



Shawnigan FOCUS

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

HUNDREDS DECLARE TRESTLE OPEN!

Thousands more have visited since!

On July 28th 2011, the rehabilitated Kinsol Trestle on the old CN line finally opened to the public as part of the Trans Canada Trail. This impressive trestle, completed in 1920, is considered to be the largest **wooden** bridge left of its kind in the British Commonwealth, if not the world.

Soon after as the rail line was abandoned by CN, in June 1979, people (many of them Shawnigan residents) began petitioning to save the old railway bridge. Individuals rallied for support to save the structure and dozens of studies were commissioned over the ensuing years to consider the feasibility of restoring or repairing the trestle for pedestrian use. In the meantime, however, the neglected bridge was subjected to arson, vandalism and the encroaching forest. For over thirty years, there was no maintenance or



2010 the rehabilitation – a continuing or compatible use of an historic place through repair or alterations while protecting its heritage value – began.

Over the years, many suggestions for the trestle had been considered, including: tear down the old structure and replace it with



Last check before the crowds come . . .

protection provided for the aging structure. Deterioration set in.

The fate of the trestle seemed imminent in 2006 when the government set aside significant funds to dismantle it. Fortunately, in 2007 and 2008, the CVRD again conducted studies to decide whether there was a reasonable way to restore the trestle. At this time, heritage conservation specialists Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing Company Ltd. proposed an option that had not yet been considered. This option provided a glimmer of hope and in June

a new one; build a bridge alongside the old bridge; or, completely restore the old bridge. In the end, the plan involved a mix of old and new. Seventeen of the forty-six bents (structural supports) were replaced with new timber. These new bents are now the "active" bents and these support the deck and walkway above. The "inactive" (original) bents are not attached to the new structure but remain for their aesthetic importance. At this time, the new wood is easy to see but it will darken as it ages and eventually blend in



A happy group declares the trestle open . .

with the old timbers. Care was taken to re-use old wood and keep as many of the original elements as possible on the project. The new railings were built from milled timber from the original bridge and many of the old bolts have been installed in new wood.

The rehabilitated trestle, open to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians is a sight to behold along the Trans Canada Trail network. There is little doubt that the Kinsol Trestle will draw people from around the world to Shawnigan Lake.

More information about the history and/or rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle is available at the Shawnigan Lake Museum - two impressive scale models of the bridge show perspec-

tive on its size; powerpoint presentations provide the history and rehabilitation of the trestle and more. Also, if you are looking for a souvenir, there are Kinsol mugs, t-shirts, postcards and other trestle items available.

Actually, two important

historic events take place in Shawnigan this summer. The Kinsol Trestle re-opening on the former Canadian National Railway (CNR) line is one and the other is the 125th anniversary of the Last Spike on the E & N (Canadian Pacific Railway) line. See more on the E & N event on pages 7 & 16



Summer is for kids.

The best memories of childhood are about summertime play. The endless days launched by the cry of



“school’s out” slipping into history amid ball games,



summer camp, and swimming until the wrinkles had wrinkles. Of course there were the lunch breaks of

peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that appeared miraculously from some parent enclave where mothers in summer dresses chatted over perked coffee with only one eye on the youngsters. The unbridled competitions of marble shooting, the avariciously commercial marathon Monopoly games with multiple stacks of money, and the water tag matches off the wharf filled those childhood days. Rain

meant books, marshmallows roasting in the fireplace, salty buttered popcorn and other such hardships that had to be endured along with the smell of wet dog also roasting by the fire. Adventurous boys paddled oddly shaped rafts into the shallow waters of the islands, while the girls formed cliques of mystery. Overturning the canoe or dumping the sailboat were the planned disasters that brought out the shrieks of excitement among the boisterous ones that were not satisfied with mere swimming. Well, that was



then. How about now?

Play seems to be more structured now. Highly disciplined camps for sports, computers or music designed



by ambitious parents have replaced footloose sum-

mer activities designed by kids. The pastimes invented by children have faded while the engagements created by dedicated volunteers and professional child developers have blossomed. Where once was the unsupervised scratch softball game with no teams and makeshift fair-play rules there are now leagues where fun is alloyed with winning and losing. Where once were

the wild improvisations of soccer without umpires, there are now soccer camps and highly competitive provincial tournaments. Where boating

was an active challenge it is now transformed with the shrieks of excitement coming from being towed around at high speed on a tube by parents with expensive speedboats. The homely sandwich has been replaced by a bag of burgers and fries. Rain means more screen time. Where the mothers had only one eye for their joyous free-range offspring, there are now eagle eyes tuned for the molesters and abductors that are rightly to be feared.

Oh well. The world moves on and each generation makes its summer from

the parts available. Kids’ memory banks will be filled



by the experiences of today as they were in the past. Let those memories be happy ones, however different they are from those of previous generations, but let us adults



allow at least some of them to be invented by kids themselves.

Photos - Al Bunet

The Shawnigan Focus wants to hear from you ...

**Live in Shawnigan?
You count - Send us
your opinion!**
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

- What do you think of the South Cowichan Official Community Plan?
- Incorporation: South Cowichan or could/should Shawnigan go it alone?
- Where have the bullheads and crayfish gone?
- Another acclamation for the Area Director?
- If no one likes the Eco-Depot site then why isn't the CVRD listening?
- Pros and Cons of wakeboarding?
- Who drinks the water straight from the lake?
- Should we limit the boat launches and charge a fee?
- Should there be hours of operation for power boat activities?
- What's wrong with clearcuts - trees grow back don't they?
- What's to be done about the increasing pondweed and milfoil?
- A few big parks or many small ones?
- How to re-vitalize the village?
- What about our roads?

Your Volkswagen?

Dear Neighbours

Having survived the “easy” commute (as promoted by Realtors) to Victoria for three years, I am now content to spend most of my life at Shawnigan - who wouldn’t? Most people move to Shawnigan to slow down and get away from the frustrations of city life.

Lately, however, I am alarmed at the increasing impatience that I see on local roads. Shawnigan roads are not city roads – they are narrow, winding and often have poor visibility around the next corner. The shoulders are inadequate for pedestrians and bicyclists, and drivers seldom obey the posted speed. The Cut-off road and the East Shawnigan Road are now heavily populated, but drivers seem oblivious. Traffic has become relentless and rips along at a frightening speed.

In the past three weeks, I have seen one car upside down on the south Shawnigan cut-off road. A few days later, I passed the police responding to a truck that had left the same road and smashed into the embankment. Fortunately, both accidents appeared to involve only one vehicle.

However, in the same time period, I have also been passed three times on double lines. The driver of a small tan-coloured Volkswagen was so impatient that he had to pass two vehicles – as did the motorcycle a few days later. This week I can happily report that a silver Volkswagen was content to pass only one car (but probably 30km over the posted limit) – mine - only to have to slow down to follow a line of five cars to the village. I used to like Volkswagens - but then again, that’s hardly fair – it’s the driver who makes the choices.

Now, you are probably thinking that I must drive like a little-old-lady that frustrates other drivers. Not so! As a barely middle-aged resident, I have driven Shawnigan roads for 35 years, know the roads intimately, and like most other drivers seldom stick to the posted speed – but I am never reckless.

I do respect that the Shawnigan roads are dangerous. I also respect that you are my neighbours and I would not want to cause harm to you or your family. My life is as busy as yours and my time is as precious as yours. Like you, I am often in a hurry to get somewhere but I do not choose to put you or other neighbours at risk to get there.

Every time you cross the centre line, you put yourself and others at risk. Every time you drive at highway speeds down our rural roads, you put others at risk. You know this already! I would like this opportunity to say, “We are neighbours”.

Please, be neighbourly, before someone gets hurt!
Trudi L

Thespian Thank-you's

The Seeds and Salt Theatre Co. would like to thank O.U.R. Ecovillage and the Cowichan Station Area Association (both in Area B) for their wonderful performance venues and their fantastic audience response. Cowichan Station’s festivities were planned to share the performance time and their activities were scheduled so that each group had their moment in the spotlight, so to speak. Both the Ecovillage and Cowichan Station respected each group’s contribution and as a result their events were roaring successes enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Unfortunately, I feel I must take this opportunity to voice the cast’s disappointment at the lack of organization at Shawnigan’s Canada Day Celebration. The show at Shawnigan felt as if all the performers were competing, as all the acts were literally performing at the same time. With our group this became a huge challenge, as we do not use tech support, and rely purely upon our voices and bodies. There was loud music that forced the actors to literally shout their lines in an attempt to be heard, as well as a kids race that took place about fifty feet from where we were performing. Although the audience commented on what a great show it was they also complained about the location and the fact they were unable to hear due to the surrounding noise, both of which we had no control over.

Denise Baughan
Stage Manager

Make cycling Illegal!

A comment about the article ‘Active Lifestyles’ that was in the last issue of Shawnigan Focus.

I agree with Mr Brunet where we should all have respect for each other on this narrow and curvy road, particularly since the population is increasing out here (and so are the obnoxious drivers!... sorry, I digress...).

