



Shawnigan Focus

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"



From left to right (Students jumping): Debbie Wong- Sean Morris- Valentina Ramirez Loaiza- Meagan Gagnon- Santiago Ramirez Loaiza - Photo – Karen Morris

Polar Bear Swim Makes Big Splash at Dwight

by Stephen Johnson

Monday, March 12th marked the 2nd annual "Polar Bear Swim," which saw staff and students dive into the icy waters (6.1 degrees Celsius) of Shawnigan Lake in an effort to raise funds for Haiti. Service Club member and current grade 12 student, Katie Koolman, led the fundraising effort. "The event was a huge success last year so we wanted to build on that," commented Koolman, "this year we were able to raise \$952 in aid for Haiti, so we are

extremely proud of our success."

Diver's braved the wind and rain while dressed in various outfits ranging from typical bathing suits to the more wacky wares, of a bear suit and witches outfit.

All funds raised will be used to help build schools in Haiti, which is still very much recovering from the massive-earthquake which hit the country in 2010. The Haitian School Project, through Free The

Children, has been a focus for the Dwight International Service Club these past couple of years raising thousands of dollars.

Dwight International School is an international university preparatory school. Together with consortium partners, The Dwight School/Anglo American International School, New York City and North London International School, United Kingdom, Dwight has a rich tradition of academic excellence.

Searching for the "Crow"

Two members of the Fleet Diving Unit (Pacific) of National Defense recently conducted a comprehensive search for the tug, the Crow, which is believed to have sunk nearly a century ago near the mouth of the West Arm. The Crow was the first of at least four steam tugs owned by the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company. Several attempts have been made in the past to find the tug without success.

One of the participants, Shawnigan Lake local Sebastien Arsenault, advised, "It is a chance for the Canadian Forces to test their recently purchased gear in heavy stratification and sediment waters and to prove the concept of operation in short local deployment."

Their plan was to use Shawnigan Lake, and the search for the tug, as a side scan sonar training exercise. If the target, the Crow, was identified, they would then do a more in depth survey with the ROV (remotely operated vehicle - a tethered underwater vehicle). Data collected would then be taken back to the shop where technicians could practice extracting relevant information such as video, images, GPS coordinates, bottom type, depth etc. with their sophisticated computer software.

The water depths in the area they surveyed, near the mouth of the West Arm, were between 3.5 to 19 meters. A few contacts were found that could belong to an old boat wreck but nothing that could be positively identified as the Crow. Further investigation and follow-up may occur at a later date.



"It is a chance for the Canadian Forces to test their recently purchased gear."

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The Watershed: It's Time to Pay Attention

by Dave Hutchinson

Watershed: Noun

1. A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that is under it, or drains off of it, goes into the same place.
2. An event or interval marking a unique or critical change of course, a turning point on which important developments depend.

For those aware of our local watershed it is usually within the framework of the first definition. With increasing pressure for growth and development it may be useful to keep the second meaning in mind. For many years the lake has taken all that we have thrown at it and, incredibly, still has acceptable water quality. Climate and overuse may be bringing us to the end of the free ride. Significant change could be coming over the next few years and, as a community, we need to become informed, consider options, and make the right decisions in order to preserve what we may now take for granted.

Shawnigan Lake is about 5.3 square kilometers in size with a primary watershed of about 69 square kilometers. There is no pristine wilderness left in the watershed. Approximately 50 percent of the area is private managed forest land. Another 25 percent is Crown land being used for forestry (Woodlots or Tree Farm Licenses). The remaining 25 percent consists of privately owned lots.

There are two main inflows to the lake: McGee Creek from the west and Shawnigan Creek from the south. The West Arm has a medium sized inflow and there are many smaller feeder creeks and seasonal streams. The lake drains from the north down Shawnigan Creek to Mill Bay. Water level is controlled by a weir on Shawnigan Creek to provide storage and prevent flooding. Measures of water turnover indicate a relatively short water flushing interval of approximately one year. Total lake volume is calculated at 64 million cubic metres.



Shawnigan Lake Watershed

The lake is the source of drinking water for several thousand people. A Ministry of Environment document from 2007 states that there were 225 active water withdrawal licenses permitted to extract over 7,000 cubic metres per day. There are two main water systems

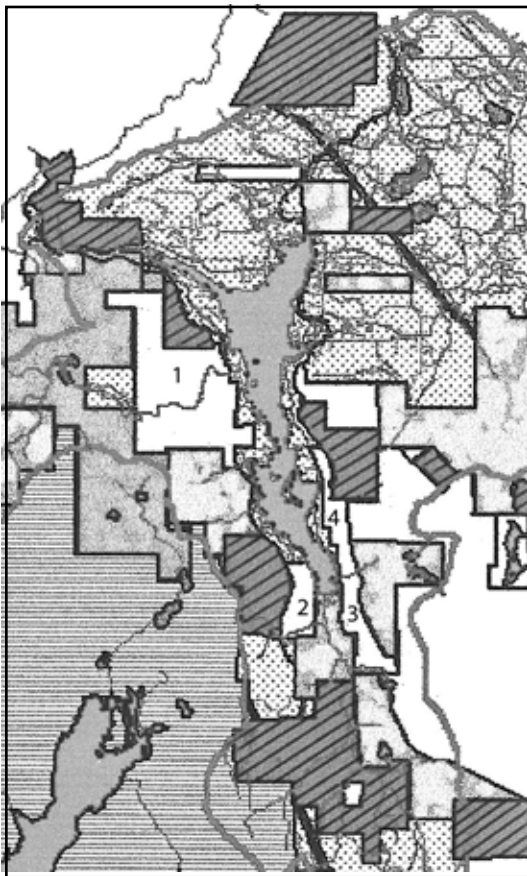
providing treated residential water: Shawnigan Lake North, now managed by the CVRD, and Shawnigan Village Water Works (Lidstech Holdings Ltd.), a private operation. More development will mean more users and more withdrawals from the lake. What is the lake's capacity for this purpose? Will lake levels need to be increased. Who do you trust to determine these things? Is the lake already a glass of water with too many straws?

Data collected over the past 30 years indicate the water quality is, for the most part, still acceptable. This is probably due to the unusually high flushing rate noted earlier. Warning signs are appearing though. The CVRD has contracted with Dr. Asit Mazumder of the University of Victoria to conduct a five-year program of water quality testing. His recent findings note detectable levels of caffeine and pharmaceuticals, a result due to septic seepage into the lake. There have also been concerns about

organic carbon levels which can contribute to the production of trihalomethanes which are chemical compounds formed when chlorine is used to disinfect water for drinking. Many are considered carcinogenic.

Continuing growth and development within the watershed, in addition to a high level of recreational use, present challenges in protecting water quality. **Compared to the Victoria watershed (Sooke Lake) we have virtually no regulations.**

There are large areas of private forest lands in our watershed. The CVRD and Advisory Planning Commission regularly receive applications to rezone forestry land into residential. This trend will increase and some of the parcels are huge. Should this be permitted and, if so, to what scale and density? Development Permit charges could fund much needed infrastructure like community sewers and upgraded water systems. At what cost to the environment and character of Shawnigan, though? If left as forest lands then the trees will be harvested and there will be more unsightly clear-cuts. Trees grow back but there would be no reversing residential development. It is all about choices and what we want as a community.



Forestry or Residential Development?
(See numbered areas)

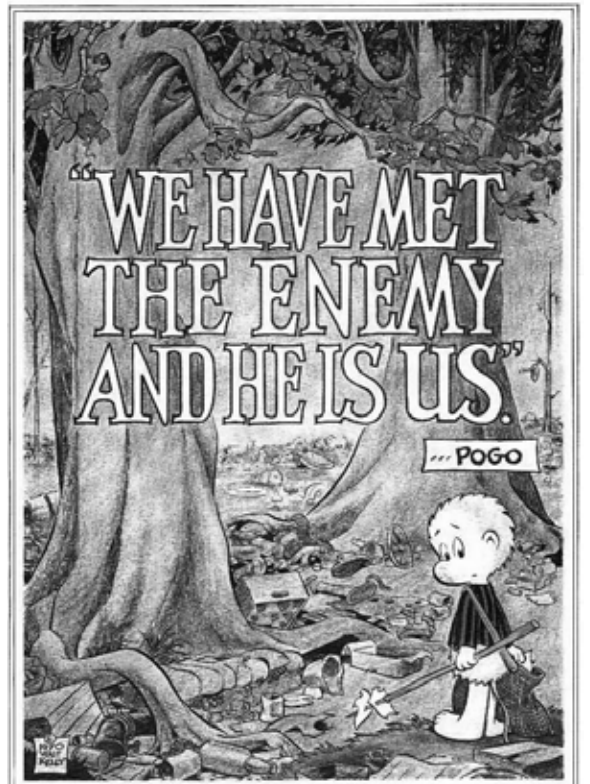
There are many more issues which include:

- **Protection of Riparian Areas:** Natural vegetation along streams and around the lakeshore is essential for a healthy lake. There are rules but they are poorly understood, frequently ignored, and inconsistently enforced.
- **Invasive and Introduced Species:** Example - Smallmouth bass were introduced into Shawnigan Lake around 1990 - probably by sport fishermen. A comment attributed to Richard Best, author of a Shawnigan Creek Watershed report, contends that "their introduction has probably caused the greatest environmental upheaval the lake has seen since the end of the last Ice Age. Lakefront

residents have expressed the opinion that the great numbers of sculpins and crayfish which used to be seen around the docks, and in the shallows all over the lake, are almost all gone now. It seems as if all the available biomass of anything that has legs or fins has been recycled into bass."

- **Recreational Impacts:** Excessive wakes, noise, litter and pollution are all topics which relate to a general disregard for the well-being of the lake and others users. Overuse during peak periods is another concern.

