



Shawnigan FOCUS

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

SO YOU WANT TO BE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR?

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), established in 1967, is the governing body for a large area of southern Vancouver Island that includes nine unincorporated electoral areas (A through I), the District of North Cowichan, the City of Duncan, the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Town of Ladysmith. Although the CVRD manages local issues with a region-wide perspective, these local governments work together to provide and coordinate services for both urban and rural areas.

The CVRD Board of Directors is comprised of 15 members. CVRD Directors are the elected officials for each area who are responsible for administering the local functions in the unincorporated areas. Nine of the CVRD Directors are Electoral Area Directors who manage Electoral Areas A through I. Electoral Area directors are elected directly by rural area voters and serve three-year terms. The remaining six CVRD directors are elected first to a municipal council and then are appointed by the council to the CVRD board.

Shawnigan Lake (Area B) has the largest population of all the electoral areas in the CVRD and

covers 31,000 hectares (76,600 acres). The population is bigger than the incorporated areas of Duncan, the Town of Ladysmith and the Town of Lake Cowichan. The population of Area B, based on the 2006, census was 7,560 people. The number will likely be much higher after the 2011 census. Due to the fact that Area B - Shawnigan Lake has a large watershed, extensive forest coverage and is a recreation destination, the needs and interests of the area are numerous and diverse.

Job description for the position of the Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Director:

You must:

1. Be passionate about the community of Shawnigan Lake.
2. Satisfy the voters of the largest unincorporated area in the province.
3. Attend several meetings a week.
4. Protect the watershed and the forests.
5. Organize public meetings, attend local events, support local groups and initiatives.
6. Liaise with the RCMP, the Volunteer Fire

Department, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Advisory Planning Commission, the Kerry Park Commission, the Residents Association, the Community Association, and specific task committees such as the Official Community Plan committee and the South Cowichan Governance committee (that conducted a study on incorporation). Added to that are various other local groups such as Inspire! (the new Shawnigan Arts and Culture group), the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society, sports groups and other special interest groups.

7. Work closely with many levels of government including, but not exclusive to, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Department of Fisheries, the Union of BC Municipalities, the Ministry of Forests, BC Parks and Transport Canada.
8. Sit as a member of the CVRD Hospital Board.

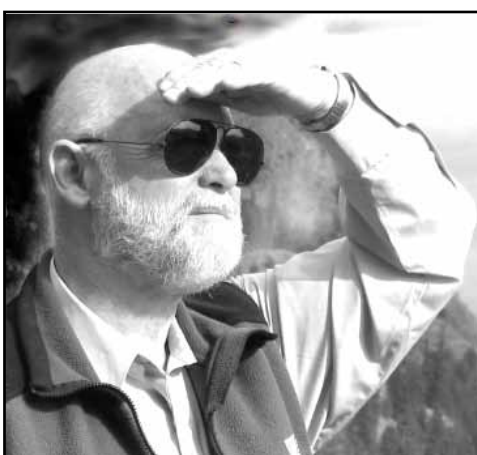
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TWO MORE CANDIDATES JOIN RACE FOR AREA DIRECTOR!

Roy Davies and Bruce Fraser join Kelly Mussewhite and Ken Cossey in Area "B" race.

Bruce Fraser

Submitted by Bruce Fraser



I have been connected with the Shawnigan region all my life. I was one year old in 1941 when I was dropped off the edge of Cliffside wharf, to be introduced to the lake rather directly and hauled, sputtering to the surface, by my mother. I started as a summer visitor and graduated to a full time resident, sometimes on an island in the lake and now on the banks of the Koksilah River. Recently I have been volunteering with the Cowichan Environment Commission, the Cowichan Water Board and the Shawnigan Focus community newspaper. Running for Area

Director is my idea of contributing further to a community to which I owe so much.

Community service as the Area Director for Area B begins for me with attention to the basics. Services that ensure clean and abundant water, efficient transportation, effective public safety, sound management of waste and thoughtful residential and commercial development are the daily bread of a Regional District. These must be provided with diligence but also with concern for their cost in taxes and their affordability for the people who live and work in the area. We need a strong base of public services but their costs need to be kept with reasonable bounds so that normally employed people, young families and senior citizens on reduced incomes are able to live comfortably.

Residential, commercial and industrial development will continue to be a major focus in the life of our community. We need development to accommodate inevitable population growth and to provide the tax base for the services that make life livable. Livability, of course, is not just about volume, but also about quality. I will pay great attention to the planning, zoning and design of our communities so that what we build is both economically sound and environmentally appropriate. This is particularly important for the future of Shawnigan Village, Malahat Village and the part of Area B that lies in Cowichan Station.

Roy Davies

Submitted by Roy Davies



For the past 36 years, I have called Shawnigan my home, and so it is with no hesitation I announce my candidacy for the position of Area Director in the 2011 election.

Growing up in Shawnigan, I began my working life as a janitor for the old hall, and with both parents active in the Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA), I would spend many evenings sitting in on public hearings, waiting to sweep up after the gathering. It was here that I got my first taste of local government and, funnily enough, many of the same topics discussed back then are still discussed today.

Over the years I have continued to learn and listen to the issues of Shawnigan. As an active volunteer with the SLCA (President), Lions Club (VP), Shawnigan Cemetery (Administrator), Shawnigan Lake Business Association (Chair), Shawnigan Focus (a founding member) and 4-H, I have continued to connect with my community.

In 1985, my family purchased one of the four corners in the village core and opened a barbershop. In 2001, following the great fire that destroyed the building across the road, we built the current building, taking care to preserve a look that was consistent with the rest of the village.

As a barber working in my home town, where I can't cross the road without a couple of waves to passing cars, I take pride in connecting with my community. I am always available and many people drop by the shop just for an update or the latest news. No matter the subject or the opinion, I take pride in listening to everyone, something that I will not change.

I watch my nephews call Shawnigan home and attend Discovery School (the same school I attended), and I feel it important that we work to preserve Shawnigan and its rural lifestyle. Growing up on a small farm with chickens and sheep, I know firsthand the benefits of local agriculture. I want to work to promote the use of local food and products and manage development to preserve and promote active farmland.

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Road-Ends – Free Waterfront – No Taxes?

by Dave Hutchinson

Want a stretch of lakefront for free with no property tax? Grab yourself a road-end. Apparently, that's how some people think.

Shawnigan Lake has about 74 undeveloped road-ends located around the lake that are owned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). Many provide informal public access to the water or remain natural and undisturbed. Several though, have been audaciously appropriated for personal use.



New dock at the end of Norbury Road

Photo by Dave Hutchinson

As with a number of lake issues, this appears to be something that falls through the cracks when it comes to jurisdiction. The CVRD currently has no authority. MoTI is only concerned with the roadway to the lakeshore. Transport Canada enforces the Navigable Waters Protection Act, which includes the surface of the lake, but they are reluctant to get involved with private docks, at road-ends or otherwise. Timberwest claims to have inherited foreshore and lakebed rights which were part of the original E&N Railway Land Grant. In 1997 there was an effort to implement a "Foreshore/Lakebed Lease Program" but it appears to have been in a legal quagmire since then. Some locations, where the facilities are available for communal use, may have the approval of the neighbourhood. This is rarely the case, though, and has become an aggravation for adjacent property owners, especially at property tax time.

The problem has escalated over the years with an increasing population. Confrontations have occurred, and it is not acceptable that there is no



A pair of docks at the end of Elford

Photo by Dave Hutchinson

clear jurisdiction. Other concerns include unobstructed access for fire trucks, and liability issues.



The shoreline at the end of Millicent is overtaken by several docks

Photo by Dave Hutchinson

The Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission is looking at acquiring several key road-end areas which would be transferred to the CVRD as parkland (see related article). The remaining road-ends would still

be an issue though. Local government

is best positioned to regulate the matter and something should be done for it to obtain the required authority. A good start would be to investigate how other areas have handled the problem. Feedback is welcomed on this article. Please send comments to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

(see list of road ends on page7)

Create

by Kelly Koepf

The uniform at Shawnigan Lake School usually consists of business attire and tidy classroom dress, but a few times over the past month we have suited up in running shoes and specially designed t-shirts to put our full support behind many fundraising initiatives for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The wave of support started with the annual Terry Fox run around campus and the traditional passing back of the Terry Fox jersey. The jersey starts with an appointed lead runner and moves steadily through each participant, ending in the hands of the final runner over the finish line; symbolically uniting our School community in the fight against cancer.

The next surge in our efforts consisted of more than 230 Shawnigan students and staff lacing up runners to race, run, jog, walk and stroll in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation at the "Run for the Cure" in downtown Victoria.

The crest of support peaked when "Cops for Cancer" rolled onto campus at 9:33 am on October 5th. The 23 bikers pedaling across Vancouver Island to support children with cancer were greeted by the entire school in their new "word shirts" which were sold to support the cause. This year, a Shawnigan alumnus and inspiring English teacher, Jay Connolly, defined the word: "Create: to bring (something) into existence: as in art, as in hope, as in love. To cause (something) to happen as a result of one's actions; their commitment created new possibilities."



Shaving heads: Jessica Porter, Breila Pimm
Getting head shaved: Sarah Porter, Forest Pimm

In each individual way, we were on a quest to create something positive in the fight against cancer. Each stride taken on the run is a step towards a cure. Each t-shirt sold is a research opportunity born. Each dollar donated is another child at Camp Good Times and each head shaved is a contribution to fundraising, generating positive energy and laughter. Thank you to everyone, who supported this worthy cause and for creating hope in our lives.

Appreciate

by Francis Thompson

As a founding student at Dwight International School, I have had the finest educational experience of my life thus far. With new staff this year, including an exuberant Principal with endless energy, I am really looking forward to pursuing the many opportunities that the school has to offer. The Dwight community is one of learning, friendship and discovering one's true potential; whether through sports, music, dance, theatre, raising global awareness, fundraising, or exploring new leadership opportunities. There is

a place for everyone. Dwight's focus on developing community helps to unite the student body as a whole, and is why every day spent on campus has been one of joy and fulfillment.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff at Dwight for making my last 2 years a meaningful and enlightening experience. I'm excited for my grade 12 year.

Inspire! South Cowichan Arts, Culture, and Heritage Collective

by Lynn Weaver

SLAM! Placemaking was a success! Shawnigan Lake Arts & Multicultural (SLAM) festival saw residents gather in the street on a sunny Saturday (September 10th, 2011) to share multicultural food, courtesy of Shawnigan Lake School, take in fabulous local entertainment, participate in a drum circle, meet neighbours, and contribute to a community cob bench.

As part of a larger Placemaking plan, this second annual event included the completion of the cob bench on Wilmot Ave.

Placemaking is a term that came into use in the 1970's to describe a movement towards people-centered spaces (away, for example, from vehicle-centered spaces). Placemaking capitalizes on a community's assets, inspiration, and potential, ultimately creating good public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being.

The bench on Wilmot Ave, still shrouded in mystery (ok, shrouded in a tarp!) is made of clay, sand, and straw (cob). It is intended to be a small gathering space in the Village. The absence of benches, even bus shelters, pointed to a need for such a space. Later plans include a community notice board, bike racks, and other items as determined by the community.

The bench was created in large part

by volunteer efforts, in particular with enormous support from the fine folks at OUR Ecovillage on Baldy Mountain Rd. (www.ourecoovillage.org).

