



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Two - Issue Nine

SEPTEMBER 2012

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Hunting for gold

Elijah Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

I have been looking forward to fall with anticipation for a few weeks now. Couldn't wait for the kids to be back in school? You ask. No, in fact I am looking forward to the first good rain. Don't get me wrong, I have enjoyed the hot dry weather this summer. But besides the fact that my car could use a good wash, the rain will signal the resumption of a great scavenger hunt through the woods in search of gold! Soon I will be sneaking away every chance I get to trudge through the wet salal, scouring the mossy forest floor. As the rain hits the ground, mushrooms will spring up. Vancouver Island has an amazing variety of wild mushrooms including many edibles such as the Golden Chanterelle.

Since I began picking mushrooms three years ago, I have learned to identify many different kinds of edibles; however chanterelles remain one of my favorites. Arguably the most prolific and consumed wild mushroom in our area, chanterelles, so far, have not been propagated. Picked

in the wild by both commercial interests and by amateurs, they tend to grow in the same places year after year amongst the moss and salal beneath dark forest canopies. From September to December pickers will return to spots where they had success in past years and also scour the woods for new hot spots. Since chanterelles are relatively easy to distinguish, and come from a small family with few poisonous look-a-likes, they are often the first variety of mushrooms new pickers learn to identify.

As easy as they are to identify, some basic precautions should always be taken when picking and consuming any wild mushrooms. Never eat (better yet don't even touch with bare hands) any mushrooms unless certain of their identity. Be careful not to cross-contaminate mushrooms you intend to eat with unknown specimens. Never eat mushrooms that have started to decay. Always cook wild mushrooms and watch for signs of allergies (even to known edibles). Always be careful in remote locations, it



is very easy to become disoriented and lost while scouring the forest floor.

If you are ready to make this your first mushroom picking season, consider taking a day course. Some are offered through the local community centers and by local restaurants that culminate in a wild

mushroom-themed dinner. Ask to pick with a trusted friend, but don