning train. Hughes later told Pat Salmon that, while he waited, he was fascinated by the movements of a colony of ants.

His oil painting of the subject was delivered on December 30, 1960, to the artist’s exclusive dealer, the Dominion Gallery in Montreal. They submitted it for the Fourth Biennale of Canadian Art at the National Gallery of Canada and it was accepted and hung in June of 1961.

In the following year, the painting was shown in the 1962 Biennial Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Writing to Max Stern on March 27, 1962, Hughes noted its appearance: “My painting, *The Waterfront at Cowichan Bay*, was hung in a good location, by itself on a wall in the entrance hall to the large new gallery. I was quite satisfied with it after seeing it again af-

ter it has been away for so long... After viewing the non-objective works, some of which were hung (95% of the show is non-objective) I feel sure I can distinguish between a good and a bad non-objective painting.”

In the meantime, Hughes had purchased a second-hand car and with his wife Fern, he drove over from Shawnigan to prepare for his 1962 painting *Above Cowichan Bay*. This time he contemplated the view from a higher position looking out over the water. He set himself up on Bench Road just above Cowichan Bay Road, looking north over the mouth of the Koksilah River near the Lawn Tennis Club. This too made a successful oil painting.

Hughes was ready to deliver the canvas on November 7 1962 and at the time gave his dealer some background information: “The small cairn (in the painting) at lower left commemorates the landing of the first group of settlers from Victoria about 1862.

Out of sight, but alongside it, are two stone seats, one in memory of the pioneer women of the Cowichan Valley, and the other in honour of Robert Service, as he wrote some of his Klondike poems while living in a store cottage a few feet from where the large building now stands. Unfortunately, the old store was dismantled before it could be saved for history. I don’t know what the small near-white structure is left of the cairn. Mrs. Hughes and I



Cowichan Bay Road (1962) oil on canvas 25" x 32" (63.5 x 81 cm)

guess that it may be a shelter where a farmer leaves his large cans of milk for a milk company truck to pick up. The small river in the foreground is the Koksilah, near its mouth,

and out of sight, behind the big maples in the distance, is the mouth of the Cowichan River.”, Regarding a 1965 painting of those maples, he wrote to Stern: “Mrs. Hughes

and I drive along the road depicted in *The Maple Grove at Cowichan Bay* about twice a week, on our way from Shawnigan Lake to the small (but fast-growing) town of Duncan, BC.”

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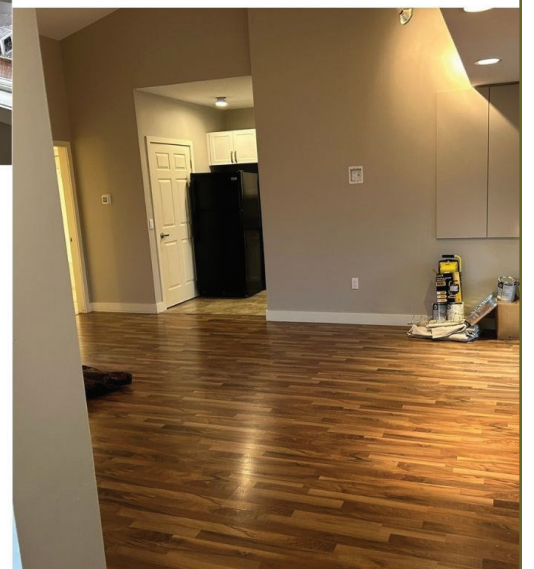
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- In suite laundry



Sonia Furstenau
MLA for Cowichan Valley

Sonia.Furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca
(250) 715-2792
P.O. Box 509 Duncan, BC
V9L 3X8

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA




Hey Shawnigan – Time for a Spring Clean-Up of our Beloved Home

Dinah Clark
Rotary EcoClub

Calling all families, schools, local businesses, and persons who can lift a piece of litter!

On Saturday April 20 from 10 am to 2 pm, we will join forces to scour our parks, trails, and roadsides to collect discarded litter and garbage that has accumulated over the winter. It takes a village, as they say, and we invite you to join our efforts for a thorough Spring cleaning to make our neighbourhoods and village shine.

Sign up at the Registration Tent beside the parking area of

Dougan Park below the Shawnigan Community Centre, where you can choose a zone to clean-up, sign-out litter-picking supplies, and enter your name for draw prizes. There will be a large dumpster bin at the park donated by DL Bin's/ Fisher Road Recycling, and two drop-off zones around the lake where bags of collected litter will be picked up by P.A.N. Disposal.

