



# Shawnigan FOCUS

*"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"*

## .. AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ..

There is nothing like a parade and a lot of flashing lights to put a smile on the faces of children and adults alike. Add a big red suit and a beard, a couple of elves and a dog pretending to be a reindeer and you are bound to have a winner. There was even an eloquent, hand written letter to Santa that the jolly old elf took particular joy in receiving.

That was the scene in beautiful downtown Shawnigan when the "official" light-up event took place on Sunday, December 4th. Merchants went out of their way to set a scene of fun and fellowship to kick off the Christmas season.

Santa was there of course to add hope, dreams and merriment for the kids. There was face painting for those wanting to be embellished, street hockey in which to participate in case the cold started to overtake the body. For those not into physical sport to warm up the bones merchants provided a fire, hotdogs and hot chocolate as a substitute.

Kids also participated in crafts while their parents participated in "spreading the latest news" while sipping drinks around the fires with their friends and neighbours.

Many attendees did not forget that it was the season for giving and brought many donations to help the local food bank.

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP, all of the great people at the Volunteer Fire Department and the Malahat Lions Club did extra duty, as they do every year, to keep the crowd safe and carefree.

The annual light-up festivity is but one of several events that the Shawnigan Business Association either organizes or sponsors as a thank you to the community for supporting their businesses. Business members contribute to the cost through their membership fees.



DEAR Santa  
I WOULD LIKE  
TO VOLUNTEER FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
LOVE Jim  
Wife Will be  
COOBE





Disclaimer: “The opinions and illustrations expressed here are those of the authors/illustrators and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or position of the Shawnigan Focus.”

## Referendum or “Cop-Out” ?

by Al Brunet

I was dismayed with the recent election for CVRD Director and the referendum for the Eco-Depot. Not necessarily with the results of either. No, what I was dismayed at was how we got there.

I was very unimpressed with the CVRD communication choices as they cost us a great deal of money by mis-communicating, or poorly communicating, the facts at the beginning - angering and scaring people, and then running a really bad and costly campaign at the end. Our governments and councils can’t afford to waste money.

Also, borrowing a page out of the federal Conservative/US style of campaigning, the anti Eco-Depot proponents thought nothing of lying, (it was not, nor was it ever going to be a dump) and misleading (the spot was not farmland . . . it was a gravel pit beside the farmland). It was never in the ALR as some claimed and the “save our dad’s farmland” was a red herring as the farmland had been sold. How would you like the previous owner of your property telling you what you could, or could not do on land that you had purchased?

Also, although this had the appearance of a “grass roots” campaign, the suspicion is that it was a well financed commercial push by people in the business. Was that wrong? Not really. It was just not up front where it should have been.

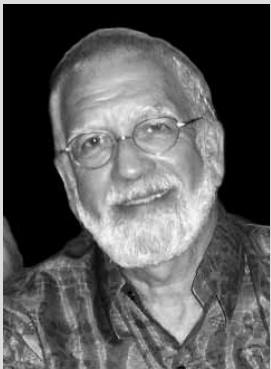
Most of all, I don’t believe in leadership/management by referendum. There are extraordinary reasons for referenda; this was not one of them. Once leaders are chosen, those leaders should make decisions, and be prepared to defend them, based on the merits of the project, finances available, and need in the community. Be it the Eco-Depot, the HST or the Kerry Park pool, decisions on these issues were not made on facts; they were made on emotion and melodrama following very public and acrimonious campaigns. This is a very unproductive way to make decisions and a “cop-out” way to govern.

And again, the amount of money all of this has cost the taxpayer is staggering.

In each case we were pushed to cut off our noses to spite our own faces, a mis-use of democracy by leaders unwilling to take responsibility for their actions and, an abdication of duty by all who want the big bucks and the limelight but would prefer to shove their real responsibilities off to consultants and /or the electorate.

And brace yourself! The next debate will be over the BC Hydro Smart Meters. Organized crime, particularly those involved in grow-ops, will sink big money and influence to convince you that your privacy will be invaded and your brain will be affected by radiation. Why? Because the smart meters will expose those areas where power is being stolen making crooks and their grow-ops easier to identify. Will our leaders saddle us with another referendum or will they take decisive action that is good for the public?

The old adage for leaders to “lead, follow, or get out of the way” does not apply here. In the future, lead or resign. Don’t leave decision-making to those with the loudest voice and deepest pocket or those who feel the need to wear tinfoil hats.



Al Brunet

## A “Campaign Manager’s” View

by Dave Hutchinson



Dave Hutchinson

I first met Bruce Fraser about eight months ago and have gotten to know and respect the man in the meantime. I recall a September conversation where we both agreed that the job of Area

Director was a thankless task; one person singlehandedly representing over 8,000 people, large responsibilities, unrealistic expectations, and not much in the way of remuneration. I was therefore surprised when Bruce announced his intention to run a couple of days before the nomination deadline. It started off with a small core team and I ended up being his “Official Agent”, a completely unfamiliar role and something I would never have predicted. It was a busy and interesting few weeks.

Being co-editor of the Focus was a potential conflict of interest. Only the November issue could have been affected and I believe the Focus Team acted in a professional and impartial manner. Sometimes even the perception of conflict can be an issue though. Readers can make their own judgments.

We were fortunate to obtain the location at Aitken & Fraser for a Campaign Office. People started to notice. It was basic grass-roots activity that started the momentum. Phone calls,

emails, meetings at local establishments and people’s homes; they all helped get the ball rolling. Another key factor was the website (www.fraserforshawnigan.ca). A lot of work from one talented individual made that happen and the usage metrics were quickly encouraging.

Bruce’s platform included several topics and concerns of relevance and interest to Shawnigan residents. The watershed, state of the village, taxation and incorporation were all worthy subjects, as was the eco-depot controversy.

The “All Candidates Forum” at Shawnigan Lake School brought about an unexpected sequence of events. The anti-eco-depot or Cameron-Taggart (CT) group had been active for eighteen months attempting to gain public support for their cause and also to expose the CVRD’s lack of due process in selecting the location for the facility. This eventually led to the nomination of their own candidate, Kelly Musselwhite. The Candidates Forum resulted in Kelly wishing to withdraw her candidacy and to endorse Bruce. This was largely due to Bruce’s ability to understand and articulate reasoned responses to the questions that were asked.

It seemed a good strategic decision to accept the offer. We would probably inherit most of Kelly’s supporters without losing many of our own. The two groups abruptly thrust together resulted in a few rough edges. There was debate and compromise. For example, we initially wanted to be mod-

est with signs. Our thoughts were that they litter the landscape and are costly and superficial. We were persuaded that there is evidence for their effectiveness so we increased the number. For the CT group the eco-depot issue was paramount. We endeavoured to convince them that there were other valid concerns as well. There was certainly a lot of interest and energy and this seemed to be reflected in the community as November 19th neared.

Based on imprecise feedback and subjective intuition, I was optimistic that Bruce had a good chance of being elected. I also thought the referendum was going to be close but did not have a sense of which side would prevail. We ended up being more successful than anyone had anticipated on both counts. It is certainly a nice feeling to win and have the efforts of everyone involved rewarded.