- **Climate Change:** Some predictions call for more precipitation during the wet season but also longer and dryer summers. This would require storing more water during the winter so it could be released gradually over a longer dry period. It would



"It is our Watershed. It needs our respect!"

also mean higher water levels over the winter.

- **Local Control:** Watershed issues are often complex and involve multiple jurisdictions. The buck gets passed and things tend to fall through the cracks. More local control is needed.

It is our Watershed. It needs our respect!

Unfortunately many people don't know or care where their drinking water comes from and some see nothing wrong with tossing trash in the lake. Most of us are just too busy to pay attention until it is too late. Awareness, education and a respect for our habitat are necessary now. What can YOU do? For those activists out there, the **Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch** has been doing noble work since its inception in 2000. The **Shawnigan Residents Association** is a more mainstream group concerned with many area issues including the watershed. The recently formed **Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable** is intended to gather all stakeholders together to identify issues and find solutions to complex, multi-jurisdictional problems. Google any of these to find out more. Write letters to the editor. Talk to your friends and neighbours. Think about what your vision for Shawnigan is. Care, and get involved!

Tipping Points: The Haunting Uncertainties

by Ray Grigg (re-printed with permission)

Tipping points are haunting uncertainties because they pertain to the unpredictable moment when the cumulative effects of environmental disturbance can trigger feedback loops of unstoppable change that can collapse entire ecosystems. They apply everywhere, from species loss and climate change to ocean acidification and food production. The best predictors are mostly intelligent estimates based on projected effects. Tipping points leave scientists anxious because of the combination of uncertainty and

extremely serious consequences.

We have, however, learned of the occasional tipping point from experience. The collapse of Newfoundland's Grand Banks' cod, for example, occurred when over fishing lowered populations below a critical threshold and a once stupendously rich resource simply vanished from commercial value. So we usually learn in retrospect what the critical conditions were. But by then the tipping point has been reached and the sorry end is a foregone conclusion.

Of course, we have warnings. But we never know how seriously to take them because we can't be certain how to assess the risks. When does the concentration of open net-pen salmon farms in BC's marine ecology create the conditions that undermine the viability of wild salmon? And when does the gradual loss of wild salmon trigger a fatal collapse in orca populations? We don't know that either. That's another experiment we are running.

On a larger scale, we know that plastic particles are accumulating in

our marine ecosystems but we don't know when their toxic effects will render species inedible or poison the entire food chain. We know we are disturbing the planet's nitrogen cycle because ocean dead zones have increased from just a few to over 400 in the last two decades but we don't know when this should cause alarm. We know that carbon dioxide emissions are increasing the production of oceanic carbonic acid but we don't

cont: page 7 "Tipping Points"

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 full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters can attack issues - not individuals. Send letters to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

What it is like to be a care worker in Complex Care Facility?

There have been several news articles recently about the high cost of Health Care and suggestions that, to save the government and taxpayers' money, wages for caregivers should be less. As a caregiver, I am shocked and angered by this statement.

The public should be aware of some of the challenges that we, in the health care system, face.

I currently work in a Complex Care Facility. Some people picture the residents as happy, aging individuals sitting in lounges enjoying their declining years drinking tea and eating cookies. All too often, this is not the case. It is not all sunshine and roses. Residents can have a multitude of ailments that need to be attended to in addition to their basic daily care. They are there because they are no longer able to live on their own; nor are their families able to look after them.

As caregivers, we monitor all aspects of each resident's daily care and inform the nursing staff of changes. I enjoy my work and find it very rewarding. However, like any other profession there are unpleasant parts.

The residents, no matter how healthy, physically or mentally, are in their declining years and need more complex care as they age. Some can accept the care - others don't understand and fight it. Caregivers walk a fine line between encouraging independence and keeping an individual safe and happy.

Taking care of people with a multitude of ailments is not an easy job. As caregivers, we deal with people who have become incontinent and some with colostomies or catheters. Residents sometimes create unimaginable messes that need to be cleaned up. Some residents cannot eat or drink for themselves and need to be fed by the care staff. Many require specially prepared diets because they have lost

the ability to chew or swallow properly.

The injury rate for caregivers is high because we work with people who are aged and frail and whose physical abilities can be unpredictable. Staff can suffer from back and shoulder injuries. I would estimate that one in four residents living in such facilities suffers from dementia as well as other physical disabilities. With dementia residents, caregivers can be subjected to verbal as well as physical abuse. Dementia causes most to become quite violent at times. Caregivers can be pinched, scratched, spit on, punched or kicked, yelled and sworn at on a regular basis. Some residents suffer from depression as well. Yet, a caregiver's responsibility is to treat all residents with dignity and respect. I feel this is their basic right.

Some residents have no family; others have family that live too far away for them to visit on a regular basis. Caregivers become their surrogate families. I have seen resident's faces light up when we come back to work after being away for a few days. We give hugs and kisses. Every person, regardless of who they are, deserves to be touched in a loving manner.

My job is a balance between hard, physical work and making someone's last remaining time pleasant and meaningful. I try my utmost to treat everyone the same way I would like to be treated in this situation.

Anna Ruttan

Higher Taxes Higher Raises

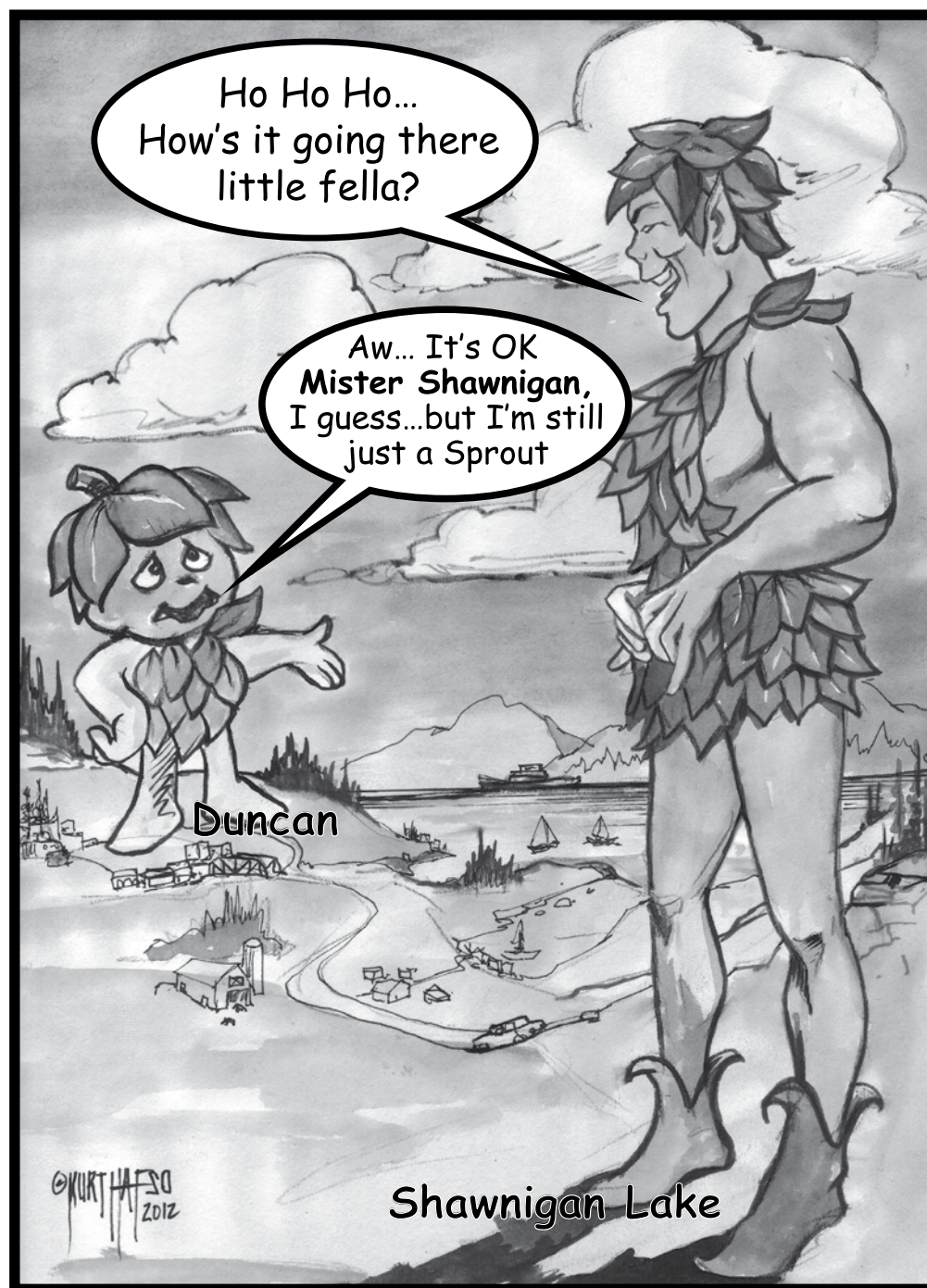
The CVRD is planning for more spending and paying big raises to staff this year again!

The CVRD Board disclosed after questions from the public in a recent budget meeting that they are planning to give their employees 2.5% raises again this year, far in excess of inflation, and at the same time help themselves to another raise in their own pay. All of this to be paid by overburdened taxpayers.

The CVRD budget strategy for the \$60 million+ budget this year is to cut services and increase wages for staff. It's time for their amateur approach to budget preparation to change to a sharp focus on necessary and core services, key deliverables and a lot more accountability.

More than 40 of the 219 CVRD staff already make more than \$75,000 per year and at least 20 collect more than \$100,000 in pay, plus pension benefits that most taxpayers and seniors can only dream of.

The head bureaucrat in the CVRD now collects a pay cheque and benefits close to what we pay BC's Premier - \$190,000 per year or almost \$1000 per working day. It is time the Board reined in CVRD pay to what is going on in the real world. I am a strong believer in fair pay for all, but this is out of control and has



"Shawnigan Population tops 8100... Duncan falls below 5000"

been for some time.