Can't make it to the Registration Tent? Pick your own zone, or neighbourhood street and sign up online so we can count you in! Or join our Adopt-An-Area Group to maintain an area litter-free year-round.

Why do we do this? Why should we pick up other people's garbage? Besides spoiling the natural beauty surrounding us, debris and glass littering our public spaces is harmful to everyone. Wildlife and pets can ingest it, get

stuck in it, or be polluted by it. Bare feet might step on it or in it! We are not sure why people litter, but when we keep our public spaces pristine, it encourages others to maintain it. For all event details or to register online:

www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

This event is hosted by the Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub as one of our key annual projects. We invite new members to join us by emailing:

ShawniganRotaryEcoClub@gmail.com

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

In June 2023, The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society broke ground for the expansion of the museum, officially dubbed 'Project Impact'. The expansion is approximately 60% complete and is estimated that it will be finished by the end of July 2024.

The museum continues to be open to the public, but with limited hours – Wednesday to Friday from 10-2. During the expansion, some exhibits had to be dismantled, and the washroom was removed.

We thank you for the good wishes we have received, from the com-



munity, in support for this project. The Society has been working to get this off the ground for more than eight years and it is exciting that it is well underway. The expanded space will allow us to provide more programming, for all ages, and accommodate more visitors.

At this point, the estimated finish date for the project is July 31st. At that point, we will need some time to reorganize, inside, so we do not have a fixed date for the Grand Re-opening yet. We can't wait to invite you in!



Everyone Can Be a LitterHero!
You're invited to

JOIN US for the **Community Clean Up Day!**

Saturday, April 20
10am to 2pm

Register at the Event Tents at the SLCC
by Dougan Park

- or -

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Details at our website! www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca



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Director's Report

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

Despite public perception, short term rentals are not permitted, and have never been permitted in residential zones, anywhere in Area B. While the local bylaws may have only been enforced when an issue arose, that is not really a good excuse for being unaware of the zoning and bylaws that govern a property if you own it. Currently the only exception to this, is for short term rentals on a property that is the primary residence of the owner and they are operating a proper Bed and Breakfast. When it comes to Bill-35 (the provincial restriction on short term rentals), this also provides an exception for owner occupied properties with a secondary suite. Defining Bill-35 in the Cowichan Valley: if an area opts in, the province will help with enforcement of restrictions to short term rentals, and if an area opts out, the CVRD will enforce its own bylaws with CVRD bylaw officers. Currently the CVRD has approved a new bylaw officer to focus on enforcing the bylaws around short term rentals. Many people are concerned about rising costs

and, of course, this concern extends to property taxes. The CVRD portion makes up around a third of your property taxes. You can expect an average increase of 12.78% for the CVRD portion on the average home in Shawnigan Lake. This includes some items that unfortunately the Board has NO control over; VI Library, BC Transit and Regional Recreation (the referendum that passed at the last general election). The CVRD Board also has no control over the taxes levied by the improvement district, schools, rural tax, etc. Should you wish to discuss any particular budget item, please call me.

Time to celebrate!! The final phase of the Rail with Trail connecting Mason's Beach to Old Mill Park is virtually complete. There are still a few finishing touches to be done, like split rail fencing and beautification, but it already looks amazing and many people are out enjoying it. Despite all the misinformation that was spread by a handful of the project's opponents, the CVRD did an amazing job of protecting the lake and the trees along the trail (apparently only



New Rail Trail not officially open, but already well-used.

three trees had to be removed.) After two election campaigns where this was an issue, I am ecstatic to celebrate 1.3km of connected parks and lake access with the community. Proof that things only get done (or not done) when, together, we are willing to stand up for this community's best interests. Please get in touch if you want to see or be part of a community celebration.

On March 11th around 60 Village residents came to hear the presentation on the Village

Waterworks. Everyone left well informed and aware of the process, and the need for the CVRD to purchase the system from Rod and Sue Lidstone. Should you receive your water from Lidstech Holdings and have questions, do connect with the CVRD or Lidstech.

Phone: Todd or Louise at the Utilities Division, 250-746-2530 or

E-mail: utilities@cvrld.bc.ca

More general information: www.planyourcowichan.ca/shawnigan-village-water

Gratitude to my alternate Amber Champ who is always available when I need her help. Area B is the largest Electoral Area in BC with just one Director, thank you Amber!

As always, I'm available, Sierra.