Personal Comments:

- My thanks and regards to Ken Cossey. While not always in agreement with his approach and priorities I was impressed when each time I contacted him with questions or concerns he always responded. His dedication and hard work over the last six years are commendable.
- I also have respect for Roy Davies and Kelly Musselwhite. Not many have the fortitude and dedication to contemplate public office. All candidates had the best interests of the community at heart.
- My view on the eco-depot is

that the CVRD put the cart before the horse. They decided and announced the location and then attempted to defend the decision. The referendum lacked meaning without knowing what other locations were considered or what the costs would be. While the concept of an eco-depot seems attractive, should it be provided as a public service? When the private sector is willing and competent, the role of government should be regulation and partnership, not competition. If existing facilities are not open on Sundays or if they do not accept certain material, this could be addressed with stipulations and tax incentives. The CVRD’s purchase of the Cameron-Taggart site, the time spent by staff, the contracts awarded to consultants, all to promote something that was unwarranted in the first place, was a colossal and irresponsible waste.

• Since the election I have been surprised to hear sporadic comments about manipulative pressure from special interest groups. The poll results speak for themselves – the greater public clearly had their say. There also appears to be wild speculation about vested interest and monetary influence. The CT group did raise \$25,000 for a Supreme Court challenge. This was accomplished by neighbourhood fundraising and personal donations over many months. Having actually met and interacted with the group I can state with some credence that any conspiracy theories are unfounded.

*Dave Hutchinson is involved in the community, writes and co-edits the Focus*

## Election Results

### Director for Electoral Area B (Shawnigan Lake):

TOTAL VOTES:	1,733
COSSEY, Ken	379
DAVIES, Roy	280
FRASER, Bruce	1,020
MUSSELWHITE, Kelly	54

### South Cowichan Eco Depot Opinion Referendum:

TOTAL VOTES:	4,120
YES	1,451
NO	2,669
Note: This referendum included three Electoral Areas, Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay and Cobble Hill.	

### Voter Turnout:

2011	1,733	31%
(implies 5,590 registered voters)		
For Comparison		
2005	1,593	29%
(implies 5,493 registered voters)		
1996	808	22%
(implies 3,673 registered voters)		

After the election, The Focus asked the other candidates if they wanted to offer advice to the incoming Regional Director.

**Roy Davies** advised, “you need to connect with the community, you can’t simply live here. Get involved! One of Shawnigan’s biggest assets is the dedicated, hard working individuals that put countless hours of time and resources into making Shawnigan better. Connect with them and you will find the true heart of Shawnigan”.

**Ken Cossey:** Cossey offered no advice for the new director but wishes that everyone has a Merry Christmas, or Happy Hanukkah, and a very Happy New Year!



## We encourage you to send us letters...

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues; bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's name, address and phone number, but the contact information will not be published. Letters should be limited to 250 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Send them to: [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

Dear Editor,

This is a shout-out to the citizens of Shawnigan Lake who came out in such strong numbers on election day. They clearly showed who and what they wanted for Area B. Perhaps we'll even have to have a second polling station if this interest continues. Congratulations also to all of the excellent candidates who ran, and particularly to the new Area Director, Bruce Fraser. His vision for our future is an exciting one and I hope that as many people as possible will participate with him as we move forward. A strong community spirit was also reflected at the recent Shawnigan Village Christmas Light Up with so many people coming out to celebrate. I must say kudos to the organizers, as it just gets better every year. That outdoor hockey game was a great touch and I really appreciated the hot apple cider as we watched Santa, and his helpers greeting the children. Truly we are fortunate to live in such an engaged and active community. Marcy Green

## In Response

A couple of issues back Brent Beach commented on the new Official Community Plan (OCP). I'm disappointed that after 3 years on the committee, he just didn't get it. I too was on the OCP review, and often sat right next to him. Developing an OCP is tough work. It's not sexy work and it's not the place where changes are made, at least not quickly. I've also sat on the Area Planning Commission (APC) for the past 12 years so I've seen the results of an out of date OCP on which to base land use development in Shawnigan Lake. The purpose of an OCP is to provide a vision for the community, for as much as 15 years into the future with guidelines to direct that. It hopes to capture the community's feelings on its direction in a document that will act as a guide for politicians and planners into the future. The document is not intended as a "governance" piece but more as a vision for the future. It does not set out political direction and that's the piece that Brent didn't get.

Plain and simple, the OCP is how we try to direct and focus land use in the future, knowing that land use is dependant on private ownership. It creates this vision through goals, objectives and policies - real exciting stuff. The document is more directed to land owners and developers and guides them on what should or shouldn't occur in our community. It can be pro-active and positive too, by trying to promote and attract certain usages in specific places but it has no control over who will develop a business or a sub-division on specific

lands. It says, "Here is how we view our community in the future" and tries to direct future land development in that direction. It also states what will and will not be permitted, things like septic fields on small parcels, set-backs from streams, tree strips on property lines and other restrictions that are far more focused. It's in those guidelines that the larger goals of clean water, protected forests, safe communities manifest themselves. It doesn't develop shopping centers or open businesses. As an example, it states that certain areas are best suited for village growth and that people who wish to put in a shopping centre should purchase land in a certain area, not elsewhere. That way, developers know that any attempts to build wherever they like in Shawnigan won't happen. I think we did a pretty good job of stating where our community wants to go, for the foreseeable future.

So, where does the rubber hit the road? It's no good having a document that gives you direction if you don't have people who will make it happen and stick by its intent. Brent is probably unhappy that up to now there have been numerous changes in zoning for years that don't seem to fit with the existing OCP and wondering what's different with the new one. But that's a matter of governance and the job of the people you elect and how they get the bureaucrats to do their jobs. Our recent election certainly pointed out and that people wanted change.

Personally, I wanted to see more policies and goals that drew development to create jobs so our young people could stay in our community rather than move away. There are lots of things in the new OCP that are not quite what I wanted, but they are more about levels or degrees rather than blacks and whites. The people 10 to 15 years from now can judge how well we did. At the end of the day, this document, with all its limitations, and there are a number, is far better than what we had. At the end of the day, it will still be up to the representatives we elect to make it happen.

Roger Painter



Excuse me... where's the the line up for Jesus? It's "HIS" Birthday you know!

## STOP THE VIOLENCE "Drop the ego, Not the gloves"



Tyler Noble

My Name is Darren Cole; I am owner and operator of Steeples Restaurant in Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada.

You may have recently heard about Tyler Noble. He was the bright happy young man that was killed in Victoria on the street in front of McDonalds in a senseless display of Violence and Ego.

Tyler worked for me at Steeples. He was simply just a great kid with a bright future like so many. His death has shaken the Shawnigan Lake community to the core.

We have a plan and vision that will make a difference in our community and maybe could spread further.

I am having a couple hundred T-shirts produced at cost from Keith at Team Sales in Victoria. The shirts will be purple. The shirts will have Tyler's well know happy face tattoo over the

heart on the T-shirt and will also have the slogan

**"Drop the ego, Not the gloves"**

An invitation will be on that shirt inviting their child to a seminar on senseless violence and how the ego plays a part in these situations. We will be inviting community leaders to help with this seminar which I think will be held on Sunday Jan 8th in the afternoon.

The T-shirts will be available at cost, approx \$10.00 to anyone that wanted to give one to a kid or if someone wants more than the one we will be giving them.