The other day I got four letters from the CVRD regarding information I had requested on their spending. Each of the letters was signed by three different senior staff. How many organizations have so many staff that three of them (all making more than \$90,000 per year) can waste their time signing the same letter to a taxpayer?

All other governments are taking action to control spending in these tough times. What planet are these guys from?

W.E.(Bill) Dumont

Creek Clean Out or Taxpayer Clean Out?

In the February 2011 issue of the Focus, Grant Price lists the problems that could result from a very severe rainy season. Those problems are certainly possible. Is a creek clean out between the lake and the road bridge the solution?

There are two scientific reports that say that other options must be considered.

The first report - the 1985 BC Water Level study - says that the bottleneck is well down the creek. Guessing that the creek mouth is the bottleneck is not appropriate. We can make accurate measurements within the creek all the way down to the weir and find out. I have heard that Shawnigan School has two Environment clubs that may be interested in

undertaking a science project. There is a simple project that could discover the bottlenecks. Once we know where the bottlenecks are, then we can address the real problems rather than the apparent problem.

The second report - the 2009 South Cowichan Water Plan Study - says that we can expect shorter wetter winters and longer drier summers. If that happens then we will have to keep the lake level higher in the winter to be able to still have safe water at the end of the summer. (See Oct 2011 BrentattheFocus column or my blog at BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com)

The third important consideration is not a report. It is the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable - an initiative of our new area director Bruce Fraser. Modelled on the very successful Lake Cowichan Watershed Roundtable, this new roundtable will bring together all interested parties for in depth discussion of all watershed issues. Deciding that we understand one issue and that we must attack that issue before the roundtable has begun its work seems at best impolite.

Money for watershed related projects will be tight. Spending \$18,000 before we even know what the roundtable recommends would put us in a deeper funding hole.

Every dollar of taxpayer money is important. None can be spent without justification.

Brent Beach

It's Your Children's Future....

I find it sad, and disheartening that the parents of our school children are not inundating this Liberal Government with letters demanding an explanation as to why our Teachers are "Not" treated with the same respect the other Provinces have shown for their Public School Teachers. 11 monthsno contract. This Liberal Government have cut, undermined and literally broken our "Publicly" funded School System. Can all these parents actually afford "Private schools" for their children in the future?? They should be fighting hard for their tax dollars to be spent on the schools their children attend. Believe me.. We all pay big taxes for these schools.. Write a letter, get Mad for your children's future. They deserve a good education and this Liberal Government have chosen the "Public School System" to be an enemy of theirs and in turn ours.....losing sight of.. and it seems..not caring for what they actually do..... Prepare our children for Their future....Come on....a simple e-mail...something....It's up to you.. It's Your Children's future.....

D'Arcy Rattray

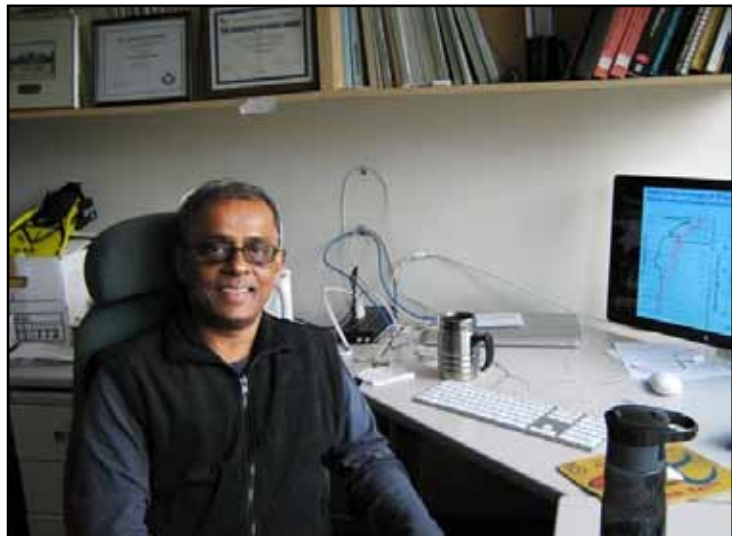
Dr. Mazumder's Lab

By Graham Ross-Smith

Dr. Asit Mazumder is a scientist at the University of Victoria who has been studying the waters and sediments of Shawnigan and other BC lakes for many years. When his funding for his Shawnigan work ran dry a few years ago,

here and around the world.

According to Dr. Mazumder, from his analysis of many water samples from the lake over a good many years, we, the residents of this area, have good reason to be concerned about our lake's water, for



the CVRD managed to come up with monies to enable Dr. Mazumder to continue his work on several Cowichan Valley lakes. The five year contract for his services and those of his laboratory is now in its second year.

Grant Price is the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) director responsible for dealing with issues of lake water quality, and he has been in touch with Dr. Mazumder quite a lot in recent months. Naturally he could not resist accepting an invitation by Dr. Mazumder to visit his Uvic lab. So on February 28th, two SRA directors, Grant Price and Graham Ross-Smith, along with Shawnigan Lake School teacher Scott Noble, spent an hour of so with Dr. Mazumder discussing his research findings and learning about the many pieces of equipment in the lab and the projects he and his team are involved with

the lake is not only a place on which to water-ski, fish, swim, canoe, etc., it is our reservoir. He has found, for example, that the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the lake has roughly doubled since he began taking water samples over twenty years ago. Too much of these chemicals in a lake leads to algae blooms and eventual social eutrophication (lake aging due to human influences). Caffeine and traces of some pharmaceuticals are also showing up in Shawnigan Lake water. Since these come from human waste, their presence in the lake strongly suggests that they are finding their way into the water from septic systems in the watershed; and not necessarily from only those located near the lake shore.

Dr. Mazumder explained to Grant, Graham and Scott about the differences between nitrogen 14 and nitrogen 15, the dangers of chlorine by-products, the concerns around several types of pathogens, the folly of eating Shawnigan's small mouth bass weighing over a kilogram because of the mercury content, and many other interesting and fairly technical things. Dr. Mazumder's scientific work and his knowledge of our lake are indeed, impressive. He is keen to share what he has learned about our lake and has offered to present his findings to anyone in the area who is interested enough to give an evening to come out and hear his presentation. The SRA intends to arrange for such a presentation in the near future. Stay tuned. For more information about Dr. Mazumder go to www.uvic.ca/water.

Shawnigan Watershed Round Table Meets

By Graham Ross-Smith

The first meeting of the Shawnigan Watershed Round Table took place at the community centre's Elsie Miles annex on March third with about 15 people attending, including Area Director Dr. Bruce Fraser and his alternate, Kelly Musselwhite.

As Director Fraser indicated in the February issue of the Focus, the work of those involved in this first meeting was to establish the Round Table's working group, to identify watershed issues needing to be addressed and to set priorities for action. The keen interest in the lake's watershed that was shown by all of those in attendance bodes well for the future effectiveness of this group to gain a sound understanding of Shawnigan's watershed issues and ways and means to conserve those elements that contribute to proper watershed function and to initiate remediation measures where required.

After participants introduced themselves and gave their reasons for wanting to be involved in the future welfare of the watershed, each spoke about what they saw as the most salient issues in the watershed currently. The future

quality of the lake's water in the face of a development and population pressures was by far the number one concern.

organic landscaper/gardener, several waterfront property owners and representatives from the Advisory Planning



But, there were also many others, such as the multitude of governmental jurisdictions in the watershed, seepage of harmful materials into the lake from septic systems, public access to the lake and considerable disrespect for the lake and its watershed.

The meeting was open to all who are interested in the lake and the watershed. Understandably, there were several folks from the major forest companies, a woodlot operator, a freshwater ecologist, a couple of biologists, an

Commission, the Shawnigan Residents Association and the Shawnigan Lake Business Association.

This gathering of people under the rubric of a watershed round table is the beginning of a process and it will evolve over time. Approaches such as this elsewhere have often led to the establishment of sound watershed management mechanisms and practices. With any luck, this will be the result, in time, at Shawnigan as well.

Incorporation – Where do WE go from here?

by Brent Beach Last month I reviewed the past - the governance studies affecting Shawnigan Lake in 1992-97 and 2008-09. This week I will discuss the present.

My involvement is through the Shawnigan Residents Association. SRA President Garry Horwood has kept the governance issue alive, arranging meetings with the ministry (provincial ministry concerned with municipal incorporation).

My interest is not to press ahead with incorporation for Shawnigan Lake and I am sure Garry's is not either. My interest is to complete a study of the issues involved in service provision to, governance of, and incorporation options for Shawnigan Lake. As Sgt. Friday would say – "Just the Facts."

Past studies have focused on incorporation of most of the south end of the regional district into a single municipality. The 1996 study looked at more options, but the referendum was on a single municipality. The 2009 study recommended further study of a single municipality. I feel that without a study that includes analysis from the point of view of Shawnigan Lake alone, I would be unable to vote yes in any referendum.

Doing a study from the Shawnigan Lake point of view faces many hurdles.

Right now, the ministry has no budget for incorporation studies. Typically the ministry provides a grant to hire a consultant. That grant could be \$100,000 or more. That money is not available now and not for the next few years. The ministry also has no budget for staff time to support an incorporation study.

The ministry will not accept a study from a single community group. Any work must be broadly based, representing all of the community stakeholders.

The ministry will not accept a study from the community unless the study is supported by the electoral area director (possibly directors of nearby electoral areas as well) and the regional district. We have gained some support for an objective study from our new area director, Bruce Fraser. Bruce participated in our last conference call with the ministry and has said he will participate in the next meeting with the ministry.

Given all these (and many more) obstacles, what can WE realistically expect to achieve?