It is with enormous gratitude to all the groups and individual volunteers that SLAM was able to manifest (please see full list below). "What a glorious day!" says resident Gaileen Flaman. "Excellent food, music and fun for kids and grown-ups.... Events like this make Shawnigan Lake a wonderful place to live." To be involved with Placemaking efforts in the Village, please call 250 743 5846. Lynn Weaver is an educator, performer, and advocate of human potential. www.MoonDanceArts.ca and www.Matoto.org.

THANK YOU:

Inspire! South Cowichan Arts, Culture, and Heritage Collective
OUR Ecovillage, Maliaka Marimba
Shawnigan Lake School
The Om Tree, Kali Yoga
Poetic Possibilities
Shawnigan Lake Montessori School
Shawnigan Lake Baha'i Community
Cowichan Intercultural Society
Art House
Matoto Multicultural Arts Society
Shawnigan Volunteer Fire Department
Ministry of Transportation
Aboubacar Camara
Shawnigan Lake Mini-gingerbread
Brian Edgar, Wendy Sehn
Jennie Stevens of Woodruff Music
Janet Cundall, Chris O'Connor
Cheryl Bakke-Martin of Inspirations Studio
Linda & Mike O'Connor
Francoise Moulin, Jude Wong
Byron Weaver
Marianne & Nick West
Country Grocer, Jenny Ferris
Leanne Boschman, Gerry Ascroft
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
Patty Oldfield and The Chippery
Cowichan Valley Voice
Sponsor: MoonDance Dynamic Arts School

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

APOLOGIES!!

We inadvertently cut off the last few words in a few of the articles in our September issue. We offer our sincere apologies to the authors.

Museum bird takes flight!

In this edition, we mention the new "Milepost" at the museum. The milepost gives direction to many local destinations based on the concept of "as the crow flies". One of our talented residents kindly cut out a silhouette of a crow for the top. Now the crow is missing! Suspensions are that some disrespectful "bird-brain" stole it. The suspect is probably hanging out with similar birds of a feather but anyone "crowing" about their prize should be turned in and have their wings clipped!

The whole idea was to create a fun way to celebrate our community. We despair at the irresponsibility of people who would discourage nice things from happening in the community.

Please return the crow (in the dead of night, if necessary) with no questions asked.

Lori Treloar, Curator
Shawnigan Lake Museum

Calcium Deficiency

I would like to reply to Carolyn Dowell's warning about the danger of calcium deficiency resulting from eating animal protein, which was published in the Sept. 15 issue of Shawnigan Focus.

This premise is not supported by evidence. People around the world, particularly in high latitudes and alpine regions, have not had the luxury of a daily salad and year-round fresh fruits and vegetables. Of necessity,

their diets have, in some regions, consisted almost entirely of animal proteins and fats for the majority of the year. And yet they enjoyed splendid health without a trace of calcium deficiency. Fine examples of this can be seen in the aboriginal people of the northern Saskatchewan region as well as the Inuit people who ate their traditional diet. The European people who depended largely on dairy products to survive also enjoyed excellent health and vigour. It was not until the traditional diets were replaced by modern refined and processed foods that the health of these people rapidly declined. A great resource for more information on traditional diets around the world can be found at www.westonaprice.org. The striking health of people eating a traditional diet, including animal products, speaks for itself.

This premise is also not supported by research. The idea that animal protein depletes calcium was a speculative theory originating in the 1960's and is widely believed by vegetarians. However, research done since that time that has disproven that theory, research published online in the Journal of Nutrition, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and the American Journal of Epidemiology. In fact, animal protein has been shown to increase bone mineral density, while plant protein reduces it.

Ms. Dowell also addresses the problem of the lack of the enzyme lactase in the human digestive system which is required to digest the lactose in dairy products. However, it is pasteurization that destroys the enzymes and the beneficial lactase-producing bacteria that are naturally present in milk and are required to digest it and utilize the calcium. In particular, the enzyme phosphatase in raw milk makes the calcium fully absorbable. Canada denies its citizens the freedom to choose raw unpasteurized milk through its restrictive laws prohibiting the sale or even giving away of unpasteurized milk. Internationally, Canada has among the most restrictive laws in the world regarding pasteurization of milk. In Britain, even the royal family drinks unpasteurized milk without the least concern that they are endangering their lives. It is perfectly within our technological ability to produce clean, safe unpasteurized milk, as most countries around the world are aware. For more details about this, a great book is available in the Vancouver Island Regional Library called "The Untold Story of Milk" by Ron Schmid, a naturopathic doctor.

Laurie Dennison



"Yes... I can read... But I didn't think it applied to me!"

More Eco-Depot

Leading up to the November 19th elections, you will be bombarded with CVRD propaganda delivered by the P.R. firm Acumen at taxpayer expense of \$50,000 about the ECO Depot to be built in Shawnigan Lake on Cameron Taggart road. This is the CVRD's version of providing "relevant, factual information" to us concerning this project. Some things you won't be told include:

- : The Cameron Taggart site was not on the original short list of properties and was bought in haste for more than the selling price. Although repeatedly requested, the Triple Bottom Line report justifying the purchase has never been made available to the public.
- : The CVRD bought 22 acres of viable farmland for this project which the Williams family has used for decades for hayfields and grazing.
- : The environmental and social impact studies conducted on this site were cheap "overviews" and discredited by independent environmental consultants as inadequate and incomplete.
- : South Shawnigan Waste and Recycle, Fisher Road Recycling, and Steel Pacific Recycling all accept the

same materials planned for the depot so no one has to make the long drive to Bing's Creek.

: This ECO Depot cannot be called just a "recycling center" as it more closely resembles Bing's Creek. It will occupy approximately 2.5 acres and consist of outbuildings, paved roads and parking areas, plus 14 large capacity bins - two of which are reserved for garbage. You can also drop off drywall, tires, batteries, oil, paint, pesticides, food waste, asphalt roofing, refrigerators, and more.

: The issue of whether or not the CVRD has the legal right to proceed with this project under the current land use zoning is awaiting the findings of the Supreme Court of B.C. yet the CVRD has chosen to go ahead with a non-binding referendum question on the location of the ECO depot attached to the November 19th election ballot.

Everyone should support recycling but not a mini Bing's Creek built on farmland that will seriously impact existing rural, residential neighbourhoods. On November 19th, the residents of Mill Bay, Cobble Hill and Shawnigan Lake will be asked if they are in favour of the proposed ECO Depot location. Please vote "NO!"

Barane McCartney

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011 - 7PM
HUGH WILKINSON THEATRE, SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

FORMAT:

A panel consisting of representatives from the Shawnigan Residents Association, Shawnigan Lake Business Association, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the South Cowichan Chamber of Commerce, Inspire!, and The Focus will represent the audience and read questions submitted by the public. It will also ask follow-up questions for clarity.

The public may submit specific questions for the panel by email to editor@shawniganfocus.ca.

Event Sponsor: Shawnigan Residents Association.

Thank you to Shawnigan Lake School for the generous donation of their theatre for this meeting.

Water, Water, Everywhere

by Brent Beach



This article is about water and our watershed. Specifically, it is about the lands that drain into

the lake. There is a larger watershed - the lands that drain into the lake and the creek. I will concentrate on the lake watershed, leaving the creek watershed for a later article.

The lake watershed has been studied many times over the last 30 years. What are the issues? What have those studies found? Are further studies needed?

By the Numbers

First, a bit about the watershed and how it works. There have to be some numbers here, but I will try to keep it simple. The numbers reported here are approximate - different studies give slightly different numbers or refer to the larger watershed.

Here are the key numbers to give you a sense of relative sizes. The watershed is over 6,000 hectares and the lake is just over 500 hectares. The watershed is 12 times the size of the lake. The average depth of the lake is just over 12 metres (with a couple of deep holes - the deepest being 52 metres (170 feet) deep between the marina and the provincial park).

The other important number is the amount of rainfall in the watershed. It has averaged 1.2 metres a year over the past 10 years - some years a lot more, some years a lot less. In an average year though, rain falls in the watershed and drains into the lake, out the creek, and down to the ocean. Because the watershed is 12 times as big as the lake, that 1.2 metres turns into 14.4 metres stacked up on the lake! That is as tall as a 4 storey house! With a peaked roof! Fortunately, the creek can easily handle flows that keep the water level much lower than that. However, since the lake is only 12 metres deep, more water flows into the lake each year than the lake holds.

The pollution cycle

In dry years (nope, not this year) we get almost no rain during the summer. The nasties collect on the hillsides (forest and residential) all summer. Come November, everything washes into the lake. We get a spike in pollutants with the first heavy rains - the worst water quality time of the year.

No sooner do these natural and people sourced pollutants hit the lake than they start to flow down the creek to the ocean. In November, when the lake cools to about 5 degrees Celsius, the deep water mixes with the surface water - the lake turns over. So the winter rains push all the old lake water and all the new polluted lake water down the creek in all but the driest years.

The result? The things in

the water that can make you sick or are smelly never get a chance to build up. Every water quality survey over the last 40 years has noted some small problems, but generally the water quality is good. The 2007 study concluded: "No parameters measured showed levels or trends which would cause concern at this time."

The most recent UVic study, done monthly over the last 2 years and now available on the CVRD website, reaches the same conclusion. (The UVic study continues for 3 more years.)

The water is not pure so many people who draw water directly from the lake use inexpensive UV filters to reduce the very slight risk of infection. Many others still use untreated water with no ill effects. Given the long history of good results, we appear to be keeping a close eye on the water quality issue.

Don't Discount Volume

While we have had many water quality studies, we have had only one water volume study. Here we may want to do some more planning for the future. Small decisions made now can prevent big problems down the road.

What have our water quantity issues been in the past?

We have had some very dry summers - with the lake level lowest in the summer of 1976. We have had some very wet winters, with the lake level rising in 1972 to 2.9 metres (9.5 feet) above the 1976 lows. We don't know what the future holds, but the weather people are predicting that our area could have shorter wetter winters and longer drier summers. They say 20% more rain over the year with 80% of the rain falling from November to March.

What happens during a longer drier summer? We draw more water from the lake each summer than is replaced by summer rainfall. It is only about 2% of the yearly total rainfall but that means one-third of a metre over the entire lake. If we do get longer drier summers, the summer draw-down will triple - a one metre lake level draw down. We will need a higher lake level, almost one metre higher, coming into the dry period."

What happens during a wetter, but shorter, winter rainy season? Lake levels could rise to new highs unless we make sure the outflow can handle the volume. High water like 1972, or higher, could become commonplace.

As well, what we are learning about climate change is that extreme weather is becoming more common. We can expect not just higher averages, but more extreme extremes. We can expect wetter, wettest years and drier, driest years.

Wetter wettest means that the new maximum rainfall will not just be 20% higher than the old, it could be 40% higher. What will the lake level be during that winter? In

dry years, the rainfall might well be lower than previous lows.

What does this mean for us? It means we could have higher lake levels in the winter than we have now. It also means that we might have to hold the lake level a little higher in the spring to make sure we have enough water all summer.

Action Plan

First, it is probably time to update the water volume study. The last study dedicated to volume was in 1984, long before the possibility of climate change was raised.

Second, we should make sure that we are ready for these extremes should they happen. How do we prepare? Preparations fall into two groups - mitigation and prevention.

Mitigation means we make sure that high water levels cause as few problems as possible. Any new development and any renovation must respect the potential higher lake levels. On new developments, we should resist strongly any development that assumes lower lake levels and puts new homes into risky locations. The Worthington development, which justified more density by assuming a lower lake level, is a perfect example of the wrong kind of development.