The goal is the get these kids to band together to create awareness to the real truth regarding why people act as they do and the complete waste of human life over basically

*Continued page 11... "Tyler"*



## Christmas at Shawnigan Lake

by Lori Treloar



Lori Treloar

Christmas has always been a special occasion for the residents of Shawnigan Lake. In 1900, the Koenig Hotel on the village waterfront hosted the first Community Christmas Tree event. In 1910, the celebration moved to the brand new Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association building and the tradition continued for another 66 years. Every Christmas, supper, entertainment and games were provided for the children. There was a giant Christmas tree to delight the children and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

For many years, every child, from infancy to 14 years old, received a present. In the fall, a committee of women from the village would canvass the area for donations and then draw up a shopping list of presents for each child. They would shop locally first and then make a trip to Victoria for the remainder of the list. Occasionally, an overnight stay in Victoria

was required to complete the shopping.

Sometime in the 1940s, the tradition of gifts was dropped from the festivities, and thereafter, the children received an orange and a bag of candy. However, Lin Nelson who grew up at Shawnigan advised that, at some point, the PTA took up the gift giving again for most of the 1950's. She

remembers that she and her friends would check out the toys in the window at Aitken and Fraser Store and hope that Santa would bring them the right gift. According to Lin, the Christmas event was huge for the community. The students at Elsie Miles would practice in the hall and provide the entertainment for the festivities, there were games

for the families to participate and always a visit from Santa.

After Christmas, in 1976, it was decided that the village had outgrown the event. The number of children, which had swelled to 500-600, was beyond the regulation capacity of the old hall. With the expanding population in the area, it was decided that the Community Christmas Tree

event was more suited to a village and no longer applied to the larger community.

Over the last thirty years, a community Christmas event has taken place in most years but sponsored by different groups and held in different places. For many of those years an outdoor Christmas tree on the corner of Shawnigan and Shawnigan-Mill Bay Roads was the focus for the Christmas celebration. Here, the community gathered to sing carols and to visit with Santa. Later, the celebration moved to Mason's Store, again with a special tree and a visit from the jolly old elf. In addition, every year, our Shawnigan firefighters provide the community with the much-anticipated Santa Run that brings Santa and his sleigh out to local neighbourhoods on the top of a fire truck.

For the past several years, the Village Light Up, sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Business Association, has brought a community Christmas celebration back to the village. Food, music, a beautiful tree with lights and, of course, a visit with Santa makes this a special occasion and a reason to gather in the village with neighbours and friends.

*Lori is the Curator of the Shawnigan Lake Museum*  
[www.shawniganlakemuseum.co](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.co)



SLAA Hall

Photo courtesy of Shawnigan Lake Museum



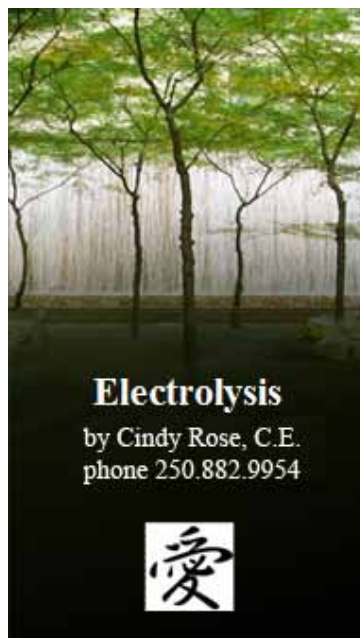
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The museum will close for winter break as of December 19, 2011 and re-open February 3, 2012. Please do not hesitate to contact us at: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca) or 250-743-8675 [www.shawniganlakemuseum.ca](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.ca)



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Local Success Story

By Lori Treloar



Rene Unischewski (aka Chevy Stevens) & Mom in the Kiddies Carnival

Chevy Stevens is a writer whose debut novel spent four weeks on the New York Times list and went on to become an International bestseller. Her second book, *Never Knowing*, released in July this year is also an international bestseller (At the moment it has been on the German bestseller list for over 8 weeks.) Her third book is on the way. On her first attempt at a novel, she landed a three-book contract – a remarkable feat! The publishing rights for the first book, *Still Missing*, were sold to at least two dozen countries

(rights to her second and third book have also been sold to many foreign countries). *Still Missing* is currently being developed into a movie screenplay by one of the writers from the *Dexter* series. Earlier this year, the book also garnered a prestigious award – The International Thriller of the Year – Best First Novel. *Still Missing* has also been highlighted in *People Magazine* and *Oprah’s O* magazine. *Never Knowing* has also been optioned for a movie. What is even more special is that this bestselling author grew up at Shawnigan Lake - her family still lives here. Born Rene

Unischewski, she writes under the pen name Chevy Stevens derived from her father’s nickname, Chevy, and her brother’s name, Steven. At one time, Rene intended to go to University for a Fine Arts degree. One of her teachers at Bonner School, Craig Campbell, encouraged and mentored her and, most importantly, taught her the value of discipline in any artistic endeavour. It was during an open house as a realtor, in 2005, that she found the inspiration for her first novel. Between

clients, her mind toyed with the idea, “What if she never came home?” With bills to pay, and life interruptions to deal with, Chevy juggled her writing and her work. Six months later, she quit her job to finish the book. As a natural communicator and avid reader Rene became obsessed with writing. *Still Missing* was sold to the publisher in December 2008 – a process that took over four years. In addition to working on her storytelling craft when she was working on *STILL MISSING*, she taught myself to type using a Mavis Beacon CD, and read many books on grammar and punctuation. Time well spent - she produced a bestseller! With a publishing contract, her books now have to be ready to print in a much shorter time-frame. There is no luck involved in writing a bestseller - it requires a dedicated discipline and a passion for the story.

Her reviews are impressive. Equally impressive is how down-to-earth and approachable she is. I was able to chat with Chevy. I asked whether it was hard to adapt to the lifestyle and expectations of a successful novel writer. Her response was that with each book the process has become a bit easier. The biggest learning curve was to find a balance between the business side of success and the time dedicated to writ-

ing. The important thing for Chevy is that her story must have a connection for her or a message to relay. She writes about things that matter to her and focuses on writing exciting stories rather than worrying about things she can’t control. I sensed that she was excited about her writing – but, it is still work.

Chevy is currently working on her third book, *Always Watching*. Chevy admitted that she has special fondness for this book because part of it is set at Shawnigan Lake. All of her books have backdrops from Vancouver Island, but many local Shawnigan landmarks will be included in this story. She admitted that she has enjoyed a sense of nostalgia with the current book. Her rural childhood gave her a freedom that is lost to most children in this generation. She roamed their large ranch (often with a book in hand), and spent endless



summer hours in the Koksilah River and at Mason’s Beach. She attended Elsie Miles and Discovery Schools. Her first birthday party was at the old Shawnigan restaurant, The Jaeger House, and later she worked there. In her heart, she is a Shawnigan girl and is proud to have come from this community.