I believe WE can do a community based study, using volunteers, that will document the implications of incorporating Shawnigan Lake.

I believe WE can encourage residents of the other south end electoral areas to undertake comparable community based volunteer studies.

I believe WE can combine the resulting studies to find appropriate incorporation boundaries within the south end, or find that no such boundaries exist.

I believe WE can obtain the support of the area directors, the region and the ministry if we do this well.

I believe WE can involve and inform all the residents throughout the study period, answering questions from residents and incorporating those answers in the final document.

The "WE" in the preceding six sentences, is not me. It is not the SRA. It is a large group of residents of Shawnigan Lake who are willing to volunteer their time, energy and skills in a project that has as its sole goal the discovery of the political organization that maximizes the quality of life of the residents of the Shawnigan Lake valley.

If there is no "WE" there is no project. If there is no project, our area will continue to fumble along the development path preferred by the ministry. The residents of Shawnigan Lake, and other south end communities, will never know if that is the best path or not.

Are you part of the "WE"? If you are, get in touch with me, with Bruce Fraser or with the SRA. WE can take control of the future of Shawnigan Lake.

Additional material and links to documents at BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com

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Shawnigan Lake
Parks Commission

by Margaret Symon

After last month’s evening prowling along the TransCanada Trail in pursuit of hooting owls and other things that go bump in the night, this month we’re welcoming March with a St. Patrick’s Day spring saunter through Bright Angel Park. Did I hear you say “Bright Angel Park’s not in Shawnigan”? Yes, that’s correct, but we are fortunate to have a role to play in the stewardship of Bright Angel Park. You see, the South Cowichan Parks Commission (comprised of Areas A, B, C, and D) recently assumed responsibility to oversee the Bright Angel Park function. Let’s step back through time to find out why.

In 1958, Jack Fleetwood and his wife, Mabel, donated land along the Koksilah River for a park. Jack, an Irish Catholic and writer, aptly named the parkland donation in honour of guardian angels. Over the years, Jack penned many poems inspired by the natural beauty of Bright Angel Park.

In 1988, the Bright Angel Support Society was formed with the aims of developing educational programs at the park, enhancing the park’s natural resources, and encouraging the use of the park by the public as a natural education resource. The society was influential in developing trails and amenities at the park, and, as a result, Bright Angel Park became one of the most popular parks in the Cowichan Valley. The park provides visitors with a number of amenities, including hiking, swimming, nature study, picnicking, and group camping. On a summer day, it is not uncommon for the park to receive hundreds of visitors.

Over the last decade, members of the original support society have declined, and so, too, have improvements to Bright Angel Park. The South Cowichan Parks Commission recently identified an urgent need to update many of the park’s aging facilities in order to increase health, wellness, and recreational opportunities at the park. It is important to incorporate these much-needed improvements into a carefully managed ecosystem-based plan so as to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Bright Angel Park, in accordance with the wishes of the Fleetwoods.

Spring at Bright Angel Park! Children rock back and forth on the old suspension bridge crossing the Koksilah. As we listen to the spirited chirping of song birds, and marvel at the understorey of trilliums and fawn lilies, can you almost imagine you hear Jack Fleetwood imploring us to do our best to look after his treasured Bright Angel Park? If you have any suggestions for improvements to this valley gem, please contact the CVRD Parks Department.

Happy Spring! See you in the next issue of the Focus! Margaret is the Chair of Area B (Shawnigan Lake) Parks Commission



Shawnigan
Woodlots

By Elijah Fraser

“I had a lease of all the timber around the Lake for a mile back of the shoreline, for fifty cents per thousand feet and when that was cut I could go clear back to the E&N boundary-line.” - William E. Lossee (on sawmill operations of the 1890s)

By the turn of the nineteenth century, logging in Shawnigan Lake had left its mark. Though not quite so prominent today, as timber passes through on trucks, forestry continues to be interwoven into our community. Besides the land belonging to Timber West and Island Timberlands, five of the South Island Forest District’s twenty-five woodlot licences are situated within Shawnigan’s borders and a further two have been proposed.

According to the Ministry of Forests’ website, the Woodlot Licence Program originated in the 1950s when licences were awarded as “Farm Woodlots”. Although arguably small scale, these woodlots continue to impact our community as we live, work, and play. “Many of the licences are located in urban interface areas of the East Coast of Vancouver Island and provide many local people with forest recreation opportunities.”

Earlier this month, I took a tour of one such woodlot with Keith Granbois, a partner in R&K Woodlot Ltd., on a parcel of his 281 hectare licence. The parcel, which stretches from Cobble Hill Mountain to Hillbank Road, was first awarded in the early 1960s and has been in his family ever since.

We started out in a small cut block that had been harvested the previous year. Granbois explained how unpredictable circumstances such as outbreaks of “root rot,” sometimes dictate what timber is harvested. Within a

carefully regulated program, R&K Woodlot is permitted to harvest up to thirteen-hundred cubic meters per year within a five year cycle and pays stumpage fees to the Province. But harvesting is only the beginning of a long process. The licensee is required to reforest and ensure the young saplings are “free to growclear”. Over the next fifteen years, a battle ensues against the encroaching bracken, blackberries, brambles, briar and invasive species, not to mention the elk. All the while, the Ministry monitors and surveys the progress.

Our tour continued through forests at varying stages of reforestation. It was evident that Granbois was not only proud of the trees cut and replanted, but also the ones that were left untouched. Wildlife trees, babbling brooks, a patch of lilies, or a scenic grove - the sensitive areas preserved displayed a pride of responsible stewardship, and not just a mere adherence to regulation. It wasn’t all pretty though; blatant disregard for the environment was displayed in more than one site.

Granbois was clearly frustrated by the household goods, yard waste, and even hazardous materials dumped by the truckload along the more accessible logging roads.

Besides being responsible to the public at large, through the Ministry of Forests, woodlot licensees consult with local authorities and First Nations. Groves of trees with sacred or cultural significance are preserved. “It’s nice to actually see them come out and making use of the trees as part of their culture. It’s really great to see,” he said as he pointed out large cedars where bark stripping had occurred for use in traditional crafts.

The best example of forestry working in cooperation with the community came towards the end of the tour. In 2002, over one thousand acres adjoining the smaller Quarry Nature Park was designated by the CVRD as the Cobble Hill Mountain Regional Recreation Area. As hiking, biking and equestrian trails are planned, developed and maintained, forestry and logging continue in a coordinated effort between CVRD Parks and the woodlot licensees. Last year the site received a unique designation as an Interpretive



Forest by the Ministry. “We work very closely with the woodlot licensees,” Brian Farquhar, CVRD Parks and Trails Manager said in a telephone interview, “To make sure that the trails are placed complimentary to the woodlot activities; to ensure that trail users are going through safe areas; to work with them on appropriate signage to make people aware it is an active woodlot; and that we are supportive of their role on crown land. Trails and active woodlots can work hand in hand.” Further information can be found on the CVRD and Ministry of Forest’s websites.

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The Wildside ...
Otters Just Want To Have Fun

by Dave Hutchinson

Northern River Otter
Lontra canadensis



| |
|--|
| 14 kg; 1.3 m; longer tail for balance on land |
| Den on land; only 1/3 of lives spent in water |
| Fur nowhere near as thick as river otters do not stay in cold water but come out on land |
| 1-6 offspring (usually 2-3) |
| 4 limbs all claw like; front paws not differentiated as must walk on land |
| Pups disperse after 6 month |
| Fish, shellfish and possibly some small land animals and an occasional bird |
| Sexually mature at age 2-3 |
| Range: Throughout Coastal British Columbia - on land and in marine and freshwater |



Shawnigan Lake docks are a popular “meeting” place for Otter business!

It is a delight to see these enchanting creatures several times each year. They seem to disappear during the busy summer season but grace us with their presence when the lake is quiet. It is wonderful to observe the frolicking antics and pure pleasure of just existing and being alive - I think they must have coined the term “carpe diem”.

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Shawnigan Lake
Community Association presents...
Annual Easter Event



On Easter Sunday, April 8th, the Shawnigan Lake Community Association hosts their annual Easter Event at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Beginning at 12:30 pm, the gym will open with a bouncy play zone and several activities including face painting and balloon twister! Tickets will be given at the door to all participants, adult and youth, which will be entered in a draw for prizes. Draws will be made at 2 pm and winners must be present to win!

At 1 pm, an Easter Egg Hunt will begin. Only children will participate in the hunt. Grab your basket and join the fun...rain or shine!

The SLCA thanks the BC Gaming Commission, The SL Community Centre and all volunteers for making this event successful year after year!

Do you like to plan special events? The SLCA is looking for volunteers to join our team to plan Canada Day celebrations for our community on July 1st, Canada Day! We welcome new ideas and energy!

To contact us, please leave your name and contact information at the office in the Community Centre or email stayafloat@shaw.ca putting SLCA in the subject line.

Take a Hike!

by Robin Massey

Back in December Dave Hutchinson wrote in this very publication about the local 'Quarry' (aka Kingzett Lake). And yes many of us know it as a fabulous swimming hole, running track, mountain bike park, skating rink (backside), camp site and of course hosting an abundance of hiking opportunities. Our group was inspired to do 'the Quarry loop' sooner than later for our monthly fieldtrip because we just don't know what is destined for this fabulous piece of paradise!

On the last February Sunday in the beautiful sunshiny, crispy and crunchy morning we entered the Quarry at

the most commonly known entrance, the yellow gate where Northgate and Thain roads meet. We felt quite blessed since we were predicted a snowy week-end (which did happen a

little bit later on that day). And even through the chill in the air we knew that it's really no problem because with hiking you warm up quickly, especially with inclines!

About fifteen minutes into the hike, our fabulous leader (me) took the group up to the right gravelly trail so we could have instant gratification and enjoy the amazing bird's eye view of the Quarry. No matter how many times I've seen it - it's always breathtaking. Note to potential hikers: It is very easy to become distracted as you carve your cliffside by the amaz-

ing view so be extremely aware of your feet at all times!