It is definitely great to see more people having interest in living out in the Shawnigan Lake area, but I must say, I strongly oppose the use of Shawnigan Lake Road by cyclists... simply because of the safety issues it creates for everyone on the road. In fact, I feel that it is the drivers who are more at risk when these cyclists are on the road.

I do whatever I can to accommodate the cyclists to give them their space, go wide around them etc....but this proves very difficult and risky on a very narrow and windy road such as Shawnigan Lake Road. I’ve witnessed many ‘close-call’ accidents because of cyclists on this road, and I don’t mean to label all cyclists here, but it often seems like they just don’t care! They just keep on riding in car’s way when there is very lim-



ited vision of opposing traffic in many of these areas. What are us drivers supposed to do...keep driving 5 km’s an hour until the cyclist finally decides they will pull more to the side??? I say the word ‘finally’ because from what I’ve experienced, cyclists never pull over to the side. I’m sorry cyclists, but I do not think you have this ‘entitlement’ to endanger the safety of all others on Shawnigan Lake Road.

Thank you,
Pat
Shawnigan Lake

Impartial Info

Congratulations on your third edition of Shawnigan Focus. I think you’ve got the balance just right, what with reports of all the summer activities, serious commentary and human interest stories. I look forward to reading each issue as I know I’ll be more informed about my community.

I’d like to commend Dave Hutchinson’s articles in particular, as he knows how to report in a neutral way, allowing the reader to make up his/her own mind. Having enough biases and opinions myself, I appreciate a writer who respects my intelligence and gives me “just the facts, Ma’am.” No need to point me in the “right” direction, thank you.

I was also pleased to read Brent Beach’s article on the Official Community Plan (OCP). It seems to me that once people get a copy of the whole plan with all of its implications for our daily lives here at the lake, there will

be many lively discussions. Sadly, it’s too late to make changes as the process is now complete. At the last hearing I commented that the CVRD could have taken a little more time after the final hearing to allow people to digest the whole report in its final form and have more dialogue with the Board. Public buy-in is essential if we are to make this work.

Finally, I heartily concur with Bruce Fraser’s musings about a quieter, more civil lake in years gone by and his frustration with the loud stereos and over-powered boats of the present. Our grandson also cruises the lake in a little tin boat although his is a 7-horse engine. We’re so happy he can enjoy the rewards of fishing and exploring around the islands of the lake. It’s rare that a 12 year- old can find that kind of unrestricted freedom these days and he is proud to have earned his Boat Operator’s License. Like Bruce, our family has also been here for many generations and we’re sad to see some of the changes, not for the better. Perhaps the new Lake Watch Program will help all of us reclaim our lake.

So keep up the good work, Shawnigan Focus. The depth and variety of your coverage is truly amazing for a band of volunteers. Well done!
Marcy Green

..and Canada thanks you too!

On behalf of the Shawnigan Lake Community Association, the hosts of the 2011 Canada Day celebrations in Shawnigan Lake, I would like to thank all

of the volunteers and groups who participated in making it a very successful event!

The Malahat Legion, with support from the Mill Bay Lions, opened the day with a fabulous pancake breakfast! Thank you to the RCMP and dignitaries who joined Legion Members in presenting Canada’s colours and singing our national anthem before leading the parade to the Elsie Miles grounds for a Family Fun Day. To the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department and everyone, especially the children, who dressed up and walked, rode or ran in the parade!

The Malaika Marimba Band, Moon Dance Studios, Robin’s Middle Eastern Dance Studio and the Bamberton Historical Society provided entertainment...all exceptional and treasures of our community!

Shawnigan Scouting, Cowichan 4-H Club, Kerry Park Skating and our own Association Members provided activities for the whole family and South Cowichan Rotary provided delicious foods at their concession. We also thank the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre for the tables, chairs and use of the grounds and washroom facilities. Yum, yum, what a wonderful cake from Thrifty Foods!!

Thank you to our residents, friends from near and far, and our families for coming out and celebrating Canada’s 144th birthday - Shawnigan style! What a party!! Thank you!!

Our next event will be Halloween Howl on October 31st—see you there!
Marian Davies, SLCA

The OCP Hearing Process

By Brent Beach



Brent Beach

Having represented the Shawnigan Residents Association on the OCP Steering Committee for 3 years, I was interested to see what the CVRD did with the resulting document.

The first thing they did was hold an OCP Hearing at Kerry Park Recreation Centre rink on Monday, June 27 at 7pm. About 100 people attended - of 16,000 citizens of the three Electoral Areas. The lack of notice (met the letter of the law, but very subdued for so important an issue).

The meeting was divided into two main sections - a question and answer session and a statement section. People could also submit written statements.

The question and answer section took 2 hours. A number of people asked questions about the OCP and the Directors and CVRD staff provided answers. Some of those answers were even correct. During this section people were not allowed to make a statement - express their views on the OCP. They were only allowed to ask questions of fact.

The statement section lasted only about 30 minutes. People were only allowed 3 minutes to express their concerns about the document. Several people who had prepared longer submissions decided that trying to express their concerns in 3 minutes was futile. They chose to switch to written submissions. In total, 36 written submissions were received by the CVRD.

At this point the OCP processes turned into a black hole.

The CVRD chair stated at the meeting that "The Directors of the Regional Board cannot receive any further comments after the close of the public hearing." You no longer are allowed to talk to your area director about the OCP.

The minutes of the OCP hearing were not published on the CVRD website in the section that deals with the South Cowichan OCP. Rather, they were included in the Agenda of the July 13 CVRD council meeting. The CVRD website has an excellent feature which allows you to be notified with an email whenever documents related to the South Cowichan OCP are published. I am on that mailing list. I did not receive any notification of the OCP Hearing or the Minutes of the OCP Hearing. There was no notification through the OCP steering committee mailing list, which has served us well for the last 3 years. Again, the CVRD provided only minimal notification. The part of the Agenda which deals with the South Cowichan OCP is one paragraph on page 2 of a 5 page agenda.

The written comments are not part of the published minutes of the OCP Hearing. I asked the CVRD where I could get a copy of those written comments. I was informed I could read the comments in the CVRD offices. I was further told the CVRD decided not to publish the written submissions because they contained the names and addresses of the authors. It is apparently CVRD policy, as part of the Freedom of Information office, not to release names and addresses. No, that is not a misprint. The FOI office was used to suppress written comments.

A few minutes with Google found three other Regional Districts which publish names and addresses of people who speak at hearings or who present written submissions at hearings. The Fraser Valley Regional District included names and addresses in the minutes of the hearing into their OCP in March of this year. Both the Nanaimo Regional District and the Capital Regional Districts also include intervenors' names and addresses in the minutes of their hearings.

The CVRD process is designed to suppress comment. With the very short comment time of 3 minutes, when the comment period is 2 and a half hours into a meeting in a cold skating rink (no, the ice was not in, it just felt like it), then not publishing the written comments, how else can a reasonable person view the CVRD process?

Those not involved in the ECO-DEPOT process may not have understood how CVRD process is being used to crush dissent. For those of us who took part in the OCP, we are only now coming to understand how the ECO-DEPOT opponents feel.

APC Voices Strong Opinion on Worthington

The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of the Electoral Area B Advisory Planning Commission Meeting held on June 2nd:

Because it is of paramount importance for the sake of good public health that the waters of Shawnigan Lake be of the highest possible quality now and forever, further densification of lands within the watershed, especially those properties on or close to the lake itself, is unwise and may, in the long term, prove to be tragic and expensive folly. **Therefore, the Shawnigan Lake Advisory Planning Commission urges the CVRD to take any and all measures available to it to keep the densification of the Cullin Rd. property as low as possible.**

The APC recognizes that this development permit application does not entail a change in the zoning of this parcel of land. The APC also understands that this 3.1 hectare property has been in a position for many years to be sub-divided onto as many as three one hectare lots, and that that was the situation when the current owners purchased the land. The density increase at that time could have gone from the one existing house to **three single family dwellings and three small or secondary suites (6 dwelling units in total)**. The APC commissioners believe that an increase in density of that magnitude was and is tolerable to the community. However, because the CVRD granted to owners' petition to have to property brought into the Shawnigan Lake North Water System Service Area, the owners can now put **16 single family dwellings plus 16 small or secondary suites (32 dwelling units in total)** on this property. This is more than a five-fold increase in density. Such an increase might well be acceptable to the community if it was on land outside the watershed boundaries, but because it is within the watershed and right on the lake's edge, and because the lake is the source of household water for several thousand people, this increase in density is not acceptable to this community and sets a dangerous precedent for waterfront property densification elsewhere on the lake.

It is the strong opinion of the APC that the elected CVRD officials and staff must understand that **there is no reasonable and affordable source of community water other than Shawnigan Lake**. If the quality of the water in the lake declines further, this community will be faced with a major crisis.