To find out more about Chevy, check out her website at [www.chevystevens.com](http://www.chevystevens.com) ...and it is not too late to add this local-girl-done-good author to your Christmas list. ☆

Top 12  
Essential Canadian  
Novels of the Decade  
as compiled by CBC’s  
Canada Reads

A Complicated Kindness  
by Miriam Toews

Bottle Rocket Hearts  
by Zoe Whittall

Clara Callan  
by Richard B. Wright

Come, Thou Tortoise  
by Jessica Grant

Conceit  
by Mary Novik

Crow Lake  
by Mary Lawson

Drive-by Saviours  
by Chris Benjamin

Elle  
by Douglas Glover

Essex County  
by Jeff Lemire

Far to Go  
by Alison Pick

February  
by Lisa Moore

Galore  
by Michael Crummey

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## Area Director Report:

By Bruce Fraser

### To My Shawnigan Neighbours

In Shawnigan, we enjoy the privilege of having a group of citizens who are willing to run for public office, offering years of public service to their neighbours. I would like to honour Ken Cossey, Roy Davies and Kelly Musselwhite for their contribution to our local democracy. Ken has served six full years in the traces, Roy is an engaged community booster and Kelly is a stalwart of Shawnigan with great affection for our community. Each person has a group of dedicated family, friends and volunteers who worked tirelessly on their behalf during the recent election. They too deserve our full respect for they are the ones that put their efforts actively forward in support of their ideals and their candidates on the arduous route to the ballot box. My supporters have delighted me with the depth of their commitment to community service and the voters of Shawnigan have given me solid support at the polls. I intend to thank them all and justify their confidence by working diligently on the issues that matter most to them and their families.

I extend congratulations to all those who have won seats in local government in our Regional District. We have our work cut out for us and I look forward to joining you at the Board table.

As election campaigns develop, some cleavage lines can appear among our neighbours as our views on the issues of the day get crystallized into competing platforms. Now that the election is over, our collective job is to knit the community back together and put the extremes of our differences into perspective. We have so much to do in Shawnigan to keep our rural life intact while facing the inevitable development pressures of the future. The challenges can only be tackled successfully by working together on the positive things around which we can unite.

I made four concrete proposals during my Area Director campaign:

Establish a Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable to work towards comprehensive stewardship of the Lake and its surrounding watershed lands.

Establish an informal Village Development Council to work towards a master plan and action program for the beautification of Shawnigan Village.

Hold annual "All-Basin Symposia" to engage all of Shawnigan's sub communities in directing the vision for the future and bringing it



Bruce Fraser

collectively to fruition.

Establish an Area Director's office in the village to increase accessibility to residents.

Accomplishing these things will take time, but they will start as soon as I take the oath of office. I will be calling regularly on my Shawnigan neighbours to join in these initiatives as each will be opened to broad participation. There will be many others that must be pursued as you bring forward ideas to be realized and issues to be solved that range from zoning by-laws, to incorporation, to area boundaries, to growth management, to civic amenities and to investment in the arts. There is an Area B Advisory Planning Commission, a Parks Commission, a Kerry Park Recreation Commission and a Shawnigan Community Centre Commission each of which will require attention and support along with the many non-government groups organized within our community.

We also will have to revisit the location of waste transfer facilities in our region. Constructive relationships with the private sector need to be built. Complementary public facilities, where they may be required, are to find a home in properly zoned industrial areas and public consultation practices need to be turned to creating harmony rather than division. Resident taxpayers need to be able to address the costs they are expected to bear, not just the location of facilities. I, and my Board colleagues have received a clear message from the residents of Shawnigan, Mill Bay and Cobble Hill that requires a respectful and creative response.

There is much to do. The election is just the beginning. See you soon.

[www.fraserforshawnigan.ca](http://www.fraserforshawnigan.ca)

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## Voices from the Past The Christmas Doughnut (1948)

Written by a former Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company manager, Gerry Wellburn

MARY still remembers how excited she was that bright Christmas Day in the early part of the century when she stepped out of the skiff onto the landing of the old Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company floating cookhouse. There was to be a big noonday Christmas dinner and most of the other Shawnigan Lake settlers were coming too. The five year old girl clung to her mother's hand while her father, Herb Hawking, turned the skiff over to a tall, smiling logger who had been waiting for them. The man - her father called him Terrance - touched her fair curls with a gentle finger and smiled down at her as he talked to her parents. It seemed from the talk that he wanted to borrow the skiff for an errand up the lake. As he rowed away he called out, "If I'm not back in time for dinner, be sure to save me a doughnut." "That Terrance is not joking," laughed her father as he pushed open the cookhouse door. "He's mad about Charlie Wong's doughnuts."

Mary all but forgot the incident as she ran about on the caulk-splintered floor exploring the strange new scene. She was impressed by the hugeness of the camp range, and the mountain

of aromatic wood beside it. She was charmed by the friendly greeting of Charlie Wong, the fat Chinese cook, and excited by the gay decorations and the hubbub of the gathering. Soon she was seated at the table with the others. Each place was set with a tin mug upside down on an enamel plate, a black metal knife and a short pronged fork. "Why can't we have tin mugs at our house?" asked Mary, and everybody laughed. Towards the end of the meal, Charlie brought on great platters of doughnuts. Her mother explained what they were and Mary remembered what Terrance had said. She thought to herself that there would be plenty left for him, there were so many. As soon as Mary had eaten part way into one of the doughnuts, she knew why Terrance was so fond of them. They were big and round; the inside was soft and the outside had a crisp, slightly fatty crust covered with sugar. In the middle was a huge cavern filled with red jam. Just as she was finishing the last crumb, the door opened and Terrance came in. While he hung up his hat and mackinaw coat and exchanged cheery greetings with those present, Mary looked quickly up and down the table at

the doughnut plates. They were empty. Terrance sat down at the table and he noticed it too. He fixed his twinkling eyes on Mary. "I've had my dinner but I do want a doughnut. I thought you were going to save me one, little girl." Mary said nothing and looked down at her plate. "Never mind," said Terrance quickly. He turned to Charlie Wong and winked. "I wonder if the fairies have a doughnut for me in that cupboard, Charlie."

Charlie Wong chuckled and produced from the cupboard the oversized doughnut he had been saving for his favourite "customer." "There! See what the fairies did for me?" said Terrance. Mary was the only one who didn't join in the laughter. "I don't believe in fairies," she said with dignity. "Mr. Wong saved it for you." Terrance looked shocked. He regarded his doughnut thoughtfully for a long moment then looked at Mary. You come outside with me. I want to show you something. "He went to the door, the doughnut in his hand, and Mary climbed down from her chair and followed him doubtfully. "Now watch" he said when

*Continued page 11 "Mary"*



Shawnigan Lake



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## Take a Hike!

by Robin Massey



Robin Massey

You know it's going to be a great day when you look outside and there is no need to add 10 minutes to your day to warm up the car. December 4th was such a day, it was a perfect day to explore the fantastic trails of Mt. Tzouhalem.

When one hears 'Mt. Tzouhalem' and 'hiking' in the same sentence it can mean different things to different people because there really is a plethora of loops. The most common entrance is at the top of the Properties BUT because our group is all about the fame and glory of challenging ourselves we jumped on the trail starting right behind St. Ann's Church at Providence Farm. After a gentle slope to the gate you are immediately welcomed into the butt blasting theme that this mountain provides and I am extremely proud to say there was not a single

complaint from our group... perhaps we were all thinking about the upcoming season of chocolate and eggnog as motivation!