For any renovations undertaken in low-lying areas around the lake, people should make sure that they are able to handle higher water levels. We have plenty of time, but any renovation that does not prepare for higher levels is an opportunity lost.

"Mitigation also means keeping water on the hillsides as long as possible. Hillside ponds that hold winter rain and release it over the summer mean lower high levels and higher low levels. Any development or renovation must increase the time between rain falling in the watershed and that rain reaching the lake. The manufactured home development on South Shawnigan Lake road dug out and paved over a large wetland. That must not happen again." Let's hope for the best, but be ready for the worst.

"Questions or comments? Want links to the reports mentioned in this article? You can find expanded versions of this and other articles I have written for the Focus at brentatthefocus.blogspot.com - find out more there."

GOT A STORY?

The "Focus" is interested in your Shawnigan news and stories. Contact:

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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Early Results of the Water Quality Study of Shawnigan Lake

by Dr. Bruce Fraser

During the period from 2001 to 2007 Dr. Asit Mazumder of the University of Victoria conducted studies of water quality trends in the waters of Shawnigan Lake. His conclusions illustrated how watershed activities and residential septic discharge have been deteriorating the water quality of the lake. The study showed that nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), that regulate algal biomass, turbidity and potential for toxic algae, as well as formation of disinfection byproducts following chlorination, have been increasing gradually. It also found that fecal bacteria and health-care products have been seeping into the lake causing potential health risks should these trends continue.

In a new initiative, supported in part by the CVRD, Dr. Mazumder is conducting a long-term study of the impact of climate change and land use patterns on the movement of water-borne pathogens into Shawnigan Lake. The march of higher temperatures and increased rainfall extremes both may contribute to accumulating effects.

In describing the scientific rationale for his current work Dr. Mazumder states that "Climate change has multiple potential effects on pathogens in source water, and risks of waterborne diseases in Canada by 1) increased survival of fecal pathogens on land mediated by temperature and precipitation, 2) transport of pathogens over land and loading to water sources, 3) different types of land use and associated changes in density and distribution of animals will likely change the impacts of climate change on waterborne pathogens, and 4) increased risks from failure of water treatment and disinfections arising from flooding, and storm-water and sewage/septic overflows."

The research program under way is designed to answer these questions: (1) how climate variability affects the survival of pathogenic microorganisms and their transfers from sources to freshwater systems in the field condition (2) what are the climate criteria and indices that could be used to forecast the potential outbreak of waterborne disease at community and regional levels; (3) how climate

change affects waterborne disease through its impacts on landscape (watershed) structure and quality; (4) how the interactions between land use or landscape changes and climate change affect waterborne pathogens; (5) how to develop models and tools used as warning systems to predict the potential risk of waterborne diseases under changing climate conditions; (6) how do we develop robust adaptation strategies to cope with waterborne pathogens and disease risks when we do not have much data or understanding of how climate and land use changes affect waterborne pathogens.

Preliminary results of the study have been reported for lake, and treated-water monitoring, from September 2010 to August 2011. They provide a baseline for a limited number of water quality conditions that will enable trends to be developed and eventually related to climate change and land use over the five-year term of the study. The CVRD is expecting quarterly reports from Dr. Mazumder, which will allow residents to follow the study results as they accumulate.

The early results show that:

Bacterial contamination of the lake water from human sources is very limited at present, with the major sources of fecal contamination coming from animals, particularly horses, gulls, dogs and black bear. No E.coli bacteria have been found in treated water of the organized Shawnigan water systems.

Turbidity readings (clarity of the water) for lake water remain low.

Total organic carbon and total nitrogen levels remain below national guidelines; total phosphorus levels remain consistently low - these nutrient readings provide some confidence that the lake is remaining nutrient poor and thus unlikely to spur hazardous algal growth

Disinfection by-products in domestic water systems that arise when the water is treated with chlorine show a wide range of readings, with a significant number exceeding national standards, a contamination issue that will bear watching as the study proceeds.

Lois Saunders

250-743-5559

Esthetics by Lois
Shawnigan Valley

1755 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road
Box 413, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

Provincial Approving Officer Asked to Deny Worthington Subdivision

by Dave Hutchinson



A single unoccupied home is currently the only building on the property

Several items in previous Focus issues have described concerns around the proposed high-density, lakefront subdivision on Worthington Point. The CVRD appears to have listened to local residents and the Advisory Planning Commission.

Although the CVRD appears prepared to approve the Development Approval Permit (DAP), subject to significant restrictions and conditions, they are, at the same time, requesting that the Provincial Approving Officer deny the subdivision application.

This may appear inconsistent, but it is not. The scope of the DAP is limited to technical compliance with regard to local regulations. As a Bare Land Strata project, it is the Provincial Approving Officer of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure who has final authority and must consider the public

interest.

The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of the Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting held on September 6, 2011:

It was Moved and Seconded

That the Provincial Approving Officer be requested to deny the proposed subdivision of Lots 1 and 2, Block 33, Plan 218A and District Lot 16, Section 1, Range 3, Plan 800, all in Shawnigan District (2080 Cullin Road – File 10-B-10SA) due to it being against the public interest for the following reasons:

a. The application proposes a lot configuration and concentration of density along the lakeshore that will discourage successful restoration and protection of the previously damaged Shawnigan Lake riparian buffer and potentially negatively impact Shawnigan Lake;

b. The application avoids

the higher standard of sewage treatment and disposal intended by provincial regulation for the proposed density and potentially threatens Shawnigan Lake water quality;

c. The application relies on frontage exemptions to the majority of the proposed lots to achieve a lot configuration and intensity of use at the lakefront that is not supported by CVRD policy or regulation;

d. The application does not provide park land in a location and configuration that achieves community objectives for public lake access;

e. The application proposes the subdivision of land beyond the legal boundaries of the three subject parcels and presumes Surveyor General's Office will consent to the adjustment of the natural boundary of Shawnigan Lake to favour the property owners.

MOTION CARRIED

Bruce Fraser, continued from p. 1



Beyond basic services lie the many amenities that make up a well-rounded community. I believe in a vibrant mix of community recreation, arts, culture and celebrations that light up our daily lives. I support the diverse organizations that have grown up to sponsor everything from business development in the Villages, to resident organizations to fund raising walks. I honour the hundreds of volunteers that make such initiatives possible and will support their efforts.

Our community depends on the natural environment of forest, streams, lakes and agricultural land on which our prosperity is ultimately based. I believe that our natural assets need to be managed sustainably for the common good. This will require exceptional attention to stewardship and extensive collaboration within our community. Shawnigan Lake along with its inlet and outlet streams needs attention to retain its water quality and its high value as a source of recreation. The forested upland areas of the watershed need to be managed not just for a necessary forest industry, but also for security of our water supply. I will encourage development of a watershed round table that brings together all of our watershed interests to seek balance. I support the expansion of local agriculture, farmers' markets and the re-introduction of processing facilities within the region.

Local governance in Area B has to be widely consultative. We do not have a municipal structure that would provide the focal point for our large population. Until such time as the issue of incorporation is decided, the many voices of the community need to be heard directly. I am an active listener and would expect to be in regular contact throughout the community, taking up issues on behalf of people who see things that need to be done. Not everything will fall within the jurisdiction of the Regional District, but as Area Director, I would seek out the places where influence must be brought to bear and advocacy must be advanced.

Roy Davies, continued from p. 1



As Area Director I want to continue connecting with my community. I will work to see more information made available to all residents. Issues like water quality, development, lake access and incorporation addressed and presented back to my community. I will push the Province for improvements to roads, and look for ways to bring more business and beautification to Shawnigan.

The next five years in Shawnigan are going to bring some big decisions. My goal as Area Director is to see that the people of Shawnigan have the information to make the right decision. So, in twenty years when the next generation is sitting at a public hearing, there will be new issues being discussed.

Please visit roydavies.ca and leave me your comments. I look forward to connecting with you.

Hard Water?

Bags of Cement Spilled in Shawnigan Lake

by Dave Hutchinson

Someone lost several bags of cement recently. This photo was taken Sunday, October 2nd, and shows what appears to be a pallet load lying in about four feet of water, a stones throw out from the Hepworth road-end. The Slegg Lumber wrapper billows up from the bottom as well. Presumably they accidentally slipped off a work-boat or raft. Cleanup occurred Sunday, October 9th. Thank you!



Pallet of cement dropped in lake off Hepworth Rd.

Photo by nearby resident.

Cowichan Intercultural Society is having a PARTY!

30th Anniversary

October 22, 2011



Join us for:
Walk Of The Nations
10:00 am at the new VIU campus
One Festival

From 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Si'em Lelum Gym

Tapestry Gala

From 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Quw'utsun Cultural and Conference Center

Contact person: Pema

CIS 250.748.3112 pema.cis@telus.net



Elect
Roy Davies
for Area Director - Shawnigan Lake



**VOTE
NOV 19**

roydavies.ca
roydavies@shaw.ca

You asked . . . We delivered!

This issue of the Focus marks the beginning of two new regular features.

The first is in response to many who wonder about the variety of wildlife that abounds in the area. The new feature, called **"The Wild Side"**, will highlight the many creatures that walk, run, fly and swim in Shawnigan.

How many of you were aware that we have beavers in our lake?

See the story on page 12.



The second regular feature, the tide table, is in response to local avid fishermen. This will run alongside the popular weather synopsis.

The tide table will highlight the tides from Fulford Harbour.

You will find it on page 15.



Focus on the election!

Shawnigan Focus will be taking part as an invited panelist in the All Candidates Forum on November 3rd.

The format will see a panel of Shawnigan groups asking questions submitted by their memberships and the general public, to all three candidates.

The Focus invites you to submit your questions of importance so that we can represent you and your concerns to the panel.

Send your questions to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

The South Cowichan Chamber of Commerce invites the community of Areas A, B, & C to meet the candidates for their area at the following



ALL CANDIDATES MEETINGS

Shawnigan Lake
in conjunction with the
Shawnigan Residents Association
Thursday, November 3rd – 7:00 P.M.
Shawnigan Lake School – Hugh Wilkinson Theatre

Mill Bay
in conjunction with the
Mill Bay Community League
Tuesday, November 8th – 7:00 P.M.
Mill Bay Community League Hall

Cobble Hill
Thursday, November 10th – 7:00 P.M.
Cobble Hill Hall – Watson Road

All residents of the respective areas are invited to come meet and ask questions of the candidates for their area.

Details on the meeting formats are posted on our website at:
southcowichanchamber.org

CUTHBERT
CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Shawnigan Lake 743-9000

continued from page 1

SO YOU WANT TO BE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR?

9. Sit on committees for the Electoral Area Services, Regional Parks, Transit, Engineering and Environmental Services, Regional Services and the South Cowichan Water Review.
10. Act as a peacekeeper between residents and zealous developers.
11. Be prepared to work fulltime hours (the pay is approximately \$21,000) to get the job done.

In your spare time, you can choose to sit on committees such as the Agriculture Committee, the Economic Development Committee, the Safety Committee or the Library Committee.

We appreciate the fact that anyone is willing to consider this enormous job! Area B is so large in population and size that it is a herculean task for a single person to act as our community representative to the governing bodies, and then to make any progress on the numerous issues that affect the area. Thank you to all the candidates who have thrown their hat in the ring for the November 2011 election.

And, just in case you are still interested in the job, we offer you some advice from a few former Regional Directors...

Janice Hayward (1991-1993): "Listen to the people, put forward new information and ask the tough questions at the CVRD board level. Don't be a rubber stamp

for papers and ideas put forward by CVRD staff and hired consultants. Act for the good of your community."