Sierra Acton

CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake

Sierra.Acton@cvrld.bc.ca

(250) 715-6763

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Shawnigan Basin Society: Moving Towards Watershed Protection

Bernie Juurlink & Dave Munday
Shawnigan Basin Society

We had an article in the May, 2023 Shawnigan Focus on the goal of setting aside 30% of ecosystems for nature by 2030 and then an additional 20% to be carefully managed to promote biodiversity. This goal was initially set out in the 2021 UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat and adopted by the governments of Canada, BC and CVRD. Setting aside forest and wetlands for nature is important not only for biodiversity but also for countering climate change and ensuring there is enough water not only for humans, but also to maintain all the ecological functions upon which we depend.

Climate change is being driven by fossil fuel combustion, and by decreased ability of the planet to sequester carbon, the latter is one of the functions of healthy forests. Natural Resources Canada's Annual Report on the State of Canada's Forests has shown that Canada's forests have been net carbon emitters since 2002. This is due, mainly, to forestry practices.

Current forestry practices involve clearcutting which results in the destruction of the water-containing deadfall and erosion of water-retaining soil during winter precipitation events. This has negative impacts on aquifer replenishment and summer stream flow. Clearcutting studies of

watersheds in Oregon's H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest have documented these effects. Even forty-five years after clearcutting, Perry and Jones have shown that the five watersheds that were clearcut have about 50% of the summer flow as the three watersheds left intact as old growth forest. We see the same thing in the Koksilah Watershed, where current August river flows are only 60% of those seen in the 1960s although total annual river flow has not changed.

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is developing plans to establish Community Forest Trusts (CFTs) that are managed by the community. We currently have, in Shawnigan Lake, two community forests with no management plans and, thus, not protected and therefore vulnerable to harvesting. The SBS believes it is important that these forests should be placed into a Community Forest Trust and minimally managed to allow these to eventually develop into old growth forests. The ecological benefits of protected forests can then be enjoyed by future generations.

We note that the CRD has over 20,000 hectares of protected watershed land, and Lantzville is in the process of preserving forest areas. Lantzville's vision is to set aside areas of forest, allowing them to become Future Old Growth forests. We would like to see a similar development

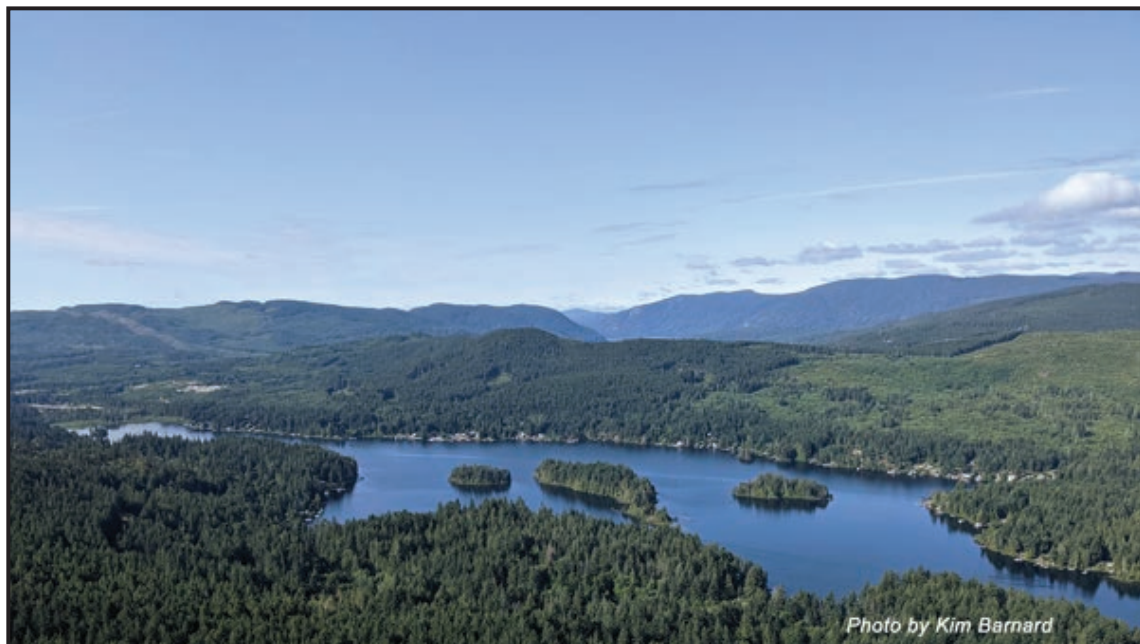


Photo by Kim Barnard

in the Shawnigan Creek Watershed.