After about an hour(ish) of climbing and winding, winding and climbing we scrambled our way to 'The Cross'. For those who are not afraid to nudge to the cliff's edge you truly get an amazing sense of accomplishment after the huffing and puffing subsides and you take a moment to look down at the tiny speck of vehicle that you left not so long ago. It is impossible to not say 'Wow, I did that!'

From this vantage point you are welcomed with stunning views of Cowichan Bay, the Estuary and Lake Quamichan and on the right day you may even be lucky enough to witness a Hawk training its offspring.

As mentioned before this is not the only trail on Mt. Tzouhalem but definitely one of the more intense varieties. There are easier routes that do not involve scrambling or hanging onto dry branches that snap off. But naturally we chose this route because we are finely in tune with our skill levels and also maybe a little bit nuts at times. Kidding aside though, if you are planning this hike in your near future make sure you check online for maps & links and familiarize yourself of which way you INTEND to go. There are many off trails, branch trails and game trails – have you ever heard the phrase 'Hmm I wonder where this goes?' Be warned that you have a choice in that moment to own that statement! You may just find something really cool and then sometimes it may lead you into an infinite loop with a longer adventure than planned! This could be either a good thing or a bad thing. But best practice is to always have a map or GPS in your arsenal even if you think you'll never need it ... trust me!

Have an amazing holiday season everyone. P E A C E

Robin Massey plays on various trails in Cowichan Valley with her hiking group The Iron Butts. [www.theomtree.com](http://www.theomtree.com)



## Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission

By Margaret Symon, R.P.F.



Margaret Symon

Trees in our forested parklands provide many important attributes: trees provide shade, stabilize the soil, clean the air, serve as a carbon sink, inspire recreational pursuits, nurture understorey plant communities, offer photogenic opportunities, and provide important habitat for wildlife.

During the late fall and winter months, when Vancouver Island is pummeled by rainstorms, high winds, frosts, and snowstorms, and when we humans become more susceptible to colds and infections, trees may also be negatively impacted by hostile weather. Tree branches may be whipped off; frost cracks can occur; trees may be blown down. In addition to adverse climatic conditions, factors that contribute to tree decay and mortality are disease, pollution, insects, fire, and human disturbance. Sometimes several agents simultaneously weaken and kill a single tree, a small group of trees, or a stand of trees. Decay and the associated deterioration and death of trees are normal processes that regularly occur within forested ecosystems, and contribute to the ever-changing nature of our forests.

Trees in various stages of life, death, and decay are important components of the structure and function of forest ecosystems. The Wildlife Tree Committee, a multi-agency committee composed of the Ministry of Forests and Range, the Ministry of Environment, and WorkSafe BC, defines a wildlife tree as any standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife ([www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca)>Forests and Range>Wildlife Tree Committee). Significant indicators of wildlife tree quality include height and diameter, decay stage, location, distribution, and cause of death. The Wildlife Tree Classification system for BC provides a ranking of coniferous and deciduous wildlife trees, based on stages of deterioration and decay.

Wildlife tree habitat at all stages is intrinsic to the life support system for fungi, plants, invertebrates, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. The Wildlife Tree Committee estimates 25% of all forest dwelling terrestrial vertebrates in BC depend on dead or deteriorating trees. More than 80 species of vertebrates alone depend on wildlife trees. The largest known group of wildlife tree users is cavity-nesting birds, such as woodpeckers, owls, and some ducks. Year-round resident chickadees and nuthatches use tree cavities for nesting and winter roosts. More than 30 species of mammals in BC use wildlife trees. Bears often hibernate in hollow trees; several species of bats roost in tree cavities or behind the loose bark of dead trees. Open nesters, such as great blue herons, bald eagles, ospreys, and large hawks and owls, depend on large wildlife trees capable of supporting bulky, heavy nests. And amphibian species, including the clouded and western red-backed salamander, utilize the soft, moist wood found in highly decayed wildlife trees.

Despite the adverse effects of inclement winter weather, wildlife trees can be safely maintained to provide continued use by wildlife tree users, while at the same time providing viewing pleasure for local residents and park visitors. More about wildlife trees in next month's Focus.

Margaret is the Chair of the Shawnigan Lake - Area B Parks and Recreation Commission

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## When "you gotta go!"



It's not much to look at today but the new washroom/change rooms at Shawnigan Hills park, now under construction, will be a welcome addition in the spring. The structure will complement, and complete the new playing field and running track put into service earlier this year.

A project of the volunteer Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission, it will include some storage space, washrooms and change rooms and a cover to hide under on those unexpected rainy days.

The Park and its facilities will be available for pick-up games, league games and tournaments. Bookings for the field are handled through Kerry Park Recreation Centre (250)743-5922.



## THE WILD SIDE

by Dave Hutchinson

### The Belted Kingfisher - This Bird Deserves Its Name



Photo by Dennis Ancinec – Google Images

I don't know if these perky creatures reside here all year but they are commonly seen around the lake during fall and winter. Recently, I saw one sitting on a dock bench. The hungry bird held a wriggling fish in its beak that looked to be about half as big as it was. It was repeatedly belting the unfortunate fish against the bench rail. After about a dozen whacks the fish was subdued enough to be swallowed whole.



Photo by Teddy Llovet – Google Images

## Our Magnificent Quarry Residential Development, Regional Park, or Both?

by Dave Hutchinson

Well, it's not really "our" quarry" is it. Even though the public has been making recreational use of the area for years, it has been privately owned since the notorious E&N Land Grant of the 1880's. The current owners have the 568 acres listed with Colliers for \$6,950,000.



Looking southwest over the Quarry (Kingzett Lake)  
Photo by Dave Hutchinson

Limestone has defined the area. The "Raymond Deposit", as recorded in the Provincial MINFILE database, "consists of a 670 metre long, northeast trending limestone lens." The underlying seam also surfaces at Butchart Gardens and Bamberton. All were quarried to make cement which was shipped worldwide. The earliest recorded use at our quarry was from 1886 to 1896 when limestone was produced from two small pits on the northeast end of the deposit. A primitive lime-kiln is still evident as nature slowly reclaims it.

Between 1953 and 1979, 11.8 million tonnes of limestone was blasted loose and trucked down the private haul road to Bamberton. This made a sizable hole in the ground. Bamberton ceased operation in 1980, and without the pumps running to remove spring-fed water, the quarry took about two years to fill. The resultant 80 feet deep, 20 acre body of water is now officially known as Kingzett Lake although locals just call it "The Quarry."

**(Many people were consulted for this article but no one was able to recall how the lake got named – reader's help is requested – free coffee at Moziro's for the first correct answer – editor@shawniganfocus.ca)**

The lake was used several times for aquaculture. The Provincial Fish & Wildlife Branch established a trout hatchery in the mid-eighties but had no on-site staff so had limited success due to net damage and escapement. Subsequently it was used for a privately operated salmon seed and fry business. Proper facilities were built along with a caretaker residence. Finally it was used for harvesting crayfish. There is a run-off stream that connects with the Koksilah River. Crayfish are evidently attracted by the "sweet lime" water and migrated from the river to the quarry and reproduced abundantly.

All of the Bamberton lands, including the quarry area, were sold in 1989 and South Island Development Corporation had grand plans for a development of

12,000 people. The initiative was worked on until 1996 when it lost government support. Around 2004 the land was split into two main pieces. Three Point Properties (and partners) acquired the main Bamberton site. The quarry lands were purchased by the current owners, Grant and Mark Dakus, who live in Prince George area where they have also have other business interests.