Down low at the far side, by the little retaining wall/beach area, the puppies were more than happy to plunge into the icy cool waters and drink up until they could no longer drink up any more. Further up the trail, we wedged ourselves through the giant boulders



and made our way back onto the asphalt road back and onwards to the gate.

At the Quarry it is always a pleasure to see so many others enjoying the beauty plunked in between farmland and rural suburbia.

And dare I repeat myself yet again, if you haven't been here ... stop reading this and go now! No seriously, it's a must for every local to truly appreciate our fabulous areas. There are tons of trails around the Quarry allowing you to make an easy or challenging hike and don't forget, if you are particularly hot one summer day, get down there and join your neighbours in a refreshing dip!

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



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| Down Payment | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Down Payment | \$11,495 | \$22,990 | \$34,485 | \$45,980 |
| Mortgage | \$218,405 | \$206,910 | \$195,415 | \$183,920 |
| Default insurance premium | 2.95% | 2.20% | 1.95% | 0.00% |
| Default insurance premium | \$6,443 | \$4,552 | \$3,811 | \$0 |
| Total Financing | \$224,848 | \$211,462 | \$199,226 | \$183,920 |
| Principal & Interest | \$917 | \$888 | \$837 | \$773 |
| Condo Fees | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Property Taxes (Estimated) | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Total Monthly Payment | \$1,017 | \$988 | \$937 | \$873 |
| Annual Income Required* | see below ** | see below ** | see below ** | \$32,722 |
| Estimated Closing Costs* | Payable on or before closing | | | |

This chart is for illustrations purposes only.
*Rates may differ for smaller mortgage amounts. Interest rates effective as of January 31, 2012. Rates are subject to change without notice. Interest is calculated semi-annually, not in advance. For the purpose of this illustration, the interest rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are the same assuming no cost of borrowing charges other than interest apply. All mortgage products are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. This is the list price supplied by the builder or real estate professional shown above. Sample calculations are based on the assumption that the property is purchased for the full list price and will differ depending upon actual purchase price. **For the Annual Income required where the down payment is less than 20% of the purchase price, please speak to your RBC Mortgage Specialist. All mortgage applicants must meet Royal Bank of Canada standard lending criteria for residential mortgages. The Annual Income required is only one indicator and does not guarantee mortgage approval. Actual cost may differ. This sheet does not imply any endorsement nor approval by Royal Bank of Canada of any third party or their advice opinions, information, products or services. © Registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. TM Trademark of Royal Bank of Canada.

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Shawnigan Tourist & Business Centre



INVITATION FOR INPUT

The Shawnigan Lake Business Association is looking at the viability of opening a Tourist & Business Centre in Shawnigan Village, next to the Island Pharmacy where Island Savings used to be.

The concept is to establish space that can provide small, home based businesses a location in the village of Shawnigan. Many of the businesses in our community are run from home offices or kitchen tables. By sharing the costs, the space will provide these businesses an affordable option for taking their business to the next level.

The space will be setup with work stations for 4 to 6 businesses, a private meeting room for use by both the tenants, as well as local groups and organizations, and a tourist/community information area for people looking to find out more about Shawnigan.

Along with the businesses, there are many community groups that operate in the same capacity. Our hope is to provide a contact point for these groups - a place for people to pick up/drop off membership forms, get information or to find out when the next meeting is. There will also be a desk available for short-term use with Internet.

As well, we are working to provide benefits to SLBA members. This will include business card racks for members and preferred rates for rack cards. Our map will be printed and mounted for both visitors and residents to see and for information on the services provided by our members.

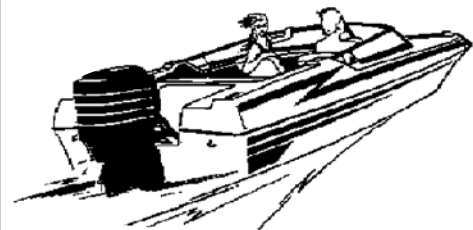
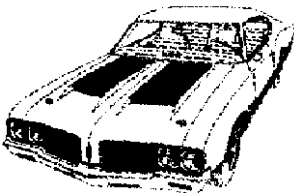
At this point, the SLBA board is looking to gather input and interest in the project, source funding, and to work out the details. If you think this may be a good fit for your business, or if you are just looking to clear the kitchen table, please let us know.

Contact Trina Burns at trinaburns@shaw.ca or Roy Davies at roydavies@shaw.ca if you are interested in learning more.



One of the proposed sites for the new Business Centre

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March/April TIDE TABLE - FULFORD HARBOUR

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wed 21 Mar | 05:25 | 10.4H | 11:22 | 5.6L | 17:23 | 9.3H | 23:16 | 5.2L |
| Thu 22 Mar | 05:48 | 10.2H | 11:54 | 4.9L | 18:14 | 9.5H | 23:55 | 5.8L |
| Fri 23 Mar | 06:09 | 10.1H | 12:25 | 4.3L | 19:03 | 9.6H | | |
| Sat 24 Mar | 00:35 | 6.4L | 06:31 | 9.9H | 12:59 | 3.9L | 19:52 | 9.8H |
| Sun 25 Mar | 01:15 | 7.0L | 06:52 | 9.8H | 13:33 | 3.5L | 20:43 | 9.8H |
| Mon 26 Mar | 01:59 | 7.5L | 07:14 | 9.6H | 14:11 | 3.4L | 21:38 | 9.8H |
| Tue 27 Mar | 02:47 | 8.0L | 07:36 | 9.5H | 14:51 | 3.3L | 22:38 | 9.8H |
| Wed 28 Mar | 03:42 | 8.3L | 08:00 | 9.3H | 15:36 | 3.4L | 23:44 | 9.8H |
| Thu 29 Mar | 04:54 | 8.6L | 08:29 | 9.1H | 16:27 | 3.5L | | |
| Fri 30 Mar | 00:52 | 9.8H | 06:24 | 8.6L | 09:09 | 8.8H | 17:24 | 3.7L |
| Sat 31 Mar | 01:51 | 9.9H | 07:42 | 8.4L | 10:17 | 8.6H | 18:25 | 3.8L |
| Sun 01 Apr | 02:36 | 10.0H | 08:31 | 7.9L | 11:58 | 8.4H | 19:26 | 3.9L |
| Mon 02 Apr | 03:11 | 10.0H | 09:05 | 7.2L | 13:35 | 8.4H | 20:22 | 4.1L |
| Tue 03 Apr | 03:40 | 10.1H | 09:36 | 6.4L | 14:58 | 8.7H | 21:12 | 4.4L |
| Wed 04 Apr | 04:05 | 10.1H | 10:08 | 5.3L | 16:09 | 9.1H | 22:00 | 4.9L |
| Thu 05 Apr | 04:29 | 10.1H | 10:43 | 4.2L | 17:14 | 9.6H | 22:45 | 5.5L |
| Fri 06 Apr | 04:54 | 10.2H | 11:21 | 3.1L | 18:15 | 10.0H | 23:31 | 6.3L |
| Sat 07 Apr | 05:19 | 10.3H | 12:02 | 2.1L | 19:15 | 10.4H | | |
| Sun 08 Apr | 00:18 | 7.1L | 05:47 | 10.4H | 12:47 | 1.5L | 20:16 | 10.6H |
| Mon 09 Apr | 01:08 | 7.8L | 06:17 | 10.5H | 13:34 | 1.2L | 21:18 | 10.7H |
| Tue 10 Apr | 02:03 | 8.4L | 06:51 | 10.4H | 14:24 | 1.3L | 22:24 | 10.7H |
| Wed 11 Apr | 03:08 | 8.8L | 07:29 | 10.1H | 15:18 | 1.8L | 23:31 | 10.6H |
| Thu 12 Apr | 04:29 | 8.9L | 08:13 | 9.7H | 16:15 | 2.4L | | |
| Fri 13 Apr | 00:34 | 10.6H | 06:03 | 8.7L | 09:13 | 9.1H | 17:17 | 3.2L |
| Sat 14 Apr | 01:31 | 10.6H | 07:32 | 8.1L | 10:51 | 8.4H | 18:24 | 4.1L |
| Sun 15 Apr | 02:18 | 10.6H | 08:35 | 7.2L | 12:53 | 8.1H | 19:31 | 4.8L |
| Mon 16 Apr | 02:57 | 10.5H | 09:19 | 6.4L | 14:38 | 8.2H | 20:32 | 5.5L |
| Tue 17 Apr | 03:29 | 10.4H | 09:54 | 5.5L | 16:00 | 8.5H | 21:26 | 6.0L |
| Wed 18 Apr | 03:56 | 10.2H | 10:25 | 4.7L | 17:02 | 9.0H | 22:14 | 6.6L |
| Thu 19 Apr | 04:18 | 10.0H | 10:54 | 4.0L | 17:53 | 9.4H | 22:58 | 7.0L |

from page 2 "Tipping Points"

know when the acidifying process will trigger a chain reaction that collapses the entire structure of marine life.

This uncertainty is risk. So we need to decide what risks we are willing to take with tipping points. Climatologists estimate that we could court climate disaster if we raise biosphere temperatures above 2°C. We are already at 1.6°C, with global greenhouse gas emissions still climbing by record amounts and no serious constraints planned until 2020. Some climatologists argue that "thermal inertia", the delayed response of climate to emissions, means we are already committed to a temperature increase of at least 4°C by 2050 and 5.5°C to 7°C by 2100.

If we don't know exactly where most tipping points are, then how do we know when our behaviour is safe or foolish? We don't know – yet. But we already have evidence that large quantities of methane, a potent greenhouse gas held in storage by cold water and frozen tundra, are being released in alarming quantities as Arctic regions warm at a rate almost four times faster than elsewhere. And measurements indicate that methane is venting along the entire interface of the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans. Both events worry scientists because this methane release suggests we may have already exceeded a crucial tipping point.