David Towner (1984-1987 & 1994-1996): "Anybody going in to the job has to have a vision of what they want to accomplish, keeping in mind that an area director is only one of fifteen on the CVRD board. A Director needs to get his/her point across and then get down to work. A Director needs to be a good communicator and keep the public apprised of the progress that is being made. Also, a director should get the area residents involved by engaging talented volunteers. This will help to reduce the workload."

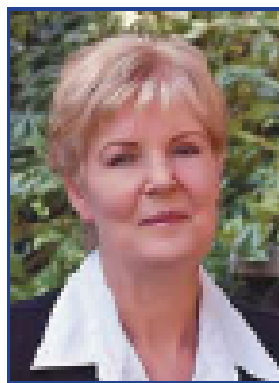
Bill Davies (1997-1999): "An individual should run for the position of Regional Director from a desire to be of service to the community, not because of a particular political agenda. A Director is usually aware of everything that needs to be done in the community but the demands far exceed the amount of time available."

Rick Spencer (2000-2005): We were unable to contact Mr. Spencer for comment.

Ken Cossey (2006-present): "A Director is not the spokesperson for the community. The Director must bring information on the larger issues back to the community for discussion. A Director must listen to all of the interests in the community, not just the loudest!"



Shawnigan Lake



FERRALL MAGNUSON



Feature
Listing

1765 Shawnigan Lake Road

This 3bed/3bath home with double garage is situated on a .5 acre lot on the East side. Vaulted ceiling and wood stove in the living room with 3 beds and 2 baths up. Open floor plan and a sunny patio for entertaining. Home built in 2006 and occupied for a few weeks only.

\$ 399,900



1765 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
250-743-7151

ferrall@ferrallmagnusson.com
www.ferrallmagnusson.com

Open House: Nov 11th 12:00-4:00 PM 1765 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.

Shawnigan Lake
Parks Commission

by Margaret Symon

Over the last five years, the Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission has invested innumerable volunteer hours working with the CVRD Parks and Recreation Department to prepare a Community Parks and Trails Master Plan for Area B. This Master Planning document is intended to set direction and priorities for the next 10 to 20 years for community parks and public trail corridors in and around Shawnigan Lake. Thanks to the support of the local community, Area B recently became the first Electoral Area in the CVRD to complete a Master Planning document and have it approved by the CVRD Board.

Community parks and trails are established to provide local, publicly accessible green spaces for residents of the Shawnigan Lake community. Community parks are typically smaller parks distributed throughout existing and developing residential neighbourhoods. These sites often have a variety of purposes, including environmental protection, passive recreation, access to the lakeshore, wildlife viewing, or preservation of unique landscapes or historical features. Your input was integral to the preparation of the



Margaret Symon

Shawnigan Lake Community Parks and Trails Master Plan. A number of public meetings, open houses, and field presentations were held in order to gather input from the community. Questionnaires made available at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre were completed by many residents; responses were correlated by the CVRD. As a result of the broad input from Shawnigan Lake residents and recreation users in the area, several priority recommendations were established to guide improvements to community parks and trails over the next 10 years and beyond.

A key priority recommendation in the Master Planning document concerns lakeshore access. Shawnigan Lake currently has 74 undeveloped road-ends located around the lake. These road-ends, most of which were designated in conjunction with lakefront development, are owned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). The majority of the gazetted road-ends are either undeveloped and/or not signed. Most are designated as 66 feet wide access points to Shawnigan Lake. A smaller number of narrower road-ends are intended as trail accesses to the lake. Some road-ends provide informal public access to the waters of Shawnigan Lake. A few are maintained on a localised basis by adjoining property owners. Others remain

natural, providing ecological integrity to the lakeshore.

The Master Planning document is consistent with two earlier studies conducted for the CVRD in 1978 and 2004, which provided a set of recommendations encouraging management of road-ends around Shawnigan Lake.

The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department uses 19 road-ends as fire access roads for filling up fire trucks. The CVRD Parks Department maintains community boat launching facilities at two road-ends: Recreation Road and at Thrush Road, at Shawnigan Wharf Park in the village. The latter facility is less than ideal as a boat launch due to the juxtaposition of the train tracks to the public beach area and docking site.

Over the years, various forms of encroachment have occurred at these “public” road-ends. Docks, garages, fences, private driveways, piping, “No Trespassing”, and signs are present at many road-ends. It’s not uncommon to also find garden waste and garbage dumping.

During the preparation of the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan, it became very evident that public access to the lakeshore is a high priority. As a result, the Master Planning document recommends either pursuing a “lease to occupy” or entering “into an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to acquire some or all of the undeveloped road-ends that abut Shawnigan Lake for the purpose of developing as public accesses to the lake.”

While it would be both impractical and inappropriate to develop all the undeveloped road-ends at Shawnigan Lake for access to the lakeshore, several key road-end developments could reduce demand on existing lakefront public parks, in addition to providing additional recreational opportunities.

A list of the undeveloped MoTI road-ends at Shawnigan Lake is provided in this edition of the Focus.

Submitted by
Margaret Symon, Chair
Area B Parks & Recreation
Commission

Shawnigan Lake
Road Ends

“This list is for information purposes only, and is not a complete listing of all the MoTI road ends.”

Village Area

- Worthington Road
- Decca Road
- RW 2221 Adjacent to Lake
- Hartl Road
- Bellendean Road
- Shawnigan Creek
- Meran Road
- Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
- Thrush Road
- Baden-Powell Road
- Norbury Road
- Elford Road

West Arm

- Scobhal Road
- Gregory Road
- Sommer Lane
- Sallachie Road
- Culrain Road
- Moncur Road
- Tranent Road
- Balbeth Road
- Malahat Avenue
- Creife Road

East Shawnigan Lake

- Munsie Road
- Recreation Road
- Lark Road
- Cotter Road
- Hewick Road
- Tilden Road
- Storey Road
- Verlon Road
- Cliffside Road
- Lakewood Road
- Clegg Road

- Remo Road
- Bell-Irving Road
- Pauline Road
- Quaker Road
- Dalziel Road
- Wellman Road
- Kodak Road
- Rix Road
- Oshea Road
- Spoke Road

West Shawnigan Lake

- Juba Road
- Unnamed Road north off Rhys Road
- Rhys Road
- Ned Road
- Swallow Road
- Pillow Road
- Unnamed Road

off West Shawnigan Lake Road between Pillow and Cornwall

- Cornwall Road
- Haybrook Road
- Orme Road
- Clearihue Road
- Armstrong Road
- Oland Road
- Killywhan Road
- Angus Road
- Carlson Road
- Harvey Road
- Elmer and Brandon Roads
- Cavan Road
- Sarita Avenue
- Capstick Avenue
- Millicent Avenue
- May Avenue
- Ida Avenue

Submitted by:
Margaret Symon, Chair, Area B

Look Who’s Walking Our Trestle

by Gabriele
Shewchuk-Zirkelbach

Parks and Recreation Commission

Canada’s Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston,

Sharon, together with an entourage, were kindly welcomed by local officials and the public.



Governor General David Johnston and his wife Sharon Johnston

visited Shawnigan Lake on Tuesday, the 27th of September, 2011.

On a morning mixed with clouds, sunshine and rain, he and his wife,

Unfortunately, due to a delay, he missed seeing a beautiful rainbow that could be viewed from the midsection of the bridge. However, he was able to get a glimpse of another rainbow towards the end of his wet Kinsol Trestle journey.



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KEN COSSEY

For CVRD Area B Director - November 2011

Email: vote4cossey@gmail.com

Keep the Momentum - Continue the Dialogue

The “Focus” Asked Each Candidate to Respond to

(Note: Due to Bruce Fraser filing after the paper was composed his responses do

1) The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities. Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger “South Cowichan” entity? When do you think this might occur?

Ken:

Before I answer this question, I would like to offer you the following background information on this issue. The current provincial process for the incorporation review is divided into three main phases. The first phase looks generally into the issue and determines if there is enough community support to look at the issue further. The second phase looks at the actual boundaries and the cost for running the new municipality. The final stage is the community vote on the incorporation issue.

A committee consisting of local residents was set up in 2008, to look into the incorporation issue, the first phase. The CVRD Board asked the CVRD Administrator to oversee who was appointed to this committee and to ensure that there was no political interference or political appointees to this committee. This committee consisted of volunteers who submitted their application directly to the CVRD Administrator. Phase one finished in mid 2009 with a report to the CVRD Board outlining their support to move the incorporation issue to the second phase. On July 8, 2009 the CVRD sent a letter to the Minister outlining the CVRD Board’s support to move this review to the second phase. Subsequent discussions with the provincial government have indicated that they are prepared to look at this phase being started in 2012, subject to funding. The point that I am making here is that we are currently part way through a process that is looking into this question for the South Cowichan area. The second phase would determine the boundaries of what this new entity would look like and the costs to set up and run this new municipality. The final decision on whether to support the new municipality rests with the citizens of the proposed new entity.

Personally I would like to see this current process through to completion first. If this process fails then yes I am willing to look at setting up a stand alone Shawnigan municipal entity.

As far as I am concerned we have currently outgrown the regional district style of governance. It is time for us to control our own destiny. For example did you know that as a part of the regional district system, elected representatives from outside our area are entitled to vote on our rezoning applications and the subdivision of land is controlled by staff at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure office located in Saanich. Outside elected officials and bureaucrats that are not accountable to you are making our land use decisions for us and this has to stop.

The issue of incorporation is a change of governance for our community, one that I feel needs to be discussed with information brought back to and decided by the community. There are costs and benefits associated with this governance change. I personally feel that we should be looking at the incorporation vote in 2014 for the current review.

Kelly:

The costs of forming a municipality any time soon are more than many taxpayers can afford at this time. Shawnigan, even more than the other two areas of Mill Bay and Cobble Hill, lacks a sufficient tax base to meet the guaranteed costs associated with incorporation. Because we are mainly residential, our lack of commercial and industrial development means that homeowners’ tax bills would invariably climb significantly. Considering a model that combined Cobble Hill, Mill Bay, and Shawnigan Lake -“South Cowichan”- would result in the same outcome. This is largely why incorporation has been rejected in the past and why, for many, it still does not make sense, especially given these economic times.

That said there is the alternate position that regardless of tax increases, incorporation could potentially be a positive for Shawnigan residents. Some feel that increased taxes ought not to be the only consideration when it comes to this decision. Although increased taxes cannot be escaped even if and especially because of increased housing as the taxes collected do not offset the expenses incurred, there are many more considerations to be weighed. For example, it could be argued that incorporation would increase the autonomy and therefore, the governing control of

this area given that the Area Director has 1/15 vote at the CVRD table while a Mayor has full authority. However, it could also be argued that the potential to go into debt as a municipality is another reason to stay away from such a model. In the end, the model of governance is less a priority than the quality of governance achieved. The people doing the job ought to be held accountable, not the model in which they work.

Determining and weighing the pros and cons in creating a municipality ought to be considered in their entirety, by professional third parties and public committees, and then presented to the citizens through a referendum. Incorporation involves a process that begins with education. Ultimately, the details of incorporation ought to be a public decision, not a political determination.

Roy:

Currently the incorporation study on the table looks at a South Cowichan municipality but ultimately it is the people of Shawnigan who decide how or if we incorporate and it will be my job to make sure Shawnigan residents know all the options.

With Shawnigan’s tax base being primarily residential, the question is “what cost would it be to incorporate on our own?” To date, we have not had this question answered and, as Area Director, I will work to have this information made available.

2) BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household). Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option?

Kelly:

Although no growth is always an option, infilling of the available parcels ought to be considered the priority in assessing the overall needs of this community. Growth pressure will always be knocking on the door given that Shawnigan Lake is one of the most sought after residential areas on Vancouver Island. However, according to the technical assessment of developable lands within the Shawnigan Lake Village Containment Boundary (VCB) there is a potential for 1148 dwellings created through either subdivision or rezoning of current land parcels (OCP, 8). No sprawl style development should occur outside the Village Containment Boundary.

Of course to support stable and continued growth we must also consider other fundamental requirements such as sewer system availability and a secure water supply. Given that there is currently no Ground Water legislation in B.C to tell us the limits of our supplies, the local regional government has to be very cautious as to ensure safe and adequate drinking water for the residents already here. In the future we may need to consider acceptable bulk water supplies before continuing. As it stands today, services available to current residences are sadly lacking. This makes it imperative that we safeguard services before straining them further.

Although some residents may think that additional housing equals additional taxes and enough funding to accommodate an increased population, this notion is false. The reality is that to increase the demands of our local services would only increase the strain they already feel. Residential taxes alone do not offset the invariable wear and tear of required services. Therefore, building additional services to accommodate additional populations is illogical as we cannot look after the services we currently require.

Because the community of Shawnigan Lake is owned by those who reside in it we must first meet the needs of the current residents. The citizens of Shawnigan Lake own this place and have the right to determine where and how this place develops or not.

We must promote controlled growth and consider all social, economic, and environmental impacts before they occur. Shawnigan Lake ought to not be assumed an appropriate place for non-local developers to increase their profits but rather ought to be considered a place where the vested community are asked to determine the balance between change and preservation.

Roy:

Is no growth an option...No! As many would agree, we live in one of the best areas in the world and, with our proximity to Victoria, people want to move here. As a regional district, we can impose re-zoning moratoriums but that has little effect on the property already zoned for development. With zoned property, most remaining development decisions shift to other levels of government with no real vested interest in the community.

The most sensible way to manage the growth would be through incorporation, as Shawnigan or South Cowichan. This would allow more control over the growth, able to make decisions on a local level and the ability to maintain the rural atmosphere we all enjoy.

Ken:

The current issue of the projected growth can be accommodated in the new Village Containment Boundaries as outlined through our new South Cowichan Official Community Plan. Within this area there is a potential to create an additional 1,148 new housing units. This does not include small suites, secondary suites or mixed used development such as residential units placed above commercial units. Please note that is contingent upon the CVRD setting up a community sewer for this area. I am pleased to announce that we are having preliminary talks about this right now.

With respect to the concept of no growth being an option, I do not know what this truly means. For example, there is a natural age specific fertility rate that is already adding to our current population base on a regular basis. If this means that this should be regulated then I can not support the concept of no growth. If the term is meant to regulate the growth of our housing stock I can not support this concept either. As our community consists of many individuals each with their own preferences, they should be allowed the opportunity to pick a style of housing that they want. Having choices is a good thing. While growth is inevitable the focus should be upon community controlled and directed growth as opposed to a developer telling the community what is going to happen. This is what the new community plan is about.

While the focus of growth should be towards our Village Containment area, some opportunities may be identified by a developer outside of this area. The current policies of the new Official Community Plan will then require that the developer approach the community to explain why their development is needed and then they will also have to explain to the community the amenities that they will be bringing to the community to help enhance our current quality of life.

3) Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource. What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake?

Roy:

The challenge with Shawnigan is it is a developing watershed. Unlike Victoria, who built a big fence around theirs with gates and no trespassing signs... Shawnigan built a community! Moving forward, it is the water that needs protecting. With proper control and regulations on developments within the watershed, we can protect the quality of water. Although I am sure there are some that would like to revert to the fence and signs, as Area Director I will work to see that developments are adhering to the OCP guidelines, exceeding industry standards and protecting our most valuable resource.

Ken:

Over the short term I support the current monitoring of the water quality of Shawnigan Lake, by Dr. Muzumder. This type of information will be necessary for the development of a long term plan. In addition to this, over the short term I supported setting up of a function to look into the water quality and quantity issues for South Cowichan. This function was set up with a \$100,000 budget of which I was able to get \$25,000 to pay for the work of Dr. Mazumder.

Over the long term we need to set up a watershed plan and a water plan. Currently we have various

5 Questions - Here are Their Un-edited Answers

not appear with the other candidates. Bruce Fraser's responses are on page 14)

agencies with their own responsibility doing their own thing with little or no involvement from the other agencies. This has to stop. There are two issues that we need to address in either plan; the first is the water quality of the lake, as this is a drinking water source for many residents in the Shawnigan Lake Electoral Area and the second is the role our lake plays as an economic driver for our local economy. We need to get all the agencies, our private and public water utility operators in one room to develop, with community input, a plan. This group should have strong enforcement capabilities with financial support from all the other agencies. Please note that the following resolution on this issue was discussed and passed at the Union of BC Municipalities session on September 29, 2011.

"Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia restore funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure that adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers, or provide the enabling regulatory authority and financial means to local governments to properly protect and manage lakes and rivers at the local level, should they so wish." (Note: I supported this resolution.)

The reason that we also need a watershed plan is to ensure that land use activities in and around the watershed are not disruptive to the overall water quality.

Kelly:

Drinking water protection is under provincial, not local jurisdiction. However, it is of extreme importance that Shawnigan Lake's water quality be kept at the forefront of local concerns.

I understand that the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch Society as well as the Residents Association have pushed for watershed plan management studies, which have for the large part, been ignored. I am also aware that Dr. Mazumder of the University of Victoria has been conducting water studies for several years on Shawnigan Lake water and has concluded that it is indeed experiencing a steady decline. In fact, from what I have read, his latest study of three years ago, determined that the quality of our water supplied by the lake has declined to a measurement of 6 out of 10. Given that little has been done to improve the situation, it is likely this figure is even lower today.

Both short and long term measures to protect the lake must be made mandatory in the short term. Surely funding could be found for this necessary endeavour before reaching the point of no return. Additionally, it must also be noted that there is a significant secondary water system in the parameters of Shawnigan Lake: the Koksilah River, which also ought to be protected in the same manner and vigour as Shawnigan Lake itself.

Confronting the issues of our declining water supply, which are diverse, is long overdue. Our community relies upon the lake in many ways. As such immediate attention and solution-based alternatives ought to be given priority to ensure its longevity.

4) The OCP speaks of providing a vibrant commercial core to meet the shopping and service needs of Shawnigan Lake residents. For several years Shawnigan Village has had a surplus of vacant commercial space and appears less than vital at the moment. What is your vision for the village core and adjacent areas? How would that vision be achieved?

Ken:

The current vision that I have for the village core can be found in the Shawnigan Village Plan which is a part of the South Cowichan Official Community Plan. In addition to the policies found in this plan I also support the continued use of this area for community events, such as the SLAM event, the annual street Christmas party and the Canada Day parade. I would like to see more of these types of community events focusing on our core area. This includes working with the various community groups and external groups such as the Shawnigan Triathlon event planners. It is imperative that we start creating more community events for the core area. With the annual Shawnigan Triathlon event, we need to look at ways to have both the participants and spectators mingling in the core area. In my opinion it is the community and their events that makes an area vibrant or not.

In addition to having more community events directed towards the core area, I would also like to see a farmer's market set up in this area that operates on weekly basis.

Kelly:

My vision as Shawnigan Lake's new "CVRD Representative" is to work to achieve the vision of the people of this community. That said the first thing I would do to achieve common ground for development in the Shawnigan village core is to meet with local residents and business owners to determine their hopes, ideas, and goals for our Village. I would then take those suggestions to the staff at the CVRD to formulate an implementation plan.

I understand that the land across from the Community Centre is undergoing consideration for future residential and commercial development. In the event this occurs, it would likely encourage mutual commercial expansion and hence, increase village core "vitality". Of course, the implementation of a city sewer system would also add to the possibility of increased village vitality. This undertaking would require planning and then approval of those affected in the proposed service area.

Finally, the Official Community Plan (OCP) is a document that "provides goals, principles, objectives and policies for environmental protection, Shawnigan Lake Water protection, climate change and energy efficiency, economic development, social sustainability, heritage conservation, and village containment boundaries for all Plan area lands, including Shawnigan Village (Shawnigan Village Plan, 1)." It is a legal document meant to provide projections of how Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay, and Cobble Hill could individually and collaboratively adjust and manage their growing populations over the coming years. It is a useful tool, although not without its short-comings, to guide such decisions for at least the next 15 years.

Roy:

My family purchased one corner back in 1985 and I remember the interaction among the business on all four corners. On Saturday nights we would have an open air market on the lawn of the 'old' barbershop and musicians would come out and jam on the steps, while shoppers wandered back and forth through the village. Shawnigan village was a gathering place for the community, where you could get a haircut, pick up groceries, grab a movie, fill a prescription and all the while chat with your neighbours.

As Area Director, I would have little control over the empty spaces in the village core. As a business owner in the village I would like nothing more than to see the "For Lease" signs disappear. Organizations like the Shawnigan Lake Business Association and South Cowichan Chamber work hard to provide support and encourage new businesses in the area, but with the spaces controlled by independent landlords, there is little more they can do. Elected or not, I will continue to work with these groups and look for ways to beautify the village and bring new business to the area.

5) The proposed Eco-Depot has run into significant opposition primarily because of the selected site. Do you think the project should go ahead, and if so, where should it be located?

Kelly:

The Eco Depot debate now reaches its 17th month and the divide between the opposing positions in no way reaches common ground. Although it was the catalyst that prompted me to learn more about local issues, it is secondary to the real issue at hand. My primary concern is the manner in which our current CVRD Directors conduct business. Therefore, what resulted from my Eco-Depot education has grown to a solid and broadened understanding of the many issues needing consideration in Shawnigan Lake, specifically the need for change.

The CVRD, very much led by the three South Cowichan Directors, have spent millions of dollars on a project that ought never to have been pursued due to its farmland location. The CVRD does not have the proper zoning to permit this industrial use. Of course, the question of definition is now before a Supreme Court Judge. Having sat in the courthouse while the case was presented, I am encouraged that an outcome

will very soon put this fact to rest. I ask, ought it be the job (and expense) of the electorate to force their leaders to adhere to their own bylaws?

Amending the zoning of the "proposed" Eco-Depot has always been within the authority of our governing body. The fact that 5 of the 9 other electoral areas underwent the process of bylaw amendment to include such a facility supports the position of this necessity. Therefore, the decision not to rezone A-1 land by the remaining 4 electoral areas was deliberate. It appears that this is more evidence of the unyielding efforts of our South End Directors to create a municipality – without public consultation.

Our Area Directors have not offered open, honest, and transparent governance to their electorate. They have not engaged with the community nor have they consulted to negotiate any alternate outcome. They have not offered dignity or choice to anyone in the surrounding communities concerning this issue. On the contrary, they continue to spend our money, avoid all Eco-Depot communication, intentionally and negatively label the resisters, and further confuse the public. One example of this is witnessed in the non-binding referendum, which presents the appearance of democratic governance (just prior to the election) to the area residents. Another is the recently approved \$50,000 budget to promote the facility. The goal: To sway the public's opinion to support the Eco-Depot (just prior to the referendum).