Because further densification of waterfront lands is not in the public interest, the APC advises the CVRD to reduce the density of the proposal to as low a level as possible by pursuing one or more of the following courses of action:

1. Exclude the property from the Shawnigan Lake North Water System Service Area by rescinding Bylaw No. 3353 thereby returning it to the situation extant at the time the current owners purchased it;
2. Decline the Development Permit Application;
3. Advise the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's approving officer not to approve subdivision of this property into 16 lots and to suggest a much lower number of lots as appropriate for the sake of good public health related to water quality.
4. Encourage the MoTI approving officer to hold a public meeting in order to gauge community support or lack thereof for this proposal, or have the CVRD sponsor such a meeting to which the approving officer would be urged to attend.
5. Deny any request for a variance to the policy requiring each lot to have at least 10% of its perimeter fronting on a public road.
6. To achieve maximum possible protection for the ecosystems of the Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area (SPEA),
 - a) require of the developers a post-construction report from a qualified environmental professional examining adherence to Section 4 of the Assessment Report (Section 4 – Measures to Protect and Maintain the SPEA),
 - b) require the developers to post a performance bond,
 - c) secure a covenant with regard to the maintenance and protection of the flora and fauna of the SPEA that is sufficiently detailed to cover such matters as limiting access across the SPEA to the lake, prohibition of placing structures and the placement of only one dock to be shared by all members of the strata corporation.
 - d) require the placement of a fence or other permanent and easily seen markers along the natural boundary line.
7. Require the property to be on a CVRD owned and operated sewage system.
8. Make the land adjacent to the SPEA a DPA such that development is not deleterious to the success of the restoration of the SPEA.
9. Have a surveyor, who is not in the employ of the land owners, double-check the accuracy of the newly established "natural boundary,"
10. Negotiate with the land owners for as much parkland dedication as possible.

Additionally, the APC recommended that the CVRD review the process of extending CVRD operated Water Systems to any environmentally sensitive property so that the process would include and require public consultation.

Kelly Wakelyn

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Esthetics by Lois
Shawnigan Village

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Box 413, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

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It's not just the Malahat!

Story & photos by Al Brunet

While much is made of the speeding cars and ensuing accidents on the Malahat, many people feel that we have just as big a problem here in Shawnigan. They feel that

the low numbers of accidents are only indicative of the fact that our population is smaller. The narrow, meandering roads in our area give rise to many reported “close en-

see vehicles drive over the center line, cut tight curves, wander over into the shoulders (the only place where pedestrians can walk) or not bother to stop at intersections.

In one 15 minute period on a Thursday morning “The Focus” set up at the main corner in the village to record the traffic. The statistics speak for themselves. Not counting the “dead-slow rolling stop” that most of us do, we counted 36 out of 105 cars that did not stop at the stop sign. Most of the cars broke slightly but could not be in any way construed as a stop.

Of the 36 that did not come to a full and complete stop, four motorists did not even bother to slow down. Three cars pulling out of the service

Heald Rd. down to single lane with no room for pedestrians

station after their gasoline purchase continued to drive through without stopping. Many cars turning left only made a half-hearted attempt at a stop and, the best one of all, was a service pick-up truck full of traffic cones and stancions that not only did not stop at the sign, but continued around the corner, turned in the Subway parking lot, went back to the intersection one more time and drove through it again without stopping. That was two blatant infractions in less than 30 seconds.

Add to that, delivery truck drivers who park on the street

instead of the parking lot and proceed to block an entire traffic lane . . . almost every morning . . . forcing 2 way traffic to use a single lane and the ever present people who insist on parking under “no parking” signs. On a nice weekend, the nightmare of vehicles and boat trailers that line the roadside on Heald Rd. makes for very difficult and dangerous situations.

So it is not just the Malahat that needs increased police attention. Some people feel the local Shawnigan Lake roads are more scary than the highway.



Cars wandering over the center counters” It is not unusual to



Delivery vehicle blocking one laneat main intersection.



. . .and then there are the speedboatsbut that's for another article

Resolution #11-397 from the July 13, 2011 CVRD Board meeting. This will be voted on by all local government reps at the annual meeting this year.

11-397 “That the following resolution be forwarded to UBCM for consideration: “WHEREAS the health of British Columbia lakes and rivers and estuaries is deteriorating due to increasing pollution, recreational use, development, and insufficient regulatory enforcement by senior levels of government;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have adequate regulatory posers or the funding capacity to sufficiently protect lakes and rivers and estuaries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia restore funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers and estuaries, or provide the regulatory authority and financial means to local governments to properly protect and manage lakes and rivers and estuaries at the local level.”

Protection of British Columbia Lakes and Rivers Backgrounder

Recent funding cuts to senior government

agencies responsible for environmental protection have left BC lakes and rivers vulnerable to increasing pollution, damaging recreational use, and improper development. Regulatory loopholes and weak enforcement of existing regulations has further compounded these problems. Local governments attempting fill the void left by contracting provincial agencies, do not have the expertise, the funding or the legal authority to adequately deal with a growing number of issues. A few key areas of concern include the following:

- Aging septic systems continue to deteriorate, polluting lakes and rivers. However, under the current legislation, unless there is visible evidence that a system is leaking into the lake or that effluent is visible on top of the soil there is no way that an old system can be tested against the will of the owner.
- Insufficient scrutiny of private sector environmental impact assessments by senior governments risk unchecked errors in potentially biased reports paid for by developers.
- Boat noise creating intolerable noise during summer months remains difficult to address as noise by-laws are often ineffective. Local bylaw enforcement officers are overtaxed and the RCMP find noise bylaws difficult to enforce.
- Funding cuts to senior government agencies has restricted site visits by government officers, let alone their ability to invest the considerable time needed to enforce environmental protection laws. The responsibility and the enforcement of the Provincial Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) are now left to local governments.
- Oil and gas pollution from a growing number of boats continues threaten water and air quality in and around lakes.

- Insufficient regulatory enforcement is being taken advantage of by some people for their own purposes. Lake shores are being cleared, trees cut and beaches are created despite the restrictions. Little by little the RAR and SPEA regulations are being circumvented or compromised.
- Houseboats with questionable septic disposal that remain on lakes without proper inspections. There is considerable concern that some of these may be discharging raw sewage directly into lake waters.
- Wakeboarding, a growing recreational activity on lakes, creates substantial waves that cause damage to shorelines and docks.
- Rowdy behaviour, public drunkenness and aggressive boating continues to create serious safety concerns, in addition to destroying BC lakes and rivers as places of relaxation, sport and inspiration for vacationers, visitors and residents. With some towns around lakes seeing populations double or triple in the summer, policing is so expensive that some of the local governments simply cannot afford to stop this behavior.

Our lakes and rivers are some of BC’s greatest assets. The Province needs to lead an effort to improve the regulatory and governance framework so our rivers and lakes will be protected for future generations. In the absence of leadership from senior levels of government to address these issues, downloading the responsibility for managing lakes and rivers to local governments would be a positive step – but only if with that responsibility comes the necessary funding and regulatory authority.

Take a Hike!

By Robin Massey

A few of us have been taking our hiking hobbies up to the next level. Overnight hikes! And back on Easter weekend we did as such out on the Juan de Fuca trail. To sum it up – WOW! After arranging the cars, one at the finish and one

up a rope too! Now I'm not going to lie, there was a mumble of hesitation among our group for sure. Especially with the added 30ish pounds of pack strapped to our back, BUT our group motto is 'Never let fear or common sense

'Just keep swimming, just keep swimming...' (changing swimming to hiking). And before I knew it, there we were at the top looking down amazed at our new-found confidence! After the supportive pats on the back, we did some bobbing up and down along the beauty of the trail immersed in the Island's beautiful rain-forest for about 4KMs arriving at Little Kuitsche Creek campsite, our home for the night. A perfect spot with tent pads, potty, food cache and a little creek to top up the water supply AND fantastic ocean views. Following a bit of a chilly sleep, we packed up and began our hike



at the start, we began our journey at Sombrio Point. We eagerly bounded along the giant boulders that they call 'the beach' for a while and ... then... there it was... not only a cliff to climb, but

stop you!' So we followed through – it would have been a short article if we didn't right? A song from the movie Nemo, that I watched with my son, entered my head

to Parkinson Creek. This portion of the trek felt like we've were warped to the tropics away from civilization deep in the rainforest which had copious amounts of mud as well. Some of us managed to stay dry... and then some of us... mud is good for the skin right? In summation, our group highly recommends doing this hike at least once in your life. There are many spots to get on and off depending on your time constraints. It was a fabulous overnight hike and doable for most fitness levels. Remember to pack out what you pack in, safety in numbers, avoid doubling up on provisions and be noisy (i.e. sing, converse, wear bells, etc.) Juan de Fuca trail provides amazing sights and gorgeous trails... and the accommodations? well that's entirely up to you! Robin plays on various trails in Cowichan Valley with her hiking group The Iron Butts. www.theomtree.com

Electrolysis
by Cindy Rose, C.E.
phone 250.882.9954

Clash of the Titans

By Matt Tyson

Shawnigan Lake - so peaceful, friendly and full of fun activities. At least that's what my first impression was before moving my business and then my home here. Little did I know of the battle that was going on behind the scenes. I've seen it in other communities I've lived in, but thought I might escape it in this beautiful place. This battle I speak of is well known to lakefront owners and wakeboarders. It's a tension between sides that just doesn't seem to have a solution. This most definitely will be the case unless both sides can be properly educated and then decide to work together. There have been many community meetings, articles and petitions in the past to try and ban wakeboard boats from lakes all over BC. It won't happen. There is just too much money being made in the industry, especially for the boat companies (which is the main focus of the issues, the boats). It would be like trying to ban motorcycles from the roads and not cars. There are, however, a number of ways that other communities have started working together and a few out-of-the-box ideas to ease the tension.