Turning community forests into CFTs is only the first step. We should also be taking advantage of the \$1.1 billion available through Federal and Provincial

government grants to acquire lands that can be turned into CFTs. We are hoping that the Malahat Nation and other citizens of South Cowichan will join us in this endeavour. To establish and maintain these CFTs, we need generally

interested citizens as well as those with expertise in ecology, law, real estate, and insurance. Anyone interested in helping with the establishment of CFTs please contact us at: admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

April 2023 Report

Department Members Attended 26 Incidents in March

- Friday, Mar 1 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Mar 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Mar 4 – Assistance on Wildflower Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 6 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Thursday, Mar 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Mar 8 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Saturday, Mar 9 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Monday, Mar 11 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Mar 11 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Mar 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Mar 12 – Burning Complaint on Carlton Dr
- Wednesday, Mar 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Thursday, Mar 14 - 1st Responder off Linden Ln
- Friday, Mar 15 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Mar 15 – MVI on Colman Rd
- Monday, Mar 18 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Mar 21 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Mar 21 – Structure Fire on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Mar 24 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Mar 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 27 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 27 – HazMat on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Mar 27 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
https://www.cprd.ca/list.aspx# (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cprd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information about hours and/or group visits.
Contact: *museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com* (web): *shawniganlakemuseum.com*
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: (web): *www.thesra.ca*
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: *bburr@shaw.ca*
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: *info@shawniganbasinsociety.org*
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: *ysagssl@gmail.com* (web): *blog.ysag.ca*
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: *250-929-7222*(web): *southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca*
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: *rc134@shaw.ca* 250-643-4621
- **Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
Contact: *hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com* (web): *cowichansouthartsguild.com*
- **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- **Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**
Meeting Info & Contact: *ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca*
- **Malahat Lions Club**
Contact: *250-743-0569*

Classified

FOR SALE MISC

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS CLASSIFIED are your classifieds of choice. Your message delivered to every address in the Shawnigan Lake area. \$13.50 for the first 30 words 35¢ per additional word *shawniganfocusads@gmail.com* Telephone : 250-743-2197

GENERAL INTEREST

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

RENTALS

CHILDCARE

AUTOMOTIVE

LOST - FOUND

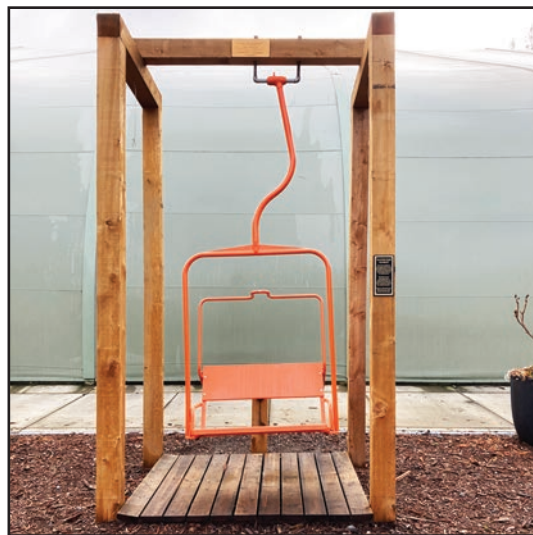
HOME SERVICES

PROPERTY SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees.

Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee for their support!

Cheap Ad Rates!!

Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

No Winners!

No one correctly answered last month's photo of a device (use unknown) chained to a power pole on Renfrew Road.

MATTHUW RONALD-JONES REALTY

PEMBERTON HOLMES
ESTABLISHED 1887

250-732-5232
mronaldjones@gmail.com
www.mrjrealty.ca

Mason's Store

A PART OF SHAWNIGAN LAKE FOR 68 YEARS
YOUR LOCAL STORE

Our Famous Instore Bakery – Sandwiches & Subs
Lottery – Greeting Cards
Fax – Propane Swap – Rug Doctor – Dew Worms
1855 Renfrew Road
Ph: 250 743 2144 Fax: 250 743 7883

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?



Volunteers Needed
MALAHAT LIONS
Welcoming New Members

Volunteering makes you feel GOOD!