The only appropriate action, at this point, is to learn from this unacceptable political behaviour and fiscal irresponsibility by reinstating democracy at the CVRD table. As a result of the anti-democratic model endorsed by those still in power, I have decided to come forward and offer you a choice on November 19th.

The final decision of an appropriate Eco-Depot location ought to have been made many months ago. In the event I am elected, it will be the decision of the citizens if this facility ought to be relocated or "trashed". But rest assured, a waste management and recycling facility will not be located on agricultural land.

Roy:

I do believe we need a transfer station (Eco Depot) in the South Cowichan Valley. With the increasing population in our area and the need to be more environmentally conscious, our community needs a local way of dealing with our waste stream. Where it should be located is up to Shawnigan residents. On November 19th please vote in the Eco Depot Referendum and while at the polls, please vote for Roy Davies! I appreciate your support!

Ken:

As a professional planner I approach each land use project through a three step process. The first step includes a technical review of the proposed site and this includes reviewing the surface and sub-surface features of the site. The second step analysis is completed on whether the proposed use can be placed on the site. The third and final step is determining how the community feels about the proposed use. Right now we are moving into the third phase of finding out how the community as a whole feels about the proposed site. This can be achieved through the use of many community input processes. In this case the CVRD Board has decided that a non-binding referendum is the best way to collect input from the community on this issue. I support this method.

Please note the proposed site is not in the Agricultural Land Reserve area. It is not a dump and it is not in the hay field area that is adjacent to the proposed site. The proposed site is located in the wooded portion of the parcel of land and the development footprint will be limited to approximately 2.5 acres in size. The proposed use includes 14 roll away bins, of which 12 will be for the collection of recyclable materials and two for residential waste. If you would like to view any of the technical reports or review any additional information about the project I would direct you towards the following website www.ecodepotfacts.ca.

The proposed site was selected after an extensive review of various other sites and a completion of a triple bottom line analysis of the top five sites.

***Do you have more questions
for the candidates?***

***Send them to:
editor@shawniganfocus.ca***

Together We Can Make Things Better

by Garth Harvey

"Beautiful young people are gifts of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Having experienced many years working with adult caregivers, and only 22 months with young caregivers, I believe Mrs. Roosevelt was spot on. The title is a phrase I often see in the Cowichan Caregivers Support Society's correspondence.

Our youth project was started in January 2010 to address four main objectives:

1. to develop collaboration and partnerships between community grounds and service providers related to family caregivers and youth
2. to shed light on the challenges and joys of youth caregivers and their families
3. to raise community awareness about youth caregivers
4. to develop effective support for youth caregivers and their families

The modus operandi, as always, was to nourish strengths and open hearts.

The way chosen to start was to make a DVD about youth caregivers to be shown to schools, community groups and whoever. In October 2010 the DVD, *Ending the Silence*, was launched to two full houses, afternoon and evening, in the Garage Theatre

in Duncan. Since then, it has been shown in 35 schools, at an international convention, and to the division of the Federal Government that is our major funder. In addition, it was presented by invitation in Comox, which has prompted those present to begin to focus on youth caregivers. These presentations were all handled by the youth and the project facilitator. In May 2012, they have been invited to take part in a conference that is being organized by the University of BC. And recently, the Society received funding to commence a leadership program.

All of this work is driven by a resource team of four adults and a dozen or so youth – caregivers cannot always follow a schedule. The resource team represents five different cultures, and a range of education from Alternate School to University. Participants come from Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, and locally. This again reflects our holistic view of life.

And what do the youth say? "I take care of everything. I know what to do. (this from a 14 year old) I need a safe place and someone to talk to. It's a big relief to talk about what is going on. It gets me away from the reality of what I do. It is the only place I like to go."

Our major funder says, "Our Directorate was treated to your *Ending the Silence* at a staff meeting. I just want to tell you how pleased I was to have been able to support such a wonderful project. Knowing the impact it can have makes our work all the more meaningful."

Albert Schweitzer said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be truly happy will be those who have sought and found how to serve."

Garth is the President of the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

Electoral Area B, Shawnigan Lake, Director's Report

October 2011

by Ken Cossey

During the week of September 26 to September 30, I had the opportunity to attend the Union of British Columbia Municipalities annual general meeting. This event is held with all the other BC local government elected officials. Over the week we attended various workshops and meetings, discussed issues, heard about what other local governments have done and debated issues of concern at the local level. As well various provincial government representatives were present for one-on-one discussions and to provide updates on various other provincial activities or the announcement of new programs.

This year, the Cowichan Valley Regional District was the proud sponsor of three out of 244 resolutions submitted for discussion. Our CVRD-sponsored resolutions included protection of our lakes and rivers, forestry practices on private managed lands in our area, and securing funds from the federal government for people living on federal crown land for our Vancouver Island Library system. I am pleased to announce that all three resolutions passed. With respect to the protection of lakes and rivers, we are asking the province to either provide adequate protection of our lakes and rivers or provide the regulatory authority and proper funding for the local government to take over this responsibility, if they choose.

Two other resolutions that I would like to draw to your attention, dealt with the current RCMP contract and BC Hydro's smart meter program. The RCMP resolution is asking that the federal government return to the negotiation table with the province to address outstanding issues with respect to developing new partnerships, cost containment and accountability. The BC Hydro Smart meter resolution asked for a moratorium to be placed on the mandatory installation of wireless smart meters. With respect to all of the resolutions that were adopted, they will be submitted to the province and when I hear any news about the status of our requests I will bring this information back to the community.

As well, Premier Clark announced a \$30 million dollar recreation program for the province. This announcement was mentioned further in the recent Throne speech. To ensure that Shawnigan Lake receives our fair share of funds from this program, I have already taken steps to start our application. I have asked Kim Liddle, our South Cowichan Recreation Manager to look into securing funds for the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre and the Elsie Miles upgrade. I have also asked Brian Farquhar, our Parks Manager, to secure funds for the Shawnigan Hills Park redevelopment project.

I held my last "Meet the Director" session for this year on October 3, 2011. Thank you to all the residents who used these sessions to share their concerns with me. If you would like to discuss any point outlined in this article or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at: ; (250) 743 1336 or kcossey@seaside.net

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Take a Hike!

by Robin Massey

An unusual amount of spider webs across the face, dew on the toes and visible breath vapors - ah, it must be Fall!

Fall hiking, as we know, is a completely different experience than hiking in the summer. Summer is certainly lush, beautiful and warm, but nothing beats the visual chemistry of vibrant colours surrounding us in the forests when it drops in on us.

Our hiking group, and its first Fall hiking fieldtrip, found ourselves at the impressive twin bumps that stand guard over the city of Duncan. She's called Mt. Prevost. If you are lucky to not be buried in a latte or a sale at 'wally world' you may have looked up and noticed this beckoning beauty waaaaaay up on the north side of the city. And, you if you look really close you can see a little white speck... and that just so happens to be where we went. Up 2,605 feet to be exact!

According to British Columbia Travel and Discovery's website, Mt. Prevost is a chosen memorial site for World War I & II soldiers and home to a 33 foot granite cairn in dedication. That is the white speck you see from the ground below.



Mt. Prevost is a host to many different adventures. On any given day you might see gliding or mountain biking occurring. But, for us, our sport of choice was to hike that baby. And, although you can take the easy route and drive almost to the top followed by a short but STEEP jaunt, we chose to start right at the base at the power station located on Mt. Prevost Road. Have to say, it's pretty exhilarating to hike at a 70-90% incline for 2 hours straight.

Once at the cairn, and depending on the day, you may either feel like you're standing on top of the world above the clouds or, if it's a foggy day, then more like floating in one. Either way, it's a spectacular feeling. Hiking this particular mountain brings a huge sense of accomplishment and joy. It is a real 'gooder' one might say and not for the weak of heart (nor lung capacity). It boasts the typical trails of beauty that we find in all our forests here on Island but best of all for those who want a challenge, this baby is only a hop, skip and a jump away! It really is worth the effort, either via wheel or foot.

More information on Mt. Prevost can be found on www.ourbc.com.

*Robin plays on various trails in Cowichan Valley
with her hiking group, The Iron Butts.
www.theomtree.com*

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



Congratulations to What is it? Contest Winner

Netta Douglas provided the first correct response to our September What is it? picture. The subject in the picture is the head of a fake alligator who floats in the lake near the end of the West Arm.

Shawnigan Fire Department September Callouts

- Sept 1 - MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Road
- Sept 3 - First Responder in the village
- Sept 4 - First Responder on Renfrew Road
- Sept 7 - Gas Leak on Cameron-Taggart Road
- Sept 8 - Auto Alarm in the Beach Estates
- Sept 9 - First Responder on Filgate Road
- Sept 11 - Bush Fire on Colman Road
- Sept 11 - First Responder on Silver Mine Road
- Sept 12 - First Responder on Glen Eagle Road
- Sept 12 - First Responder on Baldy Mtn Road
- Sept 17 - Auto Alarm on Renfrew Road
- Sept 17 - First Responder on Lakewood Road
- Sept 19 - First Responder in the village
- Sept 20 - Smoldering Log on Lavinia Road
- Sept 22 - MVI on Cameron-Taggart Road
- Sept 23 - MVI at West Shawnigan & Renfrew Roads
- Sept 28 - First Responder off Deloume Road

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS October 2011

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

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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

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The Wild Side!

Splashes in the Night

by Dave Hutchinson



Beavers Don't Like Yellow Canoes.

Photo by Dave Hutchinson

In 2006, while still doing the Victoria commute, I was intrigued by an unusual sight near Rose Island at the south end of the lake. A sizable tree had toppled and squashed a yellow canoe sitting on a dock. It sat that way for several months. One morning I decided to pull over and have a closer look and got quite a surprise.

Apparently beavers don't like yellow canoes! I have spent countless hours on the lake over the last fifty years, but had no idea our national animal, the iconic emblem on our five-cent-piece, had taken up residence.

On two occasions

since then I have heard splashes on the lake near where we live at the north end – like large rocks being thrown into the water - always at night. Remembering the canoe, I wondered if it might be a beaver slapping its tail. I never was able to see the creatures until recently when I picked one out with a flashlight. While watching it swim quickly to the left I heard another splash to the right indicating at least one more in the vicinity.

Motivated by an actual sighting I turned to Google and found an article by Scott Noble of Shawnigan Lake School noting that two beavers have



Beavers at Shawnigan Lake School.

Photo by Stephen Lane



Beaver Lodge in Strathcona Bay.

Photo by Dave Hutchinson



Photo by Stephen Lane



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recently taken up residence on “Lake Omar”, a pond on the school property. Stephen Lane, also of SLS, took some wonderful photographs of the pair.

In early September my wife and her friend were kayaking in Strathcona Bay and came across a beaver lodge. Since then her friend has seen a beaver swimming in daylight down the West Arm.


How many beavers are there around the lake? When did they get here? I wonder if this is a repopulation from being decimated in earlier times.

A few facts from Wikipedia:

- Canadian Beaver (Castor canadensis).
- The largest rodent in North America, adults usually weigh 15 to 35 kg (33 to 77 lb).
- Mainly active at night; excellent swimmers; able to remain submerged for up to 15 minutes.
- Monogamous; one litter per year between late December and May; average three kits per litter; family consists of two adults plus kits and yearlings.







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Gerry Odegaard - "The Heart" of Shawnigan Lake

by Sally Davies

There was a time when "Aitken and Fraser General Store" was the hub of this community and Gerry Odegaard was its benevolent heart.