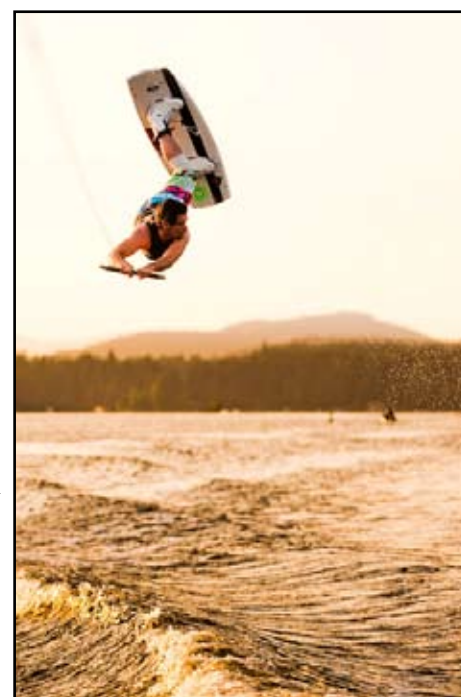
Let's start with the biggest issues between the two parties, education. One common misconception is that every wakeboarder uses a huge wake. There are three main wake sports and there are boats for each sport, which all look the same but create different wakes. An example of a boat company would be Mastercraft. Most people know them for water skiing. They have branched into wakeboarding, wakeskating and wakesurfing.

Mastercraft wakeboard boats are designed to push a wakeboarder into the air using the wake. They come with a ballast system that can be adjusted for each rider's skill level. For wakeboarding, you need a consistent shape to the wake so that it is safe to launch off the wake into the air and land back on the down slope of the same consistently shaped wake. You DO NOT want rough water for wakeboarding - you need flat water to prevent injury. It is all about consistency of your wake and the landing spot. These wakeboard boats are designed to give you that and allow you adjust the size of your wake. The average wakeboard board boat wake

is about 2 feet tall, just over the size of a regular run-about boat. They can get bigger as needed for skill level. The speed these boats travel while towing is safely at 18mph to 24mph.

Mastercraft wakesurf boats are designed to create a wall of water to push a surfboard forward and not into the air. They create the ultimate never-ending surfing wave. This is the biggest wake out of all wake boats. These boats are designed to travel at low speeds around 9mph up to 13mph and at a steep angle to the water with the bow up in the air. The rider is able to be towed behind the boat without the use of a rope.

It isn't fair to label all wakeboarders at Shawnigan as the cause of dock and/or shorelines damage. Not every wakeboarder rides close enough to do so. I have been riding for 10 years and use a bigger than normal wake which throws out fairly good-sized rollers and might cause damage to some docks that are not built as well as others. But the lake is public, and the boat I ride is built to standards, so I do have a right to train for my sport of choice



on this lake. People insist on telling me I'm the problem and that I'm not welcome on the lake. I could easily turn around and say that they are the problem as well.

There have been a number of deaths on the lake - none from wakeboarding. Maybe we should ban all those sports and equipment from the lake that caused those? That seems a lot worse than a dock being damaged. It wouldn't do any good for me to honestly think that way in retaliation to a select few trying to ban my sport.

In short, myself and other wakeboarders prefer the idea of working as a community to come up with solutions that everyone profits from. If anyone wishes to voice ideas feel free to drop into Hello My Name Is Boardshop.

Matt was the 2010 BC Provincial Champion for wakeboarding and has a local business in Shawnigan called "Hello My Name Is Boardshop" info@hellomynameis-boardshop.com

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Ice Cream Float!

By Al Brunet



photo by Al Brunet

There is nothing like ice cream on a hot summer day. In fact, some may argue that there is nothing like ice cream at anytime of the year.

For the last thee years, grade 12 student Madison Hadfield has been plying the waves of Shawnigan Lake bringing her own kind of joy to many children and adults who find themselves too far away from their cooler or refrigerator.

Madison rents the boat from her grandfather, equips it with an insulated cooler and spends her sunny afternoons skipping from dock to dock.

She said that she enjoys her time on the water and that her efforts provide her with extra money to do other things she likes.

Nice gig, Madison!

Food Security

By Carolyn Dowell

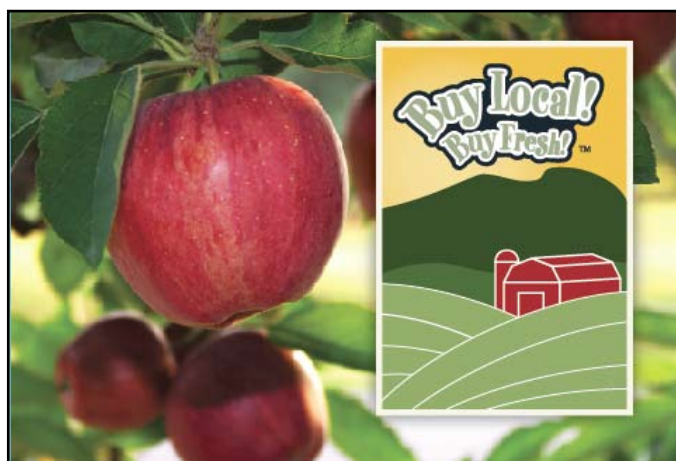
For me, a large part of living a small foot print lifestyle is eating local foods and in doing so, I support the local farmers, which is an important part of food security. Last year, the Cowichan Green Community (CGC) put together the most comprehensive food map available. The map lists farms, what the farms sell and a color-coded area map for each area in the Cowichan Valley. For south Cowichan, the map lists over a dozen farms that

Does anyone remember seeing the fruit & vegetable lady at the Shawnigan Village? I do. Linda Billings of Islanders Trading is now teaming up with the locals to co-ordinate a Farmer's Market – Thursday 2-7 pm, outside by the Cobble Hill Hall. When Linda sold her veggies at the Shawnigan Village, her goods combined with other local farmers products, made up to 85% of all the food I bought. Now, Linda is “serving the shoppers with many

Crowder wrote in the South Cowichan Life Magazine, “Too often, it is trade policies that help create food insecurity. A new trade deal being negotiated behind closed doors could have far reaching effects on our local food security. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will have an enormous impact on our country. Under CETA, new intellectual property laws would allow corporations an unprecedented amount of control over how farmers use their seeds, preventing them from selling or reusing them. And if farmers were even accused of doing so, they could be subject to pre-emptive seizure of their property without any wrongdoing even been proved.”

To purchase a CGC Food map, and visit their store, go to 181 Station St., Duncan, tel. 250 748 8506. And, check out their website: www.cowichangreencommunity.org

Carolyn's Gardening Services



sell meat, fruits and vegetables. Imagine your world when meat comes wrapped in brown paper and not plastic with a styrofoam bottom, or fruit without a plastic sticker on it. Also, just imagine never having to be concerned with e-coli from ground beef. Local beef is grass fed, there is no e-coli with grass fed beef. E-coli forms in the gut of a cow, when cows are not fed grass. The spill off from cleaning the butcher areas of corn or other product foods fed to cows, runs into streams. I have read in the papers where e-coli break outs stem from contaminated spinach and strawberries.

food vendors.” The Farmer's Market will run until mid October. Then it will be decided whether to continue outdoors or inside the Cobble Hill Hall. Linda has been following her passion of creating a local market since 2007. See you at the market!

In the fall, the Laughing Llama store sells local apples, (and local produce when available). These apples are fresh and delicious, picked at peak quality time. Imagine eating fruit that 90% of its energy to get to the store IS NOT from transportation/shipping and/or long term storage.

Take a deep breath and save your seeds! Last month, Jean

Shawnigan has the real “Last Spike”

By Lori Treloar



August 13th 2011 marks the 125th anniversary for the “Last Spike” of the Canadian dream – a railway stretching from ‘sea to sea’. Sir John A Macdonald, our first Prime Minister, promised Canadians a transcontinental railway. BC was not impressed when the line did not include Vancouver Island and it became a make-or-break issue for joining confederation. Macdonald solved the problem by enticing coal baron Robert

Dunsmuir to build a line from Esquimalt to Nanaimo. The 78 miles of track were completed in two separate contracts, one starting in Nanaimo and one from Esquimalt. The two contracts met at Cliffside, Shawnigan Lake.



On August 13th 1886, Sir John A, his wife Agnes, Robert Dunsmuir and other distinguished guests arrived at Shawnigan Lake to drive the last spike at Cliffside. A rock cairn marks the spot where Macdonald used a silver hammer to pound in a gold spike (a ceremonial hammer and spike - not left on site).