Now we are getting disturbing information about food production on a warming planet. Satellite images of maturing wheat can identify when green plants stop growing and turn to brown. Previous indications were that a 2°C temperature increase would reduce these crop yields by 30 percent. New data from surveying the Ganges Plain suggest the reduction is 45 to 50 percent (Island Tides, Feb. 9/12).

More exacting studies in the US confirm the tipping point for three crucial crops – maize (corn), cotton

and soybean – is 29°C. Up to that temperature, plant growth increases. Beyond that, for each degree-day spent above 29°C, production falls by 0.6 percent. (A degree-day measures the intensity and duration of temperatures above 29°C.) US agriculture regions in 2009 spend 57 degree-days above that threshold; climate models predict 413 degree-days by 2100. This means an 83 percent reduction in maize crops. Even the most optimistic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions would incur a 30 to 46 percent loss by 2050 (New Scientist, Aug. 26/09).

We have used and settled our planet based on the opportunities provided by combinations of circumstances. We can't shift traditional agricultural areas to cooler locations without the soil, water or terrain needed for the industrial production of food. We don't have other oceans to fish. Forests are not easily moved. Warmer temperatures increase the activity of the hydrological cycle, causing weather extremes of more storms, more rain, more droughts, more wind. And even weather has tipping points, moments during gradual change when extremes suddenly occur – this process, called "emergence", has created a new and enigmatic branch of science.

Change means tipping points for us, too. When fish fall below a certain threshold, we suddenly stop being fishers. When trees die of disease, we suddenly stop being loggers. When crops no longer grow, we suddenly stop being farmers.

So far, our adaptive skills have allowed us to moderate the impact of these environmental changes. But global trends promise both a rate and extent of change that will be unimaginably swift, dramatic and pervasive. Multiple tipping points lurk almost everywhere in our uncertain future. We can be certain, however, that we won't want to experience what they might be.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



SUNDAY MAY 27, 2012
6TH ANNUAL SUBARU SHAWNIGAN LAKE TRIATHLON
7:30AM – 3:30PM
VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Join us at West Shawnigan Lake Park or VOLUNTEER for a weekend of fun and festivities! On Saturday, enjoy a variety of fun activities during the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Festival, including a FREE Danone Kid's Run in the Village, the Camp Pringle Pasta Party at Camp Pringle and the Sport & Lifestyle Expo at West Shawnigan Lake Park. On Sunday, watch as hundreds of athletes from all across North America swim, bike and run in and around the lake and across the newly rebuilt Kinsol Trestle!

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Shawnigan Weather for February 2012
(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network)
compiled by Grant Treloar

| | Shawnigan Normal | Cigarmaker's Bay | Discovery School | Museum | Kelsey School |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Avg High | 7.4 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 7.9 | 8.0 |
| Avg Low | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Extr High | 18.6 | 10.5 | 11.8 | 13.1 | 12.5 |
| Extr Low | -16.7 | -4.3 | -5.3 | -5.1 | -4.4 |
| Precip | 155.3 | 138.4 | 118.9 | 123.6 | 80.5 |
| Days with Precip | 18 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 15 |

Lake Temperature: Feb 5th: 2° Feb 12th: 3° Feb 19th: 3° Feb 26th: 3°

PEOPLE OF THIS PLACE

By Graham Ross-Smith

If you met her in Shawnigan Village, as I did a few weeks ago, you would never suspect that she began life as a member of a head-hunter tribe located in a remote northern part of the Philippines. Now in her middle years, local resident Petra Durrance is an energetic, articulate, well-informed and delightfully cheerful woman who is fluent in three languages and, with her husband David, has just opened a unique child day-care centre.

In the Philippine village where Petra was born in 1956, the way of life of the mountain people of Kalinga-Apayao province had not changed much for millennia. The modern, civilized world of Manila, though only 500 kilometres away, might as well have been on another planet. Bare breasted women and spear carrying men went about their hunter-gatherer lives as their ancestors had done for untold generations.



Twice in her childhood, early death seemed to be her destiny. Having been born with her umbilical cord wrapped around her neck - believed to be an omen portending doom for her family - her mother tried to suffocate her

and would have succeeded if it were not for the intervention of a childless aunt who insisted on raising the child as her own. Then in 1965, at age nine, measles came to her village and again Petra was singled out as the reason for this evil scourge. This time an elderly uncle intervened to save her life by taking her from her village to a distant town where the nuns of an Anglican orphanage agreed to take her in.

In 1973, Victoria-raised David Durrance was using his sabbatical year from teaching high school in BC to see a bit of the world and was trekking in northern Philippines when he wandered into the village of Sagada where he found overnight accommodation at the mission house attached to Petra's orphanage. One of the sisters told him of this 17-year-old girl in the orphanage who showed great promise and wanted to become a nurse but lacked money to do so. The cost was \$300 a year, so David, feeling that he had the financial means to lend a hand, agreed to sponsor Petra's five years of nurses training. He was then introduced to her, gave her his address and left for travels in India the next day.

Six months later David received a letter from Petra asking him to come back to the Philippines to meet her extended family. He changed his travel plans and made his way back to northern Philippines. It would take a book to tell the whole story of David and Petra. All I can tell you here is that they formed a sort of father-daughter relationship for a number of years with David dividing his time between Canada and the Philippines. She became a nurse, and they worked together on numerous projects in the mountain region of Kalinga-Apayao involving building schools and daycares, reforesting a watershed, introducing new agricultural practices and crops, establishing medical clinics, funds raising, education sponsorships, and youth and women's empowerment.

In 1980 David and Petra were married. They have raised four sons and two adopted daughters, all of whom are pursuing careers in various parts of the world. One of the girls is now a pediatrician practicing in the Philippines. In 1979, Petra and David founded the International Association for Transformation, a non-denominational, not-for-profit organization to expand the sponsorship and development programs that they set up a few years earlier. For more information, go to www.iatcan.org.

O.U.R Ecovillage

By Dana Jaunzemis

To anyone who may be mystified - O.U.R Ecovillage (One United Resource) is a sustainable living community, demonstration site and educational center. Located in the Cowichan Valley, we offer a variety of summer internships centralized around green building practices, permaculture and organic gardening principles. Those who participate in our summer programs are also given the opportunity to live on site and become fully immersed in what it means to be part of a cooperative community.

As many of our supporters know, O.U.R had a financial deadline to meet at the beginning of March. With the help of our many friends and allies, this deadline was met - however, the battle rages on.

Because of the structure and diversity of this place, we do not fit into the conventional frameworks to secure a mortgage. Therefore, we are currently promoting the "O.U.R Sustainers campaign, and searching for 600+ individuals to donate either \$10 or \$20



monthly. If you sign on, you can receive 10% or 20% off of course fees for you, your family and friends. By choosing to join, you'll be helping us prove to investors that our community support is boundless! We have a passion for sustainable living and would like to see the future of this place secured. This will ensure that we may continue to share our knowledge with anyone who has prospects of working towards a brighter, greener tomorrow!

For more information, please visit our website. Detailed information on all of our 2012 summer internships is listed here, as well as the next available dates for guided public tours. These are particularly informative and a delicious, home-made lunch is also an option if arranged in advance. Alternatively, feel free to pop in any time for a self-guided tour and a cup of tea.

Contact:
250-743-3067 www.ourecoovillage.org

Some Tips For Fruit Tree Pruning

By Carolyn Dowell

Pruning should be done well before the tree shows blossoms. Otherwise, the blossoms will be accidentally knocked off during pruning. There is no exact date to prune - it all depends on the weather. This year, we had a mild winter and are now seeing the trees bud, I will start pruning by early March. A bud is the pre-leaf on the tree. Never prune more than one third of the tree each year. It is better to not prune enough than to prune too much. If you need to remove a dead or damaged branch, the equivalent root will die off. Water shoots are the new growth on the branches - suckers are growth from the roots that grow from the ground. To prune the water shoots, start with your hand pruners in the lower areas of the tree. This will make the higher shoots easier to reach. Then reach up a bit with your long handle pruners. Use your extender pruner for the last cuts.

Before you start, be sure your blades are sharp and greased. If you use your tools on other trees (off your property) then clean the blade with soap and water. A sharp blade will not tear at your cuts. Make your cuts are at an angle, so rain drains off easily. If your cut is flat, the rain will accumulate and eventually rot down the branch.

Keep at least one leader branch. If you don't already have a leader branch, then choose one or two. Pick a leader branch that is in a position to last a long time without getting damaged from weather. Never prune the top off the leader. There are communicators in the top of the branches, called axons. They communicate with the tree's roots. For example, if your fruit tree is supposed to grow to a height of 50 feet, and some of the branches reach that height, the roots 'say' to the tree that is enough height. Then the branches stop growing in height and all the water shoots will stop growing in height and the tree's energy will go into where you want it - into fruit production. You will not have to prune as much. If you don't have a leader, then the tree will always try to reach the height it needs, and the tree will grow more and more water shoots to try to reach the height. Most of the energy for the tree will be wasted in water shoots.



To keep your fruit trees healthy, you need to prune off the suckers. Suckers are most likely to grow closer to the base of the tree. Keep the base of the trunk completely free of all suckers and anything else (like grass). The base of the trunk must be kept clear of suckers and grass by at least 6 inches. If the base of the trunk is not cleared, moisture will rot the tree. The tree will eventually have bark rot. This is when the bark splits open and sap runs down the trunk.

Fruit will only grow on older growth branches. It is important to not prune them. Fruit will only grow if the blossoms are pollinated and the blossoms get direct sun. So, when you prune, do it so that no branch is taking away sun from another. Pruning is done in a way that the fruit tree looks like an upside down open umbrella. The middle part of the tree is open.