"Gerry's", as it was affectionately known to locals, was more than just a purveyor of groceries and hardware. It was a link to everything and everyone in this community. When Gerry and Mary opened the doors to their new business in June of 1966 Elsie Miles School went from kindergarten to grade seven and all four Odegaard girls attended there. There was no Thrifty's in Mill Bay and the Island Highway was a narrow two lanes.



The long-time residents (or "villagers"), the private school community and the summer people were enclaves unto themselves who did not generally mingle but they all met at Gerry's store.

Many people bought all their groceries there and if Gerry didn't have what you needed, he would get it. He delivered groceries all around the lake and "ran a tab" for anyone who wanted

(or needed) it.

Gerry knew everyone's name and his beaming smile welcomed all who crossed the threshold of his door. When he asked how you were, he made you feel like he really wanted to know. His customers became his friends.

At one time, he had fourteen people on staff including all of his family at various times in their lives. Dave, one of his four sons-in-law worked at the store for eighteen years. All of his staff attested to the fact that they learned "how to treat people" under Gerry's tutelage.

The store, with Gerry at the helm, was a touchstone to a simpler time. Before cell phones and computers, it provided all the community news formally and informally.

Gerry and his family were an integral part of the community. He was a volunteer fireman, played hockey, and he and Mary curled. They served on the Kiddies Carnival and flower committees. Mary was a Girl Guide leader. The store was always a venue to purchase tickets for community events and Gerry usually provided the refreshments.

In 1988, the Odegaards were awarded a gold medal from the government of Canada and the Calgary Olympic committee for twenty years of sponsorship. In 2001, they received a fellowship award from the Rotary Foundation.

Gerry left us too soon in November of 2010 but he made an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those lucky enough to have known him.



On Saturday, October 22, 2011, there will be a ceremony to unveil a bench to honour of Gerry Odegaard. The new bench will be placed in front of the Shawnigan Lake Museum - appropriately facing Aitken and Fraser Store. The Rotary Club of South Cowichan have donated the special bench which will have a bronzed likeness of Gerry and a memorial quote. Dan

Salmon and his crew have already built a concrete pad in preparation for the installation of the bench. The public is welcome to attend the unveiling of Gerry's bench at 1:00 on October 22. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Odegaard family.

You may have noticed some recent outdoor activity at the museum. After almost thirty years, the Shawnigan Lake Museum has the good fortune to have a new roof. **We are very grateful for the efforts of Garth Harvey and to the Vancouver Foundation** (who provided a generous grant). The new roof will ensure that our community museum stays warm and dry. In addition, we have installed a local "mile" post. This post will point you in the right direction to many of the great destinations in our area. The distances noted are in kilometres and are measured "as the crow flies".



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Film Review: "Drive" Drama

***** out of 5 stars

by Russell Treloar

"Drive" is a film that will surprise most viewers, jolt others and possibly even seriously shock the faint-of-heart. The film currently sits at 93% on Rotten Tomatoes, making it one of the most critically-acclaimed films of the year. However, its CinemaScore, an in-theatre audience approval rating, ranked a less-than-stellar grade of C-. This disparity stems from Hollywood marketing, which has cloaked the film as a conventional action piece to boost box-office results when, in actuality, "Drive" is an edgy, slow-burn with roots far closer to the art-house.

The film is based on a short novel by American crime writer James Sallis, and is a deliberately-paced character study of a nameless Hollywood stunt driver who moonlights as a best-in-business heist getaway driver. The main character is played with quiet bravado by Ontario-born Ryan Gosling ("The Notebook," "Blue Valentine"), and features an outstanding supporting cast including Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, Ron Perlman and Albert Brooks in an against-type role that's already generating Oscar buzz.

While the premise of the film seems familiar enough, Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn's ultra-cool vision of masculine melancholy transforms fairly lean material into something more than the sum of its parts. Refn's lingering vision of the lonely back-alleys of Los Angeles at night is a thing of beauty and the film's dreamlike quality is further enhanced by a near-hypnotic soundtrack inspired by 1980s synth-pop.

From the opening sequence onwards "Drive" builds enough tension to leave the viewer shaking by the final reel, and its unsettling bursts of graphic violence will certainly test the limits of what many can stomach. With its nuanced performances, stylish direction and emotional punch "Drive" is quite simply one of the best films of the year and a rewarding experience for those who know what kind of a ride they've bought a ticket for.



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Keep the Momentum - Continue the Dialogue

Fifth Annual Veterans' Remembrance Cross Placements in South Cowichan

by Mike Bieling

Local residents who have passed by Shawnigan Cemetery or the churchyards of St. Francis Xavier and the old Mill Bay United Church during November these past few years may have noticed the temporary presence of numerous small white crosses within them, and wondered what they signified. These are Veterans' Remembrance Crosses, a form of commemoration traditional in cemeteries in the Somenos and Quamichan districts of Duncan for 85 years, and which were first placed on local veterans' graves at Shawnigan Cemetery in 2007. This practice has taken root here and continues to spread through area cemeteries. The churchyard of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Cobble Hill, will be included this year.

My understanding is that the tradition of placing of small white crosses, in our case, decorated with a lapel poppy and a sprig of green cedar, on the graves of veterans for the month of November, was established in 1926 by the Royal Canadian Legion soon after its founding, and was once widely observed. In many communities, this commemoration faded in popularity during the 1930s as Cross of Sacrifice cenotaphs to those died in conflict were erected within urban settings and the focus of Armistice Day events shifted

to them. In others, such as those in North Cowichan, parish and Legion volunteers continued to honour the graves of veterans who survived their years of service to die at home, in addition to the memories of those who paid the ultimate price overseas.



Celebrated Canadian artist E.J. Hughes is buried in the Shawnigan Lake Cemetery

Since 2003, I have worked with Legion volunteers and cadets in Duncan to record their lists of veterans' names and burial locations in a database and map them, to help ensure that the cross placements continue in future. I introduced the tradition at Shawnigan Cemetery after the interment there of local artist and WW 2 veteran E. J. Hughes, and have since brought it to other South Cowichan cemeteries as well. In future, the members of the Mill Bay/Malahat Historical Society plan to take over the organization of the event locally, while I will continue to add to the database and update the maps, and work on introducing veterans' remembrance cross placements to all of the Cowichan Valley's historic cemeteries.

"The south end cross placements will begin Saturday, October 29th at Shawnigan Cemetery at 2:00 pm and will continue at St. Francis Xavier and Mill Bay United cemeteries. The first cross placement at St. John's Anglican Church in Cobble Hill is being organized as a separate event and the salute to the crosses is tentatively scheduled for 2:00 pm on Saturday, November 5th, in the churchyard. Call Mike Bieling at 250-748-5031 for confirmation of these arrangements."

The Poppy Fund

by Astrid Doidge



Volunteers are always needed at the Legions throughout the year, but especially at this time of year in order to help our needy Veterans. The Victoria Poppy Fund is open every Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon year round and every weekday from the middle of September to the middle of December. It is a very rewarding experience to spend a few hours to help our Veterans and their dependents. The Malahat and surrounding area Campaigns will also be preparing for the distribution of poppies for their November 11th Ceremonies. Contact the local legion if you have time to help.

Every Poppy Fund needs volunteers for :

- preparing the poppies for mailing
- delivery of the poppy trays to the surrounding businesses
- standing on the street corners and malls - rain or shine
- counting money as it is received in the different Poppy Fund Offices
- writing and mailing tax receipts for the monies received
- collecting the poppy trays at the end of the campaign

The Poppy is the symbol of Remembrance for those who put their lives on the line (and for the many who lost their lives) so we can live in peace. It is often forgotten by many that the battle for peace continues to this day.

The Funds collected from the general public are used for the following:

- assistance to ex-service personnel and their dependants
- low rental housing and care facilities for elderly or disabled persons and their dependents
- community medical appliances and medical research
- drop-in centres, meals-on-wheels, transportation, and related services
- cost of Poppies, wreaths, and supplies

Here are some facts about Wars that our Veterans were involved with:

World War I

- 628,736 Canadians served
- 66,573 died and 138,166 were wounded
- 2,818 were taken Prisoner of War
- 175 merchant seamen died in enemy action

World War II

- 1,031,902 male Canadians and 49,963 female Canadians served
- 44,927 died and 53,145 were wounded
- 8,271 were taken Prisoner of War
- 1,146 merchant seamen died in enemy action

Korea War

- 26,791 Canadians served
- 516 died and 1,558 were wounded
- 33 were taken Prisoner of War

The Gulf War

- 3,837 male Canadian and 237 female Canadians served
- there were no Canadian casualties during the Gulf War
- no Canadians were taken Prisoner of War

My source for these figures are from the Department of National Defence, and Veterans Affairs, Canada. Any enquiries regarding these statistics should be referred to these departments.

Astrid is the Volunteer Secretary for the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Fund. Astrid lives part time in Victoria and part time at Shawnigan Lake

Bruce Fraser responses to five questions. Original question pages 8&9

(Note: Due to Bruce Fraser filing after the paper was composed, his responses do not appear with the other candidates. Other candidate responses are on page 8 & 9)

Incorporation

"South Cowichan" appears to me to be a definition of convenience rather than a unified community. There is no doubt that incorporation into a municipality is necessary for the proper governance of our area and its growing population. Serving Area B with a single Regional District Director is just too little coverage for the complexity of the issues that must be addressed. Exactly how the boundaries should be established has two main factors: what people actually see as their home base and what area must be assembled to provide a realistic tax base. I tend to favour incorporating the Shawnigan area separately because that to me makes social and geographic sense, but I have to remain objective about the tax question until the necessary economic research has been done. The Provincial government must agree with an incorporation initiative, so the timing will be based on their willingness to conduct the work and support the effort financially. The sooner the better!

Growth

Growth in our region is inevitable as the affordability of Victoria propels young families north of the Malahat. The question is not if, but how. The Official Community Plan and its subsequent zoning by-laws is one device for shaping the future design of development, but it needs to be supplemented by widespread and continuing public discussion. Village containment, density issues, transport implications, cost of servicing, environmental suitability, location of civic amenities are all essential considerations. These have to be actively planned, not arrived at by accident.

Shawnigan Watershed

We need to treat the Shawnigan Basin as an integrated whole. Pressures on the land will only increase, with all the side effects on water quantity, quality and treatment costs that we are already experiencing. I believe that we can make progress on these issues by developing a "Shawnigan Round Table" of concerned residents, commercial and industrial interests and relevant provincial and federal government agencies. Such a cooperative group can do the necessary research, devise suitable conservation and remediation programs and advise governments on measures that protect our water. The Cowichan Round Table, now ten years old, and the recently established Cowichan Water Board provide a model that we can examine for ideas on how to proceed in our own area.

Shawnigan Village Core

Shawnigan Village is currently fractured and held back by developments that have not been planned to a coherent vision. I would like to see a walkable, diverse village core that ties the lakeshore, the rail station, the shops and offices, the recreation centre and the proposed lower commercial development into an integrated community centre. Thought must be given to the hazardous intersection, paths and trails, parking, business mix and the freeing up of the currently unoccupied store-fronts. I think a "Village Development Council" should be established, informally at first, to propose design options for public discussion. This could help generate the enthusiasm and momentum for progress.

We cannot forget that what is being called Malahat Village on the south boundary is also developing rapidly. It will have a different character as an industrial and commercial centre, but it also needs attention to make it serve the needs of a growing south end population. As long as Area B also extends along the Koksilah corridor, the unique character of Cowichan Station also needs to be considered.