Although the E&N railway is currently stalled, there is optimism that the line will be back in business by late fall. It is very disappointing not to have an active train this year, in particular, to celebrate Shawnigan's role

in this momentous occasion in Canadian history. For years, a group of dedicated Shawnigan residents has made an annual trek to the cairn site on the ‘last spike’ anniversary to welcome the train and passengers with a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday. Instead, in August, we will celebrate the event at the museum with a new E & N powerpoint and display. Come in and celebrate along with us!

Lori is the curator of the Shawnigan Lake Museum
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

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VOICES OF THE PAST

"A perfectly average holiday in our great outdoors"

by Bruce Hutchison



Bruce Hutchison

Although the federal government tried to suppress the report of a top secret task force, it has been leaked, and its contents are interesting, not to say frightening.

The public should not be misled by the title of the document, which reads: "Ancillary Aspects of Canadian Cultural Evolution in Relation to Season Factors and Behavioral Patterns." In plain English, the task force has grappled boldly with the nation's recurring midsummer madness.

Once school is out, a lemming-like migration compels a swarm of otherwise sensible Canadians to move from their comfortable urban homes into wilderness camps, owned or rented. The official report, based on scientific polling, calculates that the mysterious native phenomenon involved "approximately 1,357,409 families, pet animals excluded." But what statisticians have failed to grasp is that the animals can never be excluded.

A deeper study would prove that approximately 90 per cent of the migrants take their dogs and cats with them, and that

more than 90 per cent of the cats escape from automobiles into the woods along the highway. Then follows a search lasting approximately one hour while children, three of them on average, scream encouragement from the automobile or, wandering, get lost themselves, prolonging the search.

This, as the task force fails to note, is only the beginning.

When cats and kids have been rescued, the migrants at last reach camp and discover, in seven cases out of ten (according to official figures) that the key to the cottage has been left in town. Whereupon amateur burglary is attempted with little success until some precocious teenager, luckily addicted to detective stories and the adventures of the late James Bond, inserts a strip of plastic into the keyhole and the door opens because it wasn't locked after all, merely warped by rain.

For a holiday of two weeks, the judicious housewife has brought nourishment for a month including (the report estimates) one head of wilted lettuce, two grams of cold baked beans, and enough cheese to bait a mousetrap. (The same thrifty woman willingly spends \$25 on a hair-do, but the task force considers it a sound contribution to the national environment.)

With all their careful planning, approximately six of ten wives have forgotten to bring tea and coffee. Worse, in the opinion of their husbands, beer was also forgotten and, still worse, gasoline for the outboard motor of the speedboat, concerning which the kids are uttering cries of despair. (In the lengthy appendix of the report it is noted that internal combustion engines do not work satisfactorily without fuel, a useful point to remember.)

Lacking a mobile boat, the young must content themselves with fishing off the wharf. But in approximately seven cases of ten, they have left the bait in the home where the worms, laboriously dug from the garden yesterday, are enjoying rich earth in a tin can today.

The fishery is an indifferent success, catching only one edible crawfish. By now the wife is so busy trying to burn wet wood in the stove that she ignores the protests from the wharf, and the husband tinkers, on hands and knees, with the electrical pump which, as always, suffered winter rust. To summon a plumber from the distant village is about as easy as summoning the prime minister from Ottawa. Buckets of lake water substitute for the pump.

(The appendix to the report calculates that the first day

of relaxation in camp is more strenuous than running a three-minute mile or climbing a fairly high mountain. But the holiday costs somewhat less than a trip to Europe, though not much.)

Additional figures indicate that two out of every three children will be stung by wasps, one by nettles, and all will experience cuts requiring bandages, candy, and pop, fortunately not lost in the migration. (It is commonly but wrongly believed that children eat poisonous berries and toadstools. These cases average only one in ten, the report says, and are seldom fatal. Junk food is more dangerous but no camp can live without it.) Most children survive the holiday in reasonable health, only the parents suffering physical damage, and the damage is often prolonged.

The typical husband, trained by athletic exercise on the golf course, must cut firewood, and he finds that his muscles are ill-equipped for it. In the city he may earn a high income, but here he labors unpaid with axe and saw. At minimum, legal wages he would be paid at least \$4 an hour but the law is not enforced in the wilderness. Bruised and blistered, if not actually wounded, he staggers at sundown to the cottage where his accustomed nineteenth hole

and its refreshments are missing. Will the relaxing holiday never end?

These problems are fully indexed, the task force observes. They multiply with the age and declining strength of holiday makers. So do the unexpected guests from town, but they may have their uses, sometimes bringing bottled comfort with them. If not, their welcome is restrained.

The conclusion of the report is especially disturbing. It warns the government that summer holidays gravely endanger the institution of marriage, but in three cases among five, the partners are reconciled on their return to the city where they vow never to visit the wilderness again.

But the lemmings will migrate next year as surely as Parliament will return to work in the autumn with budgetary consequences likely to be more serious for the taxpayer. Meanwhile, every citizen should read the secret findings of the task force which, with others, will spend the summer, all expenses paid, investigating conditions in holiday resorts throughout the world.

Originally printed in *The Sun Sat.*, July 6, 1985. Reprinted with permission.

(paid advertising feature)

SLBA Member Profile

"Moziro Coffee Roasters and Chocolatiers is all about community".



In 2007, two years after initially opening, when considering a location move from the Purple Building on Dundas, Jenn and Jake (Moziro owners) questioned whether their business might be best suited in a more densely populated/urban area like Duncan or even Cow Bay. Happily, it was the amazing Shawnigan customers who sealed their decision. After two years of undying loyalty it was an easy decision to stay in The Village and have Moziro grow with the people who've been with her since the beginning.

It is that same mutual respect between Moziro and her customers that Jake and Jenn have tried to carry through to other aspects of their business. All of the coffee beans roasted at Moziro are imported directly from Uganda. Moziro works directly with farmers

helping to improve growing methods and processing techniques. These farmers earn as much as twice what Fair Trade pays. Perhaps most importantly the beans offer an extremely diverse and delicious coffee experience.

The other aspect of Moziro is the chocolate production. The famed Mint Smoothie and storied Pecan Can are both favorites and people have been known to travel many miles in search of them. All chocolate treats are made in the store with high quality ingredients.

Moziro is a hub of activity in the village and a gathering point for many locals a meeting point for business partners, friends, and strangers. The cozy atmosphere is undeniably homey.



Check Moziro out... and stay a while.

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Tractor “turfs” Trailer



Minor traffic delays resulted when a truck hauling for a sod turf supplier lost its load near the intersection of East and West Shawnigan Lake Road. There were no reported injuries.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP

By Rob Webb

Shawnigan Lake Detachment is presently into the second quarter of our fiscal year and typically our busiest. Our main focus during this time is to continue our presence on the roads, waterways, beaches and trails, while still ensuring we attend our various calls for service.

Our vessel has been on the water several times, though we have not had the greatest of weather. We are noting very good compliance overall and have planned to continue our visibility on the water at various times. We have introduced further foot patrols and will be increasing our presence on the Trans Canada Trail once the Kinsol Trestle opens July 28th.

Our Detachment is presently in full swing with our positive ticket campaign with great results and comments to date from various folks. We have recently been involved

in the Subaru Triathlon, Canada Day Parade, MS Bike Tour upcoming and various other community events. Speed Watch recently held a luncheon where Sgt. Webb and Coordinator Bob Wallace presented a certificate of appreciation to one of our valued volunteers for completing over 100 plus hours in a very short time frame. Sgt. Webb also recently attended the South Cowichan Rotary dinner and presented Shirley Walker of South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society with a token of appreciation for her successful year as Rotary President and all her hard work including the positive ticket campaign with the RCMP. Shawnigan Lake RCMP Auxiliary Cst. Gary Holmes with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce are starting up a Business Watch Program.

More to come on this...however, if you are interested please email slbw@shaw.ca for more information. Aux. Cst. Holmes has put a lot of effort into this and we feel this can and will benefit the citizens and business community in a positive way.

New members to the Detachment include Cst. Raelyn Hart from her previous postings of Shamattawa and Selkirk Manitoba. Cst. Graham Holmes from Massett, and Cst. Denise Sutton will return in early August having previously served in Shawnigan, and Newfoundland. Sgt. Webb is very happy to be back after five weeks of training / development in Victoria. Sorry, folks, he plans to be here for some time yet.