What do you do if the fruit tree is planted too close to the house? I would set a wood arch, in the ground, in a way that the tree can continue to grow in a direction away from the house, on top and over the arch. In this case, I would prune the tree like grapes, to support horizontal growth.

Carolyn's Gardening Services- permaculture design & organic master gardener

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The Shawnigan E.D.G.E.

By Kelly Koepp and Peter Yates

The Shawnigan EDGE leadership program is a popular Spring Break alternative that has many students vying for one of the sought-after spots on the tour. EDGE stands for: Engagement, Development, Gratitude and Experience. The objective of each year's selected project is always collaborative in nature, seeking to immerse Shawnigan students in living and working conditions in the country they are visiting and for a cause that will benefit the local community. The motto is to help provide a hand up for a community — as opposed to a handout — and one of the best ways to do that is to improve access to education. That is why this year's EDGE project is sending students for their fourth year of partnering on a project with the Chiangrai College of Agriculture and Technology (CRCAT), Ban Natoe campus, one of eight sub-colleges or satellite campuses of the CRCAT in Thailand.



Ban Natoe is located in the northern tip of Thailand, just a few kilometres from the Myanmar border. There are six hill tribe cultures within a relatively short radius, making it a place of rich and fascinating diversity—especially because each hill tribe has

its own first language and distinctive culture. All of the hill tribes are relative newcomers, most having moved to Thailand within the past 200 years. Being isolated by their rural locations and their cultural differences, they are hampered by poverty and a lack of education.

CRCAT's Ban Natoe campus brings education and agricultural training to hill tribe students. The CRCAT is well known for its strong focus on sustainability, and it is highly regarded for its proven record of effectiveness in delivering education to rural people. This time the Shawnigan EDGE team is helping to construct a new kitchen and a covered dining area for the Natoe students who, up until now, have had to prepare all of their meals in a tiny bamboo hut and then find a place to squat down and eat it. The project is much too big to be completed during the three-week trip, so Shawnigan students are funding and working on one phase of the construction. The first phase for the foundation work was already completed in December by students from ITE in Singapore, which also partners with Natoe in the same way as the Shawnigan EDGE Leadership Program.

It is a privilege for Shawnigan students to work alongside the hill tribe peoples in a shared endeavour; to appreciate, by experience, something of what life is like for the less-privileged 98% of the world's population; and to witness firsthand how happiness can exist in the complete absence of material wealth.



Budget Time at the CVRD

Bruce Fraser, Area Director

The CVRD Bottom Line for Shawnigan Residents

The first working draft of the 2012 Draft Budget showed a tax increase of 1.4% over 2011 for maintaining existing services, resulting in a draft tax requisition of \$250.12 per 100K of property assessment

Upon deliberation over proposed increases to provide for enhanced services, both regional and local, the expanded second draft showed a proposed tax increase of 4.41% that would result in a tax requisition of \$257.76 per 100K of property assessment

The main drivers of the proposed increase included:

Regionally Shared Costs: All electoral areas

A new communications function for the CVRD

An improved records management system for the CVRD

Expanded regional grants in aid, including the new Tourist Information Centre Maintenance of the 911 system

Addition of a second by-law enforcement officer

Improvements to the Management of Solid Waste

South Cowichan Shared Costs – Areas A, B and C

Establishing a community policing office in Mill Bay

Shawnigan Only

Providing a contingency for possible monthly lease payments on the Elsie Miles School before a long-term lease at a dollar a year is finalized with the School District and replacement of an aging bus

Increase voted in 2010 for the Shawnigan Museum

The final budget is under deliberation as this report goes to press. Board discussions at their March 14, 2012 meeting will have focused on how to reduce the overall increase in taxes from the second draft. The final results will be discussed at the next Directors Meeting at 7pm, April 2 at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

The 2012 Budget Process:

1. The CVRD Board provided a guideline for the 2012 budget development to Staff: Prepare a base budget to be developed with no more than a 2% overall tax lift.

2. Staff prepared a draft budget for consideration by the Board according to the guidelines (in many cases with functions kept at 0%) and also prepared a set of supplemental requests for later consideration

3. The Draft was then considered by Board Committees and Commissions, looking at the service implications of the draft and any issues that might require either reductions or increases in line items: The Kerry Park Commission, Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission, Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission, South Cowichan Parks Commission, Island Savings Centre Commission, Economic Development Commission, Agricultural Advisory Commission, Environment Commission, Electoral Areas Services Committee, Transit Committee, Communications Committee, Engineering and Environmental Services Committee, Emergency Services Committee all participated in the detailed service reviews for parts of the Area B budget

4. The Regional Services Committee of the Board then considered all budget proposals that have full regional implications, including the grant in aid function and the staff proposed supplemental items, proposing changes in the draft budget to reflect submissions from all sources

5. The Board finally debated the base plus recommended expansion items at its March 14th 2012 meeting in order to come up with a final budget. The main issues under discussion were: the size of the total tax lift and how to balance the need for expanded services with the need to limit tax increases; and the problem of taxes that are not reflected well in the services actually available to those who are paying.

6. The final budget is to be rendered into the necessary formal budget by-law at a Special Meeting of the Board on March 28th.

7. Revisions to the budget during the fiscal year are possible if the required justifications are accepted by the Board, but these tend to be minor.

8. Addition of new functions to the budget of the CVRD must be supported by a vote of those required to pay for the function and therefore must be voted on before the budget year begins and not during it.

9. The upper limit of increments to salaries of staff and Directors is limited to the same percentage increase awarded to the staff unions as a result of collective bargaining, a factor of 2.5% in 2012.

Area B – Shawnigan Lake – and the CVRD Budget 2012

by Brent Beach

The CVRD 2012 Draft Budget has been released and was the first topic on the Agenda of Bruce Fraser's Director's meeting on March 5th. Wondering how

much the total taxes from Area B had changed over the years, I did a little digging and came up with numbers. This is a graph of the Historical Tax Requisition from Area B as found in CVRD budget documents.

Between 2004 and 2012, the tax requisition increased over 127%!

Can we estimate the change in the average residential tax bill from the total tax requisition? A reasonable estimate is possible if we can account for population growth and inflation.

Population Effects: The recently released 2011 Census data shows that between 2006 and 2011 the population of Area B has increased by 7.5%. If we assume more or less constant growth, then the population growth between 2004 and 2012 was 13.5%. This is a reasonable approximation for the increase in the number of residences in Area B.

Inflation: The Bank of Canada says inflation has increased by about 14.2% since 2004. That is the national figure, but is a reasonable approximation for inflation in our area.

Population and inflation changes then account for 27.7% on the tax increase. That leaves a 99.3% increase in taxes per taxpayer in real dollars since 2004. For links visit BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com

India, Canada and Haiti -

From My Perspective

by Richard Henry

Part One: India, peace and acceptance between the classes

The developing countries, in some ways are more advanced than Canada and we would be wise to observe and learn from them from time to time.

The class system is very evident in India. Upper, Upper/Middle, Middle, Middle/Lower and Lower classes co-exist with little resentment, bitterness or anger. I did not notice under the breath belittling comments, angry looks, on the contrary there remains peace and acceptance within and between the classes. Granted, this is a very large generalization but numerous experiences in different cities in India support my view.

On one of the "City Trains" in Bombay I recently witnessed a beautiful example of how this exists. None of these Indians knew each other before this because they all got on and off at different stations. Two men were sitting side by side and a lady came with a bag and a young boy (the mother and boy were most likely lower/middle class from the clothes they were wearing and the state of their physical condition). In order to make room for four to sit on a bench for two, one man put his arm around the other man, moved closer to him and then suggested that the young boy sit on his knee while the mother could rest. Conversation between the two men and the boy developed and the young boy was even encouraged to talk to the stranger (me) across from him to practice his English. No matter what the class, there was the clear view that education and speaking Eng-



lish was a very high priority. Never was there any turning away, upturned noses or disrespectful looks. Everyone there accepted who they were and their roles in their society. On another City Train, there was a lower class boy with only shorts and a T shirt (very soiled) and no shoes. He calmly and with his own sense of purpose he swept the floor of the train with a little homemade twig broom. Those that were sitting lifted their feet for the boys broom and those that were OK with giving the boy a little money did and those that did not didn't. There was no expectation for a free handout for doing nothing by this little boy. He had a job. He and everyone clearly knew and accepted what that job was. There was no judgment, no bitterness and no self proclaimed victimization. Yet another example in a smaller city was when an upper class couple were preparing for their wedding reception. The fee for just the rental of the Royal Palace courtyard was one million US Dollars and two blocks away there were lower class women shoveling and hauling gravel with their donkeys. I am certain that although these women did not have great amounts of joy with their job, they nevertheless accepted their job and their position in that society.

see: India page 10



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Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

By Bob Brownsword

Preparations for the 2012 8th Annual Shawnigan Lake Walk are well underway! This year the Walk will be held on Sunday, June 3rd, beginning at 7:30 am at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

There are five selected walks ranging from 4 km to 27 km. Two of the walks (4km, 14km) feature the Kinsol Trestle along with the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society's presentation about this famous landmark. The longer routes meander through Shawnigan Lakes beautiful rural and lake scenery using parts of the Trans Canada Trail and country roads. If walking is not your thing, then you may want to sign up for kayaking on Shawnigan Lake, supported by Cowichan Bay Kayaks.

Registration for the Walk is easy. Simply go to our website www.theshawniganlakewalk.com and fill out the registration online. Shortly, registration forms will be available at many of our local merchants. Along with the registration there is a pledge sheet that we hope all participants will fill up. There will be draw prizes for the most pledges in three categories: individual, youth and team.