Eco Depot

There is no question that we need to provide effective waste management services in our area and I appreciate the difficulty facing the Regional District in finding a suitable piece of land. It is easy to criticize their choice but difficult to suggest other locations without the confidential land investigations necessary. The concept of a comprehensive waste assembly and transfer system seems to make sense in its own right. The current plan for a depot located at the confluence of Cameron-Taggart and Shawnigan-Cobble Hill road is the main issue. While I support the need for a facility, I believe that there are three questions that affect its suitability. Could we not have partnered with the existing commercial waste facilities on Fisher Road and the South Shawnigan Lake Road, which do happen to lie in industrial zones with near highway access, instead of displacing them with a tax supported one? Did we not give equal weight to the living environment of those in a rural residential-agricultural area as we did to the transport logistics of road locations and land availability? Have we actually created a new industrial zone in the midst of an area zoned for other existing uses? I will pay close attention to the results of the upcoming referendum.

THE LATEST LAKE RESEARCH

by Graham Ross-Smith

Shawnigan Lake has been the subject of numerous studies of various kinds since pioneer days. No doubt, if all the written studies and reports could be collected and printed as a single book, it would be a large and interesting document. One more study is now underway.



UVic’s Martina Beck and the Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC’s Tony Andrychuk putting 13,000 rainbow trout into Shawnigan Lake at the Recreation Road access point.

In early September, University of Victoria student, Martina Beck, began a two-year study of small mouth bass in Shawnigan Lake as part of the work she has undertaken to earn a Master’s Degree in environmental studies. She will be studying how bass interact with native species of fish in the lake, primarily looking at what they are eating and whether or not there is any overlap with the types of food eaten by other fish species and whether or not they are predators of the young of these other species.

As her study unfolds, Ms Beck is working with the Fresh Water Fisheries Society of BC and was at the lake in early September assisting the Society’s Tony Andrychuk to put thirteen thousand rainbow trout into Shawnigan Lake The trout were brought here in the Society’s fish tanker- truck from its



Duncan hatchery and placed in the lake at the Recreation Road access point. Ms. Beck’s study also includes Spider Lake near Qualicum and Cusheon Lake on Saltspring Island. Her findings will help to increase the understanding of our lake’s aquatic ecosystem and will be a welcome addition to the existing body of knowledge about our lake and how it functions. The report should be completed in the next couple of years.



The SLBA membership met on October 4th for their Annual General Meeting. The board for 2011/2012 was elected, and includes Roy Davies (Chair), Paul Tedrick (Vice), Anne Hunter (Treasure), Heather Plumb (Secretary), and Directors Daniela Kym, Patty Oldfield, Trina Burns, Dewar McCarthy and Vicky Wood.

Please visit www.shawniganlakeonline.com for regular updates from the board and upcoming events.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS:

Halloween

Howl!

October 31, 6-8pm

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

Games

Music

Haunted House

Special Thank you to:

Mill Bay Lions

The Village Chippery

If anyone would like to donate candy or help out with this event, please contact the community centre at 250-743-1433.

www.shawniganlakeonline.com

SCARY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network) compiled by Grant Treloar					
	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	20.2	22.9	21.5	22.4	21.2
Avg Low	9.2	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.1
Extr High	33.5	31.9	30.4	32.6	29.9
Extr Low	-3.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.6
Precip	37.6	92.9	73.0	59.4	53.1
Days with Rain	9	9	9	9	10
Lake Temperature: Sept 4 th : 21° Sept 11 th : 22° Sept 18 th : 19° Sept 25 th : 18°					

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER TIDE TABLE - FULFORD HARBOUR								
Mon 17 Oct	0221	2.1L	1036	9.9H	1603	8.3L	1902	8.6H
Tue 18 Oct	0306	2.3L	1133	10.0H	1730	8.3L	1937	8.4H
Wed 19 Oct	0357	2.5L	1227	10.0H	1852	8.0L	2036	8.1H
Thu 20 Oct	0454	2.9L	1314	10.1H	1943	7.4L	2226	7.7H
Fri 21 Oct	0556	3.4L	1353	10.1H	2018	6.6L		
Sat 22 Oct	0031	7.6H	0701	3.9L	1425	10.1H	2051	5.6L
Sun 23 Oct	0213	7.9H	0802	4.6L	1453	10.1H	2125	4.3L
Mon 24 Oct	0337	8.5H	0859	5.3L	1520	10.2H	2201	3.0L
Tue 25 Oct	0449	9.2H	0951	6.2L	1545	10.2H	2239	1.7L
Wed 26 Oct	0553	9.8H	1042	7.0L	1611	10.3H	2319	0.7L
Thu 27 Oct	0653	10.3H	1133	7.8L	1639	10.4H		
Fri 28 Oct	0002	0.1L	0751	10.7H	1228	8.4L	1710	10.3H
Sat 29 Oct	0048	-0.0L	0849	10.8H	1328	8.8L	1745	10.2H
Sun 30 Oct	0135	0.2L	0948	10.8H	1439	8.9L	1822	9.8H
Mon 31 Oct	0225	0.8L	1046	10.8H	1602	8.8L	1903	9.2H
Tue 01 Nov	0317	1.6L	1142	10.8H	1736	8.4L	1952	8.6H
Wed 02 Nov	0411	2.6L	1233	10.7H	1906	7.7L	2121	7.8H
Thu 03 Nov	0511	3.7L	1317	10.6H	2005	6.9L	2343	7.3H
Fri 04 Nov	0616	4.7L	1355	10.4H	2044	6.0L		
Sat 05 Nov	0151	7.4H	0722	5.6L	1426	10.2H	2115	5.1L
Sun 06 Nov	0232	7.9H	0725	6.4L	1351	9.9H	2044	4.3L
Mon 07 Nov	0342	8.5H	0821	7.0L	1410	9.7H	2110	3.5L
Tue 08 Nov	0435	9.1H	0910	7.6L	1427	9.5H	2136	2.8L
Wed 09 Nov	0518	9.5H	0955	8.0L	1441	9.4H	2202	2.2L
Thu 10 Nov	0556	9.8H	1037	8.3L	1455	9.3H	2230	1.8L
Fri 11 Nov	0632	10.1H	1119	8.5L	1512	9.3H	2300	1.5L
Sat 12 Nov	0708	10.3H	1205	8.6L	1536	9.2H	2333	1.3L
Sun 13 Nov	0747	10.4H	1258	8.7L	1606	9.1H		
Mon 14 Nov	0009	1.3L	0827	10.6H	1359	8.6L	1640	8.9H
Tue 15 Nov	0048	1.5L	0910	10.7H	1507	8.5L	1721	8.6H

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hector's Friends and Shawnigan Lake School present *From Sea to Shining Sea: Choral works to stir the soul & guide us on the journey home.*

Male vocal ensemble, Hector's Friends, shares songs with a nautical theme in their concert From Sea to Shining Sea at Shawnigan Lake School Chapel on Sunday November 13th. "We are thrilled to be bringing our voices to the Shawnigan Lake School chapel," says director Sarah Quartel. "Making music in a stunning atmosphere – what a great way for us spend an autumn afternoon!" The group will be performing works by Canadian composers Harry Sommers and Diane Loomer along with traditional folk songs from Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

This group of friends began rehearsing in 2007 in the home of Shawnigan Lake resident and choir member, David Wooldridge. David's Jack Russell Terrier soon became their number one fan and he would lie on his side on the rug in the middle of the group listening intently. Confronted with the usual quandary of choosing a name for their group they settled on Hector's Friends. Two counter-tenors, two tenors, two baritones and one bass make up the members of Hector's Friends.

What: Hector's Friends in concert

Where: Shawnigan Lake School Chapel

When: Sunday, Nov. 13, 2:30pm

Tickets: Adults \$15, Students \$10, Children 12 and under Free

Tickets available at the door or in advance at Valley Vines to Wines, Mill Bay; Volume One, Duncan; Bucknucks Books, Valleyview, Cobble Hill; Shawnigan Lake Island Pharmacy

For more information, call 1-250-743-3668 or go to www.hectorsfriends.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 afternoon 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 activities. The membership fee is \$20.00 per year.

For more info call Dieter at 250 743 8740.

Shawnigan Lake RCMP Positive Tickets

The Shawnigan Lake RCMP, together with local program sponsors, presented five winners chosen from the Act Positive Tickets program with final prizes on Sat. Oct 8 at 10 am.

The winners were selected from the numerous recipients of the Act Positive Tickets program held in the South Cowichan Communities, which was initiated in May 2011.

Island Savings, the Rotary Club of South Cowichan, the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society, and the Mill Bay Lions provided financial assistance for the program. Local businesses in the South Cowichan area supported the program by donating prizes for recipients.

Numerous Positive Tickets were issued to youth from May to Sept who displayed exemplary community involvement as well as a positive attitude and good behaviour.

The program's main goals were to engage youth, increase positive interaction with law enforcement and develop future community leaders.

Once a youth received a ticket from an RCMP officer, he/she turned it in at the Island Savings Credit Union in Mill Bay and chose a reward. The rewards ranged from passes for skating, swimming, local transit and movies to gift certificates from local mer-

chants in the community.

As well as the immediate reward, the youth's name was entered into the final draw for a \$500 term deposit from ISCU; two \$125 gift certificates from Mill Bay Mall merchants and two gift bags made up of various donated items from local merchants.

The Positive Ticket's coordinator Cst. Furlong presented the five winners with their prizes at a brief ceremony held at Island Savings in Mill Bay.

The prizes/winners are as follows:

Ryan Golia

\$500 term deposit from ISCU

Oliver Morgan

\$125 GIFT certificate from Mill Bay merchants

Lucas Nagel

\$125 GIFT certificate from Mill Bay merchants

Brendan Jacques

package of gifts from local merchants

Tyler Duffee

package of gifts

Masquerade Dance

**Theme: Fact or Fiction
Past or Present**
Providence Farm

Saturday, October 29
8pm to Midnight

Advance Tickets Only
\$30 per person
Live Music with

"Monster & the BOO-Monts"
Info:
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OLD FILM CAMERAS

Shawnigan Lake School photo club has a need for old SLR film cameras (non-digital).

If you have older cameras, extra lenses, filters, tripods, etc. the students will put your donation to good use.

Contact:
nmayes@shawnigan.ca or call 250-686-2904 for pick up.

UTILITY TRAILER

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

Call 250-743-5605

SPORTS REPORTER

Are you connected with the sports scene in Shawnigan Lake?

The Focus would like to feature young athletes and teams from this area.

Rewards are high... demands are few.

Join the Focus team!

Contact:
editor@shawniganfocus.c

Badminton

at Francis Kelsey School
The Cobble Hill Badminton Club meets Tuesday nights from 8pm to 10pm.

\$5.00 fee for drop-ins.

For more info call:
250-743-3487

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Hello, I'm Gay Wise, professional accountant and entrepreneur. In addition to many years as Chief Accountant for several small and medium sized businesses, I have owned and operated a number of businesses that have encompassed retail, service and manufacturing. In my own businesses I've done accounting (of course), sales, custom bicycle painting and the myriad other tasks that small business owners perform to keep their clients happy and the doors open.

I've tried enough things to know what I'm good at, and this is it. Whether you require that we only keep your accounting

A big part of our business is personal income tax preparation. Every member of our bookkeeping and accounting staff has training and considerable experience in preparing personal tax returns.

Over the last 11 years we've grown from a one person operation to a team of six. The rest of the team: Pauline, Danyel, Tsering, Fay and Cindy. We want your business and all look forward to serving you.

Brought to you by members of the Shawnigan Lake Business Assoc.



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