Rob Webb is theof the Shawnigan Detachment of the RCMP

Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission (area B)

Summer Fun Shawnigan Parks and Trails

By Margaret Symon

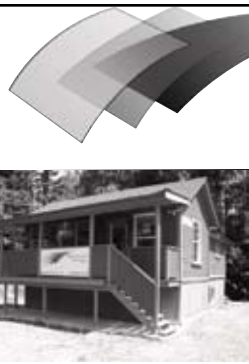
Not even the summer rain or the extreme heat will dampen the excitement as we celebrate the grand opening and new uses of the Kinsol Trestle this summer. On July 28 a family-friendly event including refreshments, entertainment, and information booths celebrated the rehabilitation of the tallest wooden rail grade in Canada. A new walkway spanning the 90-year-old wooden rail trestle across the Koksilah River canyon transforms the former railway crossing into a safe, vital connector on the Cowichan Valley Trail (part of the 200 km Trans Canada Trail route on Southern Vancouver Island). Now it is possible to walk or pedal from Shawnigan Lake across the trestle and on to Glenora, out to Lake Cowichan along the southern side of the Cowichan River

and back to Duncan and beyond on the newly revitalized Cowichan Valley Trail. Check out CVRD maps www.cvr.bc.ca for convenient access points to get on and off the trail. Huge thanks to all the local businesses, community groups, and individuals who helped make the rehabilitation of the Kinsol Trestle a reality!

The commission also continues its work to mark, identify and give better uses to the many “road ends” that are mostly orphaned around the lake. Many of these are used by the Fire Department to access water but the majority of the 72 road ends do not currently serve the community well.

Once they are all viewed by the commission suggestions for their use will be made to the appropriate authorities.

Margaret is the Chair for Area B Parks and Recreation Commission



Dewar McCarthy & Company Accountants

PRESS RELEASE
We Have Moved
Our offices are now located in:
The “Old” Bakery
2769 Shawnigan Lake Road

Shawnigan Weather for June 2011
(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network)
compiled by Grant Treloar

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	19.6	20.6	18.9	19.4	19.5
Avg Low	9.7	9.5	9.2	10.0	9.7
Extr High	35.6	25.8	23.8	25.1	24.3
Extr Low	0.0	6.8	5.7	6.7	6.7
Precip	40.2	15.5	11.7	17.2	14.1
Days with Rain	10	6	6	5	5

Lake Temperature: June 5: 16° June 12: 17° June 19: 18° June 26: 19°

Shawnigan Weather for July 2011
(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network)
compiled by Grant Treloar

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	22.9	23.5	21.6	22.4	21.6
Avg Low	11.7	11.4	11.2	12.2	11.6
Extr High	37.2	31.3	29.2	30.6	27.9
Extr Low	3.9	7.4	6.2	8.8	7.8
Precip	24.7	20.7	15.0	16.2	16.5
Days with Rain	6	6	7	6	4

Lake Temperature: July 3: 19° July 10: 19° July 17: 20° July 24: 20° July 31: 21°



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Shawnigan Cemetery

By Reg Blackmore

The cemetery is located on the corner of East Shawnigan Lake and Munsie Road and in most peoples' minds it is 'old' but its inception, in terms of time, is fairly recent (around 1960). As a non-denominational cemetery, one day it will house a lot of the pioneer history of what is currently Shawnigan Lake.

Since 1999, it has been maintained year round on a weekly basis as a service club project by the Malahat Lions Club. Since the Malahat Club's participation, great visual and esthetic strides have been made to provide a degree of comfort for the families of those who rest there and provide an equal degree of satisfaction to neighbouring properties. The Mill Bay Lions Club and the South Cowichan Rotary have also contributed equipment and comfort items.

one's best friend. We expect the gazebo to be completed probably by late August or early September depending on the weather and volunteer time commitments.

The property has also been enhanced with the planting of ornamental trees, hopefully strategically located, together with the total landscaping of the frontage on Munsie Road including excavation and subsequent placement of landscape ties and yards of wood chips. Ornamental cedars and holly shrubs/trees, daffodil bulbs etc., have been planted and a salt lick block was installed to help deter the deer from eating up the ornamentals!


During the tragic loss of a family member, the goal is to make the property an attractive place of serenity and comfort to those who survive such a loss and encourage



A Memorial Garden was established and grows in content from year to year. Tables, benches and other items of personal comfort for mourners and visitors alike have been placed. Currently, the construction of an octagonal gazebo is in progress, supported by donations of material and funding from many local sources. It will give shelter to mourners and visitors on days throughout the year where weather is not

them to come back and visit. This theme is already exhibited throughout the year by the constant placement of tributes to those interred— even Christmas will see a display of Wreaths.

I would close by mentioning the generous, visually commanding, appearance of the cemetery gates donated by Gavin McArthur in honor and memory of his parents who are interred here, in Shawnigan Cemetery.



Dewar McCarthy & Company
Accountants

ANNOUNCEMENT
Robyn Greenfree

We welcome Robyn to our office. Robyn is a Certified Bookkeeper. Having grown up in the valley she has worked for several local businesses. Robyn is passionate about numbers and brings a unique perspective to the art. Please stop by and welcome Robyn.

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Thirsty Helicopter



Photo & story Dave Hutchinson

There was an unusual and impressive sight July 7th when this helicopter filled its water tanks from the lake. Strong winds buffeted the large aircraft as it hovered just above the surface. It made several quick trips towards the western hills where presumably the water was dumped on a fire. Thank you to all the people involved with this important work.

Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department - Callouts



May 16 - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
 May 18 - MVI in the 1900 block of West Shawnigan Lake Road
 May 20 - Bush fire at Burnum Mobile Home Park
 May 21 - First Responder call in the Village
 May 22 - Auto Alarm off West Shawnigan Lake Road
 May 23 - Rescue of injured quad driver on logging road off Renfrew Road
 May 28 - First Responder call on Renfrew Road
 May 29 - MVI on West Shawnigan Lake Road
 June 4 - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
 June 4 - First Responder call on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
 June 5 - MVI on Shawnigan

Lake Road
 June 6 - First Responder off Shawnigan Lake Road
 June 7 - Mutual Aid Rope Rescue with Malahat Fire
 June 13 - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
 June 15 - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
 June 16 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road
 June 24 - MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road at Deloume Road
 June 28 - First Responder in the Beach Estates
 June 29 - First Responder in the Beach Estates
 June 29 - First Responder in the Beach Estates
 June 30 - First Responder in the village
 July 2 - First Responder off

Shawnigan Lake Road
 July 3 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road at Malta Road
 July 4 - Gas Leak on Renfrew Road
 July 5 - First Responder off Shawnigan Lake Road
 July 6 - First Responder off West Shawnigan Lake Road
 July 7 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road at Filgate Road
 July 14 - MVI on Renfrew Road
 July 13 - First Responder in the village
 July 14 - Ambulance Assist near Cobble Hill Mountain

Effective June 15th open outdoor burning is banned in the Shawnigan Improvement District; this includes burn barrels and large machine-built piles. Campfires are allowed; no permit is required. With the annual ban in place, fire department officers have attended burning complaints from June 15th to July 15th:

June 16 - on Cameron-Taggart Road
 June 23 - on Shawnigan Lake Road
 July 2 - on Carlton Drive
 July 4 - on Lakewood Road



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St. John's Anglican Church, Cobble Hill goes "Green"!

Over the last couple of years there have been many "Green" movements happening in St. John's Anglican Church. Reducing, Recycling and Reusing is becoming a habit. The composter accepts garden and kitchen waste and spits it out again to nourish the lovely grounds, parishioners ride their bicycles to Church events and there is a lot of carpooling. On Sundays, paper pew bulletins have given way to powerpoint projections which leaves hands free for expression. The church's major annual "Green" project is also a community one – The September Festival – where books, clothing, yard sale items, jewellery and much more is taken in, rejuvenated and then displayed creatively for keen buyers to load up their vehicles to take home to enjoy knowing they have done their bit for the environment.

This year's September Festival will be held on the Church grounds at 3295 Cobble Hill Road on Saturday, September 17th from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm – admission FREE. Come and discover the treasures of the

Giant Yard, Jewellery, Plant and Book Sales, renew your wardrobe at the Clothing tent, tickle your sweet tooth at the Bake table, try your luck in the Silent Auction and enjoy appetising Hamburgers and Divine Desserts. For the children, there is the exciting Kids' Korner Store and games galore. Come, have fun and help us make a difference by recycling treasures that are looking for a good home. As good neighbours we shall have an active recycling programme set up to manage waste materials.

This year we shall be supporting, with some of the proceeds, Warmland House and Clements Centre in Duncan, PWRDF (the Primates World Relief and Development Fund) and St. Jude's Cathedral, Iqaluit in the Diocese of the Arctic which was destroyed by fire in 2005 and is now being rebuilt.

Mark Saturday, 17th September from 10.00am to 2.00pm down on your calendar as a FUN, RECYCLING DAY.

For further information phone: 250-743-3095 www.stjohnscobblehill.ca

What is it? Where is it? Why is it?

First correct Answer sent to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins two specialty coffees compliments of Moziro's



WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER – June Issue



Mill Park. This lovely lakeside park was the site of a lumber mill from 1890 until the mid 1940's.

Congratulations to Danielle van Schaik for being the first to identify the mystery photo in the July edition of Shawnigan Focus. The photo showed the one of the viewing platforms in Old

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

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Sitting at the Dock of the Arm

By Farrell Magnussen



Farrell Magnussen

....watching the boats roll in. My favourite place to lake-watch is the West Arm Grill. Affectionately called the WAG, customers arrive not only by car, but by boat.