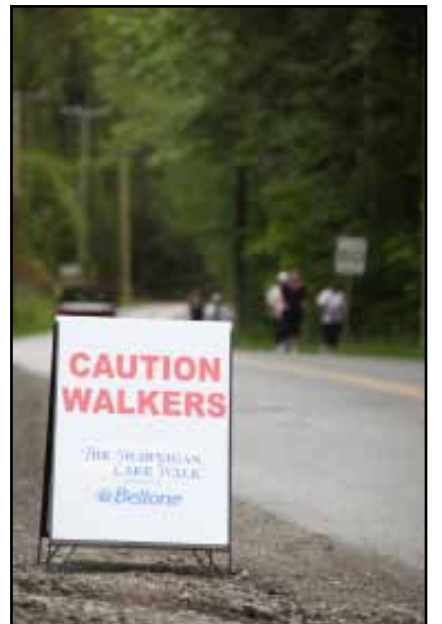
The Shawnigan Lake Walk is the major fundraising event for the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society. Family caregivers are a generally silent but large group of people who give service to their family and community. Statistics show that one in eight people in BC are caregivers. Family caregivers give service often at significant cost to themselves. At times, it is required that they relinquish their own activities and even jobs to give care to their loved one. However,

without them, our health-care costs would spiral out of control.

Family caregivers look after our most vulnerable, including our elders. Since 80% of eldercare is provided by family/friends, supporting family caregivers takes on even greater significance. With support, they can continue to relieve our stretched healthcare system. Without support, caregivers can become seriously ill. It makes good economic sense to support family caregivers. They deserve recognition, appreciation and support.

Please check out our website at www.theshawniganlakewalk.com.

Caring Step By Step
THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE WALK
8th Annual



India - cont. from page 9

Similarly, the service industry in India has a similar philosophy. Those that were cooks or servers were content and even at times very proud of their accomplishments, however large or small they were, truly aiming to please.

How did the country with the second largest population in the world get to this advanced cultural level whereby all classes live together in harmony? I believe that it was primarily due to one person, Ghandi. He was able to show, lead by example, where he walked his talk about how there can be peace and acceptance with simplicity. Below is a photo of his worldly pos-

sessions.

As well, there was the acceptance of others religions those being the Muslims, Hindi and Christians living together. The Story of Akbar from Fatehpur Sikri is that this king had three wives. One muslim wife, one Hindu wife and one Christian wife. These three wives all got long and he even tried to develop a religion that incorporated components of all three beliefs. Being of the era 1571 is evidence of this advanced state. The next part of this article is about Canada and the strains within the classes of its society.

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Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Update

by Sarah Malerby

The Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Festival and Race takes place on May 26 & 27 – mark your calendars; there is something there for everyone.

The Shawnigan Village Triathlon Festival and Race Package pick-up will be livening up the Village on Saturday afternoon, May 26. Expect to see some great family activities, market-place, local artisans, performers and businesses with specials and entertainment. For more information, or to get involved, contact our “Community Spirit Captain” Rick Restell via email at rick@awinins.ca or visit him at the A-Win Insurance office in Shawnigan Village



Sarah Malerby

The Danone Kid’s Run is a free event for kids from age 3 to 12 that will take place on Saturday at 2:30 pm at the Village Festival. The Kids Run will have different course lengths depending on age, and ribbons and goodies for all participants. Darcy Kulai, of Kerry Park Recreation, who is locally famous for his excellent work with kid’s soccer and basketball, is the Kid’s Run Captain and will be ensuring that the kids have a great time! Watch for registration information coming home via elementary schools or contact Darcy at dkulai@cverd.bc.ca for more details.



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The Camp Pringle Pre-Race Dinner Party takes place on Saturday, May 26 from 5 to 7 pm and is a fundraiser dinner to help send kids to Camp Pringle. Attending the dinner is a great way to meet some athletes and race volunteers, feel the spirit of the race, enjoy some delicious “Carbs” and support Camp Pringle. Dinner tickets are \$22.50 and available for purchase on the Triseries Website at http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/subaru_shawnigan/. Our own Roy Davies, the barber, is the Dinner Captain/Camp Pringle Liaison, and can be contacted for more at roydavies@shaw.ca for more information. Dinner seating is limited, so be sure to get your tickets soon!

Of course, Sunday, May 27 is going to be a spectacular day at West Shawnigan Provincial Park. The Park will be buzzing with race excitement and full of athletes, spectators and a full day of Race Expo, food and entertainment. The South Cowichan Rotary Club will be on-site offering a pancake breakfast early in the morning and a lunch in the afternoon.

Volunteers are still needed before the event and on Race Weekend to help with many different tasks, such as set-up, site support, registration, food preparation, medical, course marking, course marshaling, boat support, aide stations, hosting athletes and much more. All volunteers will get a great technical t-shirt and will get to enjoy some new special volunteer appreciation activities.

Volunteers can view the list of duties and register by visiting the Subaru Western Tri Series volunteer form at <http://triseries.ca/volunteering.php>.

Show your community spirit and get involved on Triathlon weekend!



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THANK YOU!

The West Arm Grill provided space and great service for the “Focus Check-up event” on Sunday, May 18.

Corporate sponsorship such as this is what strengthens our community!

GOT A STORY?
The “Focus” is interested in your Shawnigan news and stories.
Contact:
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Fire Department Report

The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department attended 13 incidents in February.

- Feb 7th -**
1st Responder in the Village
- Feb 7th -**
1st Responder in Strathcona Heights
- Feb 9th -**
MVI Arbutus Mtn Estates
- Feb 12th -**
1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- Feb 12th -**
Auto Alarm off West *SLR
- Feb 12th -**
MVI at East & West *SLR-
- Feb 15th -**
Auto Alarm off Peerless Rd.
- Feb 17th -**
1st Responder in the Village
- Feb 19th -**
MVI on *SLR
- Feb 20th -**
Chimney Fire in the Village
- Feb 23rd -**
1st Responder off *SLR
- Feb 24th -**
1st Responder off *SLR
- Feb 29th -**
MVI near Arbutus Mtn Estates
*SLR (Shawnigan Lake Road)

What is it?
Where is it?



First correct answer sent to:
editor@shawniganfocus.ca
wins two specialty coffees, compliments of Moziro’s

WHAT IS IT?
CONTEST
WINNER
February
Issue

Brendon Joyce had the correct answer for our February Where is it? What is it? Contest. The picture is the top of the spire on the old Anglican Church, in the village, that later became the Auld Kirk Gallery. The building is now for sale. Brendon wins two specialty coffees from Moziro’s.



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March 2012

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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

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

Note: Views expressed by individual authors are not the opinion of Shawnigan Focus, but of the comment writer.

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Community Calendar

Area B Director's meetings - 1st Mon. of each month - 7pm at SL Community Centre (SLCC). Director's office is open Mon, Wed, Fri from 11-1 upstairs in the purple building.

Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission - 1st Thurs. of each month. 7pm at SLCC

Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission - 3rd Thurs of each month 6:30pm at SLCC

Shawnigan Improvement District - 2nd Mon of each month 7pm at #1 Fire Hall

Shawnigan Lake Residents Association - 3rd Tues. of each month 7 pm at Dinter Garden House at Shawnigan School. Members welcome to attend.

Shawnigan Lake Business Association - 1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm, currently at the Village Chipperry. Members welcome to attend.

Shawnigan Lake Community Association - 4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca to get on the mailing list. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.

Shawnigan Village Development Council - As announced.

Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable - As announced.

Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage - As announced.

Grand Opening of the new Inspire! Shawnigan Gallery Space

Saturday April 21st
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Home Based Business Directory.

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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.

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The Game of Kings

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

We have room for more players! 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 .

Join us at the Legion in Shawnigan Lake. 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.

COWICHAN INTERCULTURAL SOCIETY CONNECTS IMMIGRANTS TO BUSINESS

There's no better way to build connections between people than through stories. Stories about home and family can build bridges between people of different cultures.

In Cowichan Intercultural Society's Bringing Stories to the Street project, storytelling and other art forms will create

two-way communication between businesses and immigrant newcomers.

Businesses in 11 communities of the Cowichan Region are being paired with immigrant newcomers for mentoring and cultural exchange. Each business and immigrant partnership will create an arts-based multicultural event to share with community members. The events will be as diverse as the businesses and immigrants who participate. Businesses such as restaurants, grocery stores, speciality food stores, spas, wineries, and garden shops have made a commitment to the project. Immigrant participants are from all parts of the world from Africa, to Mexico, to Vietnam.

Through the project, immigrants will learn about business services in the community and receive hands-on leadership opportunities.

Businesses will benefit from increased visibility in the community. Both businesses and immigrants will receive free training and build capacity to become leaders in diversity in the Cowichan Region.

The Cowichan Valley attracts immigrants from all over the world. Today, first-generation immigrants account for 13 percent of the total population of the Cowichan Valley, and that figure is expected to grow. As the demographic of the Region changes through retirement, immigrants' skills and work experience can make valuable contributions to the economy of Cowichan Region.

Bringing Stories to the Street will encourage immigrants, businesses and community members to get to know each other better. This project is a legacy of Activating Our Stories - Creating Our Home, a CIS project which created arts-based dialogues in 11 communities of the Cowichan Region from 2010-2011.

Shawnigan businesses the Village Chipperry, Family Integrity Corporation, Moon Dance Dynamic Arts School and Dewar McCarthy Accountants are collaborating with Cowichan Intercultural Society to create the Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail events from May 12-26. Please contact Francoise Moulin francoise.cis@telus.net for information about Bringing Stories to the Street project or David Shorthill 250-732-5355 or patty@villagechipperry.com for information about the Scarecrow Trail.

The CIS project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



SLBA Member Profile

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Sara Tillie, RAc grew up in Shawnigan Lake and has been practicing Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine for nine years. Her practice focuses on East meets Western Medicine, and is a direct result of her internship in China.

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