Join us on the 1ST & 3RD Thursday of every month.
Meetings held @ the Malahat Legion

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT :
(250) 743-0569



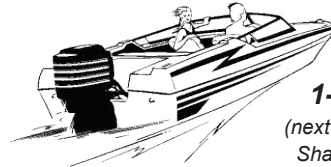
SHAWNIGAN MILL BAY

AUTO PARTS (1992) LTD.

250-743-3355



South Cowichan's Auto & Marine Parts Supplier



NOW LOCATED @
1-3740 Trans-Canada Highway
(next door to RONA on the same frontage road)
Sharing a building with Accent Screen Printing

Shawnigan Cemetery

EST 1965

"A Community Resting Place"

Information 250 929 6100

Maintained by
MALAHAT LIONS



Did you know?
we offer

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES



12 Month Student Membership
\$39.95
per month

Pay-As-You-Go Student Membership
\$49.95
per month

Membership packages include: access to cardio equipment, selectorized and plate loaded strength equipment, functional training equipment and free weights; group fitness classes (Yoga, Zumba, Cycle Fit and more!); Infrared Sauna, and Towel Service!

VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS

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

Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch 134

G.J. Solley

Last chance to register for our 90th Anniversary Celebration on April 12th from 5:00 to 9:00 pm at the Legion. Veteran members are asked to wear their Legion uniform. Admission is free, with a cash bar. Music is by Copper Canyon (6:00 – 9:00 pm.) Everyone is welcome to attend but we need to know numbers, so be sure to register on our website

or on the sign-up sheet at the bar.

Special thanks to Michelle (our accountant) for doing Legion members' income tax. Some appointments will be available after April. Just make an appointment online. Upcoming Events:

- Saturday meat draws -3:00 – 5:00 pm - all proceeds go right back into the Community. Local

non-profit charities must apply in writing for a donation stating why and where the money will be spent.

rcl134@shaw.ca They will be continued right through the summer

- Our Annual Chili Cook-off is scheduled to take place during the Meat Draw on Saturday April 6th.
- After the General

Meeting on Sunday, April 21st. We will be honouring and giving out pins to our members. Refreshments will be served

- Steak Dinner and Music Bingo will be held on Friday, April 26th. Members cost is \$30.00 and \$33.00 for non-members.

More Information will be out closer to the actual dates:

- May 5th – 11:00 am - Battle of the Atlantic Celebration
- May 14 – Dinner and Music Bingo
- May 25th – Flea Market & Tailgate Sale
- June 10th – Dinner and Band Night
- June 15th Fishing Derby
- July 1st – Pancake Breakfast and activities in the afternoon.

Please remember that all of our events will need volunteers to help make it happen.

Opinions

Eric J. Ronse Shawnigan Lake

It was very illuminating to read the Times Colonist article of 16/03/2024 by Gerald Hartwig.

As president and CEO of Hartwig Industries, he breaks down the taxes foisted on homepurchasers by the three levels of government. Readers may be surprised to learn that fully 43% of the purchase cost is gobbled up by taxes.

What makes the piece particularly interesting, is that Mr Hartwig breaks down the taxes in the bundles they accrue. For example, the health tax; carbon tax; fuel tax; taxes on incoming

materials (read USA); as well as costs incurred

on interest charges; costs for the builder on new homes; carrying costs for land and construction; approval process charges, and the list goes on.

In a summation, he states "A one-bedroom unit that costs \$600,000

would actually cost \$342,000 if governments would stop money-grab taxation." For a quick estimate of what one ought to pay, were the taxes and charges excluded, he states that to get the figure one should be paying,

multiply the purchase cost by 0.57%. Realtors are not excused by this exercise.

I was under the misapprehension that I was living in a competitive country. Instead, it seems that we are more and more

following the Swedish socialist model.

Let us not hold our breath for matters to improve. Judging by the way the provincial NDP is spending millions in a pre-election year, prepare for a hard landing!

Merelyn Lobe

Shawnigan Lake Resident

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 the view and fresh air.

The completed trail 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.

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

St. John's Academy
– presents –
Mary Poppins
A musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney film

Original Music and Lyrics by
Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Book by
Julian Fellowes

New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by
George Stiles and Anthony Drewe

Co-Created by
Cameron Mackintosh

Adapted by
iTheatrics
under the supervision of
Timothy Allen McDonald

April 19th at 7pm
20th at 2pm 7pm
Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
cowichanpac.ca

Director
Kayla Dangerfield

Music Director
Tristan Clausen

Choreography supported by
Bonnie Cuthbertson
LT Dance Studio