Mrs. Plumb originally owned the property and many people will remember the restaurant as the Jaeger House. In 2005, the current owner purchased the restaurant and the energetic brother and sister team of Darryl Jackson and Cheryl Petrie offer family oriented

pub-style dining in a rustic log home, lakeside setting. Their parents, Brian and Wendy, Darryl's wife Leah, and Cheryl's 5 year old son Ewan, are often seen working in the gardens and restaurant helping with the family business.

The WAG is an extraordinary setting for weddings, parties, business meetings, and events and the sports lounge is a great place to watch your favourite team on the big screen.

The WAG remains open most days of the year through the innovative endeavours of this family and their staff. Whether it's your first visit or your fiftieth, the staff are always warm, friendly, and courteous and you're treated like one of the family.

I've heard that some "regulars" are even invited home for Christmas dinner.

Visit the website at www.westarmgrill.com or call 250-743-2217 and if you have historical information or photos about the property, please stop and chat at 2460 Renfrew Road.



Shawnigan's Angels . . . ? 800 bikers visit Shawnigan Lake



On June 5, more than 800 bikers rode through the Shawnigan Lake area as part of the "Ride to Live" fund raiser. En route, they stopped by the West Arm Grill for refreshments before touring most of lower Vancouver Island. Overall, approx. \$110,000 was raised for prostate cancer research and those monies will stay on the island.


Surprising Discovery at the WAG

by Brian Jackson

As some of you may already know, our local wakeboarder Kevin Henshaw is back in town. After competing in a World Class Competition in Germany, he has had to take some time off to let a knee injury mend. Rather than recouping in Florida where he resides most of the year, he came back to his favorite Shawnigan Lake to visit with his family and friends.

The other day, Kevin was out boating and met up with Darryl (owner of the West Arm Grill) and decided to come into the WAG for some refreshments. A healthy discussion took place between many of us interested in what he was doing these days. This led to discussions on where he started and how he got into wakeboarding as a "career". It was then that we heard how he and his family had each and every board he had either promoted or used in competition. Darryl mentioned that he had two of his boards, both signed by Kevin, and they get displayed periodically in the restaurant during the summer. One, to our amazement, we learned was the very first prototype of Kevin's board. Kevin was 14 at the time, just starting out, and was doing a promo for the Liquid Force Wakeboards. That board is also signed by Kevin but not with his present signature. And, since the colour was changed when it went into production, it is a one of a kind. It is the only one in existence and with Kevin's signature as a 14 year old.





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Victoria Aqua Ski Club

By Pauline James Curtis



The Victoria Aqua Ski Club is celebrating its 54th anniversary this year and is one of the oldest continuous-



ly operating water ski clubs in Canada. The VASC is a club that celebrates water-skiing and wakeboarding by not only Vancouver Islanders and British Columbians, but with water-skiing and wakeboarding throughout Canada through membership in both the Water Ski and Wakeboard BC and Waterski

and Wakeboard Canada. How did the VASC begin and what is the secret of its longevity and success? Several of VASC's founding

is now Old Mill Park. A few years later when a three-acre parcel of land became available at the north end of the park, nineteen members decided to buy it and together they moved and began to develop the site. They created the Victoria Aqua Ski Cooperative or "co-op" which in turn provided a permanent home for the Victoria Aqua Ski Club.

The VASC was born when water-skiing was a new and glamorous sport. A post-war world was thrilled to watch tanned muscle and brawn of both men and women powerfully cut through the wake behind a sleek-fast boat on a mirror-flat lake. VASC members were quick to build and master slalom courses and a ski jump, and other "contraptions" that could be ridden such as trick-skis and air-chairs. They enticed others to join in on the fun and learn how it's done. It wasn't long before VASC brought pride and excitement to the people of Vancouver Island and all of

British Columbia through its water-skiing demonstrations and mass-skiing events. For example, VASC was in high demand to regularly showcase skiing in Victoria's inner

health and longevity are everywhere. There are lots of children and membership has grown. Members are improving their well-used club house and the waterfront is



Harbour on Canada's birthday on July 1st, and had a float in the Victoria Day parade. Over the years, VASC produced several Provincial and National champions and continues today to produce many podium winners.

Today signs of VASC's

inviting and functional with well maintained docks and a safe swimming area, all looking out over Shawnigan Lake with its shimmering waters cradled by rolling, green mountains, VASC is thriving.

Photos - Victoria Aqua Ski Club

Shawnigan Lake Business Association

by Roy Davies

Many of you may have noticed the construction at Cairn Park (across the road from the Fire Hall on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road). The frame work that is going in will be housing a new Shawnigan map and information Sign, to assist visitors in finding many of the great sights and business the area has to offer. A special thank you to the South Cowichan Rotary, for all their hard



SLBA as soon as possible. Also being worked on is the reprint of the Shawnigan Lake Map. The last printing of the map is now out of date as many new streets have been added. The ad space is almost all sold, and as soon as it is we will be sending the map to print. Like the sign any business interested in getting on the map, please let us know as soon as possible. If you would like to get a copy of the current map they

are available at the Barbershop along with many other businesses throughout Shawnigan. On August 20th from 11-3 the SLBA and Camp Pringle will be hosting a Family Picnic. This picnic is open to all business, their staff and families. There will be a host

work on the park and the sign structure.

Many businesses have signed up to have themselves profiled on the sign and on the map but there is still room for more ads. If you are interested, please contact the

of activities including, rock climbing, archery, swimming, and kids races.

Cost is \$2 per person and includes a hotdog, beverage and chips. Life guards will be on duty and instructors will be available to assist with the

Location, Location, Location!



Photo Lori Treloar

Young entrepreneurs offering friendly service, lemonade and freebies to Kinsol visitors. Left: Jessica Parkin Middle: Inanna Cusi Right: Avishag Sharabi

rock climbing and archery. Closed toed shoes will be needed for use on the climbing wall.

This will be a great place to network with other businesses and take in the new Multi-Million dollar upgrades

recently completed at Camp Pringle. This is guaranteed to be an enjoyable afternoon for the whole family.

And, speaking of networking, Tuesday morning networking is a great place to get & give the latest and

greatest information. It is a very casual meeting with topics changing very quickly. No topic is off limits, no appointment necessary . . . you don't even have to be a member. Meetings are at Moziro's every Tuesday at 8am.

Shawnigan Beach Estates

By Gaileen Flaman

A new face is coming to the residents of the Shawnigan Beach Estates - hopefully. The uninspiring and unattractive entrance to the SBE on the corner of Renfrew and Gregory roads has been left unmaintained and ignored for too long, with shrubby junipers growing willy-nilly and volunteer evergreens blocking the sign. So, with the full support of the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission and the conditional support of the CVRD Parks Department, a community initiative is underway.

The friendly folks at O.U.R.Ecovillage are providing enthusiastic students from their Permaculture Design Course to tour the site and prepare a design proposal, with permaculture philosophy and techniques in mind. Permaculture is the practice of designing sustainable human habitats by following nature's patterns with the goal of contributing to the emergence of a culture of sustainability, compassion and equity in our community. Design presentations will take place at O.U.R.

Ecovillage on August 15 at 9am in TAJII - OUR Community Classroom Building. The public is welcomed and encouraged to come. RSVP at 250-743-3067.

Upon approval of the design from the CVRD Parks Department, resources such as equipment, tools, plants, flow-

design, so residents of the Shawnigan Beach Estates are encouraged to get their hands dirty - literally. Tentatively scheduled to coincide with the SLAM (Shawnigan Lake Arts and Multicultural) Street Fest in mid-September, residents will gather to dig and dump, pull and plant. This neigh-

bourhood needs its members to take part in the creation of this unique project which has the potential of being the model for other, similar community develop-

ment projects. Residents can expect a flyer in their mail in early September regarding the Work Party.

Ultimately, this trashy triangle of terra firma can become something to attract and appreciate when pulling into your neighbourhood. When picking up your mail, or waiting at the bus stop, or checking out the bulletin board, you can take a moment to walk the in the garden and 'smell the roses'. For information and to be a part of something special, contact Gaileen Flaman at 250-929-8372 or giggleen@yahoo.com.



ers, trees and people-power will be gathered to implement the design. Ecole Mill Bay has generously donated the "wall flowers" left behind at the recent Eco-stravaganza and some of the plant materials may also be provided by Parks once checked for suitability and cost. Further, it is intended that artwork is part of the plan, with the help of Kristen Schrader, Manager of CVRD Arts and Culture Division, and local artist/s contributing to the project.

Many volunteers are needed to implement the



Caryl Worden

A beautiful Celebration of Life Service was held for Caryl Worden on May 29 at Shawnigan Lake School. It was a fitting tribute to a woman who had become part of the fabric of the community.