In 2005 a rezoning application was submitted to the CVRD to convert the quarry lands from Forestry to Residential in order to develop a subdivision for up to 325 homes. As part of this process, site contamination issues were identified and the application has been on hold until remediation occurs. A certificate of compliance is required to proceed.

All of this has benefited local residents who use the property for recreation. After the aquaculture was discontinued the water regained its crystal-green clarity. It is a popular swimming spot during the warm months. There are stories about one summer in the mid 1990s when the Hells Angels rented the place for a weekend gathering which included live music and water skiing. Cross country skiers use it when there is snow. It is a year round favourite for dog walkers, hikers, and mountain bikers. Kilometres of trail networks link-up over the ridge to the original Silver Mine Trail which, in turn, connects to the Kinsol Trestle area. It has become a de-facto park and gets much more use than many official parks in the region.

There have been problems. In June of 2009 there were news headlines reporting squatting, vandalism, arson, and general squalor caused by unwelcome visitors. Grant Dakus said at the time "When we bought it we really tried to leave it open for people to walk their dogs and ride their bikes and take advantage of the lake and just enjoy it like they always have." Gates and barriers were improved to more effectively prevent vehicular access. A local volunteer group was formed to help with cleanup.

The site has been on the CVRD radar. In 2008 a referendum was passed approving a "Parkland Acquisition Fund". The associated Fact Sheet published by the CVRD identified the site as a proposed Regional Park. There was no mention of it though in the 2010 Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan. In the old Official Community Plan, Policy 6.5 stated: "In the event that the old Bamberton Quarry Lake is found unsuitable or is unavailable for fish culture use by the Province of BC, it is recommended that the site and environs



Old lime-kiln above the quarry – Photo from Google Images

be examined for its potential for future residential development." In the new OCP, Policy 20.13 states: "...Kingzett (Bamberton Quarry) Lake should be examined by the CVRD for its potential use as a community water reservoir."

When contacted recently, Grant Dakus was of the opinion that the best use of the property would be for a park. The economy in recent years has not favoured large land developments. There has been interest from parties wanting to purchase smaller portions of the property. Mr. Dakus

said that they may be forced to consider selling it off in pieces.

Could local government afford the property as a park? Could they purchase it whole and sell off portions to enable establishing a park? Could the Province help? What about groups like the Land Conservancy of BC? Should Kingzett Lake be protected for future water requirements? Or perhaps it is just an old industrial site that, when cleaned up, would make a fine location for a gigantic subdivision.

What do you think? Please let us know: editor@shawniganfocus.ca





Don Cherry in a previous "Santa Run"

SANTA RUN

The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department presents its annual

Santa Run

Wednesday, December 21st - 6 pm to 9 pm

Santa visits the Beach Estates starting at Ceylon Road, making his way to Linden Lane.

On the East side, Santa starts in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnham Park area.

Our New Director

Who is Bruce Fraser?

This question has been voiced with some frequency since November 19th. Not everyone is has the time or inclination to study the candidates who run for local office. Bruce was successful in his bid to be elected Shawnigan Director. For those that don't already know of him, here is a brief background:

Bruce, an ecologist by training, is past President of both Selkirk College and Malaspina College and retired Chair of the provincial Forest Practices Board. Currently he serves the region as a member of the CVRD Environment Commission and of the Cowichan Water Board. He was a member of the founding editorial team for the Shawnigan Focus community newspaper. His



Bruce Fraser:  
Photo by Sandy McElroy

career has spanned higher education, community economic development, land use planning and international development, work that has taken him throughout the province and the world.

During his seventeen years work as a private sector consultant Bruce has assisted Mayors, councils and community organizations throughout British Columbia, from Lake Cowichan to Fort Nelson, to fund, launch and complete economic and social development initiatives. Bruce is an experienced specialist in public participation and is committed to active listening and thorough consultation.

Bruce has been connected with Shawnigan all his life. He was one year old in 1941 when he was dropped off the edge of Cliffside wharf, to be introduced to the lake rather directly and hauled, sputtering to the surface, by his mother. He started as a summer visitor and graduated to a full time resident.

Bruce and his wife Sarah have been living in their cabin on an island in the middle of Shawnigan Lake and have recently moved to the banks of the Koksilah River in the north part of Area B. The have a blended family consisting of four adult children, Lara, James, Alexander and Emily. The most recent addition is Princess Aylah, a ram-bunctious twelve-week old Shiloh Shepherd, who is growing rapidly and likes chewing things like shoes and phone-cords.

A more complete description of Bruce's life and career can be found on his website at: [www.fraserfor-shawnigan.ca](http://www.fraserfor-shawnigan.ca)

Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

The callouts for the Fire Department for November are:  
The call for Shawnigan Fire Department for November 2011 as follows:

- Nov 1 First Responder off Cameron Taggart Road
- Nov 12 First Responder in the Village
- Nov 16 Hydro Line call on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
- Nov 17 First Responder in Burnham Park
- Nov 20 Hog Fuel Fire off Renfrew Road
- Nov 21 First Responder off Colman Road
- Nov 23 First Responder off Renfrew Road
- Nov 28 Hydro Line call on Morgan Way
- Nov 28 First Responder off Colman Road
- Nov 28 First Responder in the Village
- Nov 29 First Responder in the Beach Estates
- Nov 29 First Responder in the Village

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To strive for a work environment that promotes team work, growth and continued learning through positive reinforcement with open, honest communication.

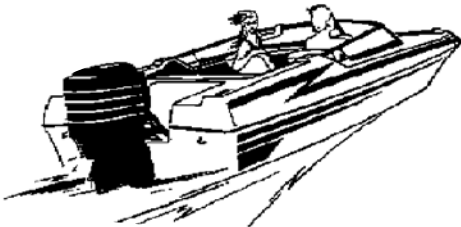
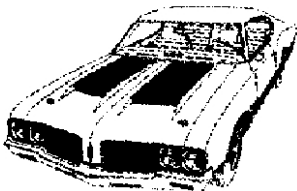
Editors note: Our Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department deserves the gratitude of the community for participating in the annual Shawnigan Lake Light-up. The Fire Department volunteers were on hand in advance of the event to raise the banner for the event and later to position the official tree and to help add the Christmas lights. They were also on hand at the actual event with many of the volunteers, a fire truck and their mascot. Thank you on behalf of the community!

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

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	8.2	7.2	7.3	7.9	8.2
Avg Low	2.4	1.0	-0.3	0.8	0.4
Extr High	20.0	12.2	12.6	12.8	12.4
Extr Low	-15.6	-3.4	-5.2	-4.3	-4.0
Precip	214.6	214.1	158.0	156.2	124.8
Days with Rain	21	25	28	27	29

Lake Temperature: Nov 6<sup>th</sup>: 9° Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: 9° Nov 20<sup>th</sup>: 7° Nov 27<sup>th</sup>: 6°

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DECEMBER/JANUARY TIDE TABLE - FULFORD HARBOUR

Sat 17 Dec	02:27	4.1L	10:07	11.4H	17:08	5.6L	22:13	7.4H
Sun 18 DeC	03:12	5.5L	10:36	11.3H	17:57	4.4L		
Mon 19 Dec	00:20	7.7H	04:06	6.9L	11:04	11.3H	18:45	3.1L
Tue 20 Dec	02:20	8.6H	05:16	8.2L	11:34	11.3H	19:31	1.9L
Wed 21 Dec	03:43	9.6H	06:43	9.1L	12:06	11.3H	20:16	0.9L
Thu 22 Dec	04:38	10.4H	08:04	9.7L	12:44	11.3H	21:00	0.2L
Fri 23 Dec	05:22	11.1H	09:15	9.8L	13:27	11.1H	21:44	-0.1L
Sat 24 Dec	06:03	11.4H	10:19	9.8L	14:15	10.8H	22:27	-0.1L
Sun 25 Dec	06:41	11.6H	11:20	9.5L	15:07	10.5H	23:10	0.2L
Mon 26 Dec	07:18	11.7H	12:22	9.1L	16:02	10.0H	23:52	0.9L
Tue 27 Dec	07:54	11.7H	13:23	8.6L	17:00	9.4H		
Wed 28 Dec	00:33	1.8L	08:28	11.6H	14:23	8.0L	18:02	8.8H
Thu 29 Dec	01:13	2.9L	09:02	11.5H	15:22	7.3L	19:15	8.2H
Fri 30 Dec	01:52	4.1L	09:33	11.3H	16:18	6.6L	20:46	7.7H
Sat 31 Dec	02:29	5.4L	10:03	11.0H	17:13	5.7L	22:51	7.5H
Sun 01 Jan	03:09	6.7L	10:31	10.8H	18:03	5.0L		
Mon 02 Jan	01:36	8.0H	03:51	7.9L	10:57	10.5H	18:49	4.2L
Tue 03 Jan	03:45	8.8H	05:24	8.8L	11:20	10.3H	19:30	3.5L
Wed 04 Jan	04:29	9.6H	07:17	9.3L	11:42	10.1H	20:08	2.9L
Thu 05 Jan	04:58	10.1H	08:34	9.6L	12:06	10.0H	20:43	2.3L
Fri 06 Jan	05:23	10.4H	09:28	9.6L	12:39	9.9H	21:16	1.9L
Sat 07 Jan	05:46	10.6H	10:09	9.4L	13:21	9.9H	21:48	1.5L
Sun 08 Jan	06:07	10.7H	10:45	9.2L	14:10	9.8H	22:20	1.3L
Mon 09 Jan	06:29	10.8H	11:22	8.9L	15:03	9.7H	22:54	1.3L
Tue 10 Jan	06:54	11.0H	12:03	8.5L	15:58	9.5H	23:29	1.6L
Wed 11 Jan	07:20	11.1H	12:48	8.0L	16:57	9.2H		
Thu 12 Jan	00:06	2.1L	07:47	11.3H	13:36	7.3L	18:02	8.9H
Fri 13 Jan	00:44	3.0L	08:14	11.4H	14:26	6.5L	19:16	8.4H
Sat 14 Jan	01:22	4.1L	08:42	11.4H	15:19	5.6L	20:44	8.1H
Sun 15 Jan	02:02	5.3L	09:10	11.5H	16:15	4.6L	22:29	8.0H



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## Food for the Thought

By Kelly Koepp and Beth Hall

Imagine if your kids decided to cook dinner one night and handed you their long and complicated shopping list. Then they invited all their friends, and their friends' friends home to help. They invaded your kitchen, took out every appliance and pan you owned, dripped fat and sticky dough on the floor, and asked endless questions, because they really didn't know how to cook and knew that you did. Then they left you to do the dishes!!

Now put the same scenario in the Shawnigan Lake School kitchen with the executive chef and his crew. What transpired was an example of the patience and heart of a professional kitchen team, who braved kitchen chaos that would challenge even Gordon Ramsay. And they did it all with a smile and a "how can I help you" attitude. The huge success of the Shawnigan

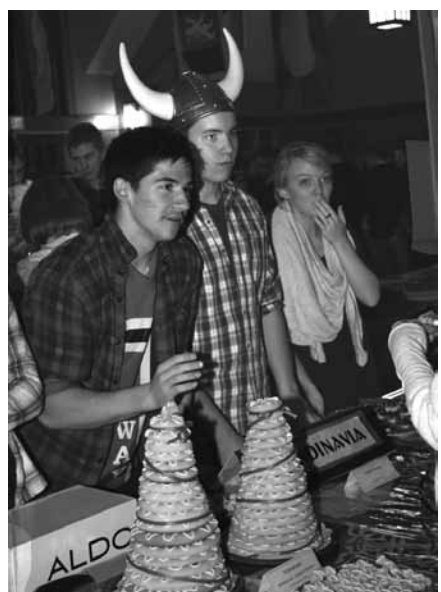


Food Fair for the school's 9th International Week celebration was made possible by the help of the kitchen crew and their willingness to be part of this crazy, but fun extravaganza. There was also the level-headed guidance of long-time staff members Beth and Mark Hall, who took everything in stride when streamlining approximately 550 students and guests through the culinary taste-testing of delicacies from over 20 different countries. And naturally, the entire event was fueled by the energy and enthusiasm of the student body that cooked up a storm to deliver an impressive display of yummy, tangy, zesty, succulent and sometimes even strange morsels from around the world. Here are some of the student impressions:

"The South African table was my favourite. They had great Boerewors sausages!"

"I really enjoyed all the flavours of the world. It's fun to see all the different ingredients used and all the different ways of preparing food."

"The Indonesian and Thai banana fritters were amazing!"



"The pickled herring from Scandinavia was the biggest surprise for me. I was very skeptical and it turned out to be delicious."

Alas, another International Week at Shawnigan Lake School has come and gone in a whirlwind of activity, hard work and merriment, but the flavor of the multi-cultural experience will be savoured for weeks to come.



## What does a "membership" mean?

by Al Brunet

If you have ever wondered what your membership fee means to a non-profit organization it is likely that you have never been in charge of one.

There are all kinds of non-profits that do everything from lobby for better housing for the ill or the unemployed to those who operate art galleries, museums and amateur sports groups. There are hundreds of volunteer groups who protect and or work hard to improve the lives of people around them.

In most cases, although your money helps, it is not your membership fee that makes the difference . . . it is your name. Your name is like gold. It says to anyone who would listen that you support the aims and objectives of the group.

When that group goes to any level of government and tries to get attention for one cause or another, the first thing the official will want to know is "how many people does this group represent". If the organization, no matter how popular in its own community, cannot show an adequate number of people on its membership list, (ie. voters) you can expect that its importance will be diminished in the eyes of the official in question.

In Shawnigan, there are many groups that need the support of your name.

Our Museum is one. It cannot preserve your history without obtaining grants to help pay for the building and/or restoring and protecting the artifacts in its possession.

On the other side of the coin is the Residents Association. It is involved on many fronts including protecting the lake, getting the facts to help you decide about municipal status, working on a new boathouse for the police boat, etc.

The above two organizations along with many others need you to be a member. As to cost, you could probably become a members in several organizations for the cost of a night out at the movies .

So, next time somebody asks you to join a community group, give it some serious thought. They are doing you much bigger favours than you can imagine and you will get a much bigger bang for your buck.