Caryl and her partner Evo Marcon arrived in Shawnigan Lake in the fall of 1998 and became immediately involved in the community. By the end of the year they had purchased a home on the west side. Caryl's influence has been felt in so many different areas of the Shawnigan Lake Community, from the Laurel Singers, the Shawnigan Players, various Shawnigan and Cowichan Valley Artists Group, to the Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA) of which she was President for 2 years. Her quiet leadership was an inspiration and her innovation improved the character of our village. While president of the SLBA, she was instrumental in raising the Shawnigan Village profile and initiated projects such as the Christmas Tree Light-Up and the Shawnigan Map brochure. She was also a keen supporter of resurrecting the "Crier" or creating a new form of newspaper for Shawnigan.

For a number of years Caryl was the editor of The Cottage Magazine. Readers would often find frequent photos and local stories of Shawnigan Lake and the area. Caryl's latest employment was in the Communications and Marketing department at Shawnigan Lake School. Her contributions to the School were coloured by her unfailing optimism and unique outlook. Colleagues valued the determination, wit and vibrancy that came through in every piece of Caryl's writing and in every conversation she had with students and staff members.

Caryl was a passionate artist using many mediums from oils and acrylics, altered books, sculpture, digital art and mixed media to express herself. Even in the final weeks, when she was bed ridden, the bed was her studio. She continued to connect, create and communicate. She learned to knit during her sickness and, not content with knitting scarves, she knitted day purses and wall hangings to give to friends.

The iPad was in constant use and visitors would often find her fully engaged. As Evo often stated, "I'd go up to have a chat, and she would look at me over her glasses and say "is there something that you want? I'm busy here".

The community caring spirit was ever so evident with their acts of comfort, support and personal care during Caryl's journey with cancer. Her travels were continually eased by angels from Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan Lake Pharmacy, Shawnigan Medical Clinic, Community Nurses and Home Support, Cowichan Hospice, and friends new and old. Caryl passed away on May 11th at home with her partner at her bedside.



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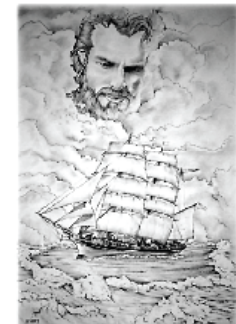
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View From the Islands

Bass Plugs and Margaritas

By Bruce Fraser



Bruce Fraser

up to the shoreline...and we can walk right up to the high water mark too...and that margarita looks pretty good...you'd expect decent people to be sharing that pitcher..."



Margarita

invoked. Besides, nobody could really hear them clearly over the boom box or tell if it was them or the amplified rapper using those words.

As the fishermen struggled to right their skiff and re-assemble their gear, their rapidfire expletives were drowned out by the Cessna 180 taking off through the trees of the island on one of its student practice flights. They usually try to stay over water, but the instructor likes to look in our bedroom window, just in case. With the spinning rods again in action the casting began in earnest, one snaked into the trees, a second cast hooked into an unwary blackbird and a third now sported a fluorescent green noodle. I believe I could hear the low rumble of laughing bass. Two vicious casts later and the fishing skiff was whisked off down the lake faster than the 6am wakeup waterskier. They had hooked a float tube full of screaming children who had been whiplashed over the shallows, you know, the ones on the danger side of the floating green buoy that every boater with a certificate knows how to read.

All we needed now was a jetski driver looking over his shoulder at those girls in the canoe while setting the over-wharf jump record. "Oh no, did I actually say that?" "Hide the margaritas, dear, and get me the double barreled harpoon – there's two of them."

"Hey!" I shouted at my wife, "What's this treble-hooked bass plug doing in my margarita? Are you trying to tell me something?" "Not me," she replied, "It's those two fishermen floating inside our territorial waters – they can't cast over the boathouse without getting into our drinks or dinner!"

Just then I heard the fishermen grumbling, "these water-front people think they own the lake and can just put their wharves wherever they want them...don't they know we can fish right



treble-hooked bass plug

Suddenly, the bass plug was whipped out of my happy hour glass, taking the lime wedge with it. I hadn't noticed the light nylon line and narrowly missed being garroted as it was retrieved. As I clamped my Tilley Hat securely on my head, expecting another flight of lures into my drink to join the bits of worm still floating there, the fishing rig was suddenly swamped by the passage of a massive wake boat, flipping the two good old boys into the lake. The language that followed was unbecoming of gentlemen so I won't burden you with the matters of parentage or proclivities that they



Tilley Hat



CIRCLES

By Garth Harvey

A short time ago, some mice entered my kitchen by enlarging the hole the sink drain went through. I caught and exported all but one. That one I caught twice and both times, it escaped. It figured out the secret of a live-trap. Now, each night, it nibbles on an apple and eats a few nuts I put out for it. Intelligent creature. A friend said, "It is your circle." That is what got me started on this, because our Family Caregivers Support Society started with a two-year circle project.

I do not know how long Ranjana, now of Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society, and I had been talking, but in a letter, November 19, 1999, I read, "...Working together, we will improve the quality of life of many caregivers in this community..." As all our projects start by consulting with those concerned: the first Caregiver Support Circle Pilot Project Adviser Committee met on January 19, 2000. This committee consisted of 16 people from the community at large. Service clubs, banks, caregivers, non-profits, health authority, and police were represented. The guest speaker was from Vancouver. Three people from that meeting are still with us as directors. The last meeting of this committee was 23 November 2001.

All this happened under the auspices for the Duncan Senior Advisory Society. But, by April 2000, we had a draft constitution, a two-year work plan, and funding for a budget of \$66,000.00, which was all more the Duncan Society wanted to administer, so we incorporated on 25 April 2000. And look where we are now!!!

People asked, "What is a circle?", and I cannot tell them as I know no definitive definition of what we call a circle. A circle is something that grows around a caregiving family that is unique to that family. One caregiver described it by saying, "They come to you and say, 'What do you want? What do you need? How can we support you in what you are trying to do? They give you a leg up.'" It is the caregiver that tells us what is needed. A Circle might be thought of as people sharing their gifts and strengths to their mutual advantage in a neighbourly fashion.

It begins with a family being referred to us, usually by a professional care provider. After conversations with the Coordinator, if it seems we might be useful, a facilitator is assigned to the family. The facilitator will get to know the family, their needs, dreams, interests, gifts and strengths and then finds people with compatible qualities that they will share with the family. Sounds simple, but it requires endless patience, compassion, common sense, the ability to listen and listen, and whatever other qualities that are required of a saint. A circle lasts only as long as it is needed, but the friendships so-formed last a long, long time. "You will be forever cherished." is a comment from one who has experienced one of our circles.

Why do circles work? Again, I do not know, but I do know that people are not complete in themselves: we need each other—society—to experience our full potential. I also know that when our work enhances self-esteem, honours individuals and their right to make choices, and supports the development of relationships that enable a community to look after its own members, good things happen.

"I have nothing to teach the world, truth and non-violence are as old as the hills."

Gandhi

Garth is the president of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society



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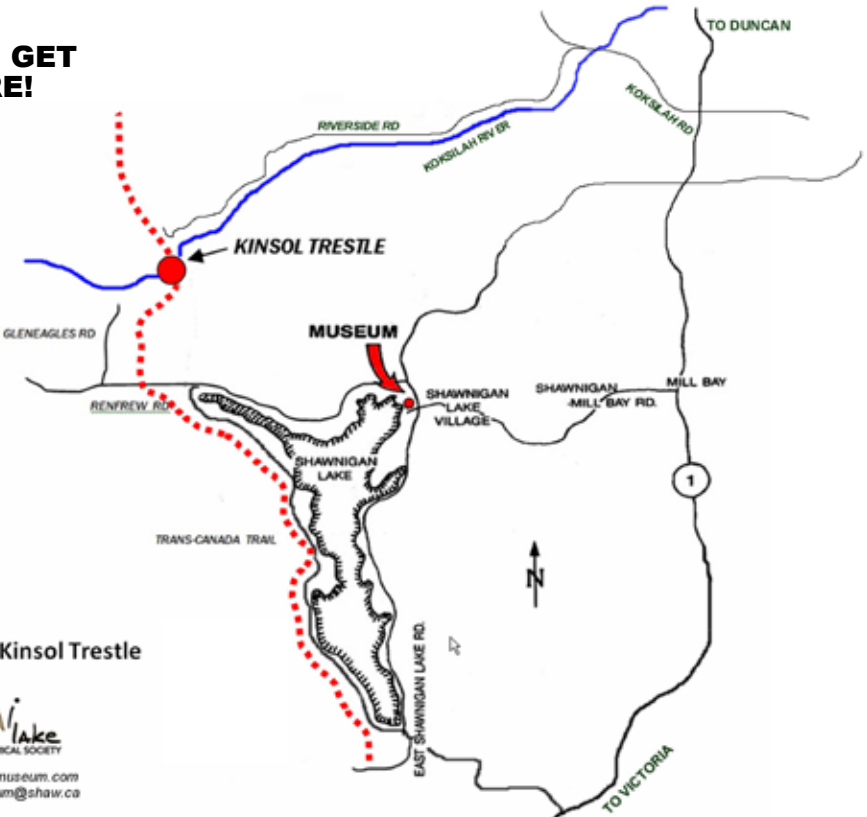
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