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### THE PASSING WORLD

by Robert W. Service

My pipe is out, my glass is dry;  
My fire is almost ashes too;  
But once again, before you go,  
And I prepare to meet the New;  
Old Year! A parting word that's true,  
For we've been comrades, you and I—  
I thank God for each day of you;  
There! Bless you now! Old World, good bye!

Around the turn of the 20th century, Robert Service lived for a short time in the Cowichan Valley. He worked as a farm labourer and then a store clerk. During this time, several of his poems were published in Victoria's Daily Colonist. While he lived in the area, he met a girl at a dance in Duncan and fell in love. Sadly, she did not return his affection. Service left the area in 1903.

## What is it? Where is it?



First correct answer sent to:  
[editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### Mary (continued from page 6)

they were outside on the landing, and he tossed the doughnut a little way out into the lake. Mary saw the doughnut plop into the water, then bob up and down. As he watched, she was astonished to see rings of iridescent colour—reds, orange and lovely blues—radiating in magic circles all around the doughnut. "There!" said Terrance triumphantly, although he licked the fingers that had held the fat-laden doughnut a little wistfully. "Is that a fairy doughnut or is it not?" That all happened years ago.

The Mary of this story is Mary Hawking who married George Orr. The story is about Mary's first Christmas dinner at Shawnigan Lake. Mrs. Orr once told Gerry Wellburn, "When I was a little girl, that old cookhouse was my idea of heaven and living."

### Tyler (continued from page 3)

nothing.

Our vision is that we can get 300-500 kids out to the seminar and perhaps a real movement could be created for this cause. We may save a few lives and in some way as well, put others on a different path of enlightenment instead of anger and unhappiness.

Darren Cole Cell – 250-812-7433  
Steeple's Restaurant – [darrencole@shaw.ca](mailto:darrencole@shaw.ca)

### Invitation to Workshop "Drop the Ego, Not the Gloves"

Jan 8 - 3:00 - 5:00

Hugh Wilkinson Theatre

Shawnigan Lake School

T-Shirts available at Steeples - \$10.00

Proceeds to Noble Trust Fund

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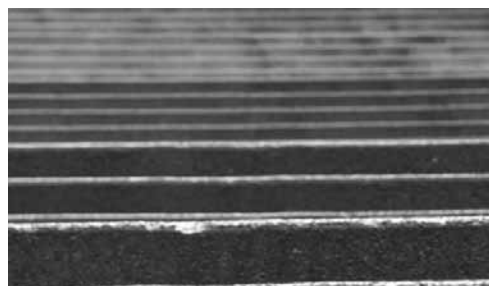
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## WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER – November Issue



### Congratulations to What is it? Contest Winner

Meghan M. Seal is the winner of the November Mystery Photo Contest. She correctly identified the picture as stairs at Shawnigan School. In fact, they are stairs leading to student residences. Meghan wins two specialty coffees at Moziro's.

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### SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

December 2011

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Credit given under photo

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#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND HOW TO SEND COPY

January Issue: January 10th  
Please send copy as an email  
attachment using Microsoft Word,  
text, RTF or Appleworks to:  
[editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

Typewritten or handwritten copy is acceptable if you have no access to a computer. Please do not send PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles not sent via email in the Focus box at the  
The Chipperry – 1- 2740 Dundas,  
Shawnigan Lake

#### AD DEADLINE

The 10th of every month for mid-month publication.

#### CLASSIFIEDS

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

#### ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper.

Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available. Please contact [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca) for details.

#### Additional copies are available at:

Style Centre Barber Shop,  
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Moziro's Coffee Shop,  
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#### MAILING ADDRESS

Shawnigan Focus  
Box 331  
Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

You can now FOLLOW US on  
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[www.shawniganfocus.ca](http://www.shawniganfocus.ca)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arabian Nights  
- the pantomime-  
will be performed at the  
Mercury Theatre  
December 27th to  
December 30th -  
7:00 pm curtain,  
and  
December 31st matinee -  
2:00 pm curtain.  
Admittance \$12.00

Ticket outlets include:  
Moziro Coffee Roasters,  
Shawnigan Lake  
and Ten Old Books, Duncan

We are still looking for people  
to work backstage and also  
to help with front of house.  
Call Karen, Bruce or Megan.  
743-7738 or 886-5511  
or 748-4955.

Anyone who would like to  
advertise in the program,  
please submit Business card  
and \$25 before December  
15th.

## WATCH

Watch America's Funniest  
Home Video January 8, 2012  
for an amazing  
**SHAWNIGAN** connection...  
you don't want to miss it!!

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 4 Duron snow  
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## HELP WANTED

The Focus is always looking  
for help with pictures and sto-  
ries about Shawnigan people  
and events.

The Focus is produced by  
a volunteer staff who cannot  
be everywhere. That's where  
you come in.

Take photos, submit ideas,  
write copy. If it interests you  
it will interest a lot of others.  
People with interests in com-  
munity sports, civic politics,  
history or community activi-  
ties are needed.

Join the team. Contact:  
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

## WANTED

### UTILITY TRAILER

Looking to purchase a  
small, used utility trailer. It  
doesn't have to be pretty . . .  
just safe!

Call 250-743-5605

**Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
is in need of a donated laser  
printer of reasonable quality.  
(not a museum piece).  
Please contact:

shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca



### THE GAME OF KINGS!

Did you know that we have  
a chess club in Shawnigan  
Lake ?

At present, we have 6-10  
players and have room for  
more. We play in a friendly  
and relaxed atmosphere and  
our main aim is to have fun.  
We accept chess players of all  
levels and invite you to join  
us every Wednesday after-  
noon from 1 - 4 .

If you have never played  
chess, we would consider  
starting a class for beginners.

We play at the Legion in  
Shawnigan Lake and we are  
part of the Young Seniors  
Action Group (YSAG) which  
offers a variety of activi-  
ties. The membership fee is  
\$20.00 per year.

For more info call Dieter at  
250 743 8740.

*Laurel Collins Singers*  
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Sunday, December 18th, 2011  
2:00 PM @ The Art House  
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jazz, african, folk, world &  
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to cultivate connection &  
lift the spirit through voice

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For more information or to join our singing  
group, call Laurel at 250-743-1249

1756 Wilmot Avenue, Shawnigan Lake Village

## SLBA Member Profile



My name is Hamish O'Donnell and my wife Karalyn and I added a full size snow plow to our fleet. We look forward to keeping our Volunter Fire Departments clear of snow again this year so that they may serve the residents of Shawnigan Lake efficiently.

Karalyn grew up in Shawnigan Lake and after experiencing this great community, we decided that this would be the perfect place to settle and raise our family. I have been a professional driver for over 10 years and decided it was time to start my own company.

Blue's Bins & Hauling proudly serves the Cowichan Valley and Greater Victoria areas. We are a hauling company specializing in 12 and 15 yard mini bin rental, dump box service, top soil, sand, gravel, and bark mulch delivery, flat deck service, small equipment and fifth wheel hauling.

Living in Shawnigan Lake means snow in the winter, so last year we

Blue's Bins & Hauling is pleased to provide our dedicated service along with being cost friendly to our clients.

For more information or inquiries, please call me at:

Duncan - (250) 701 7305

Victoria - (250) 888 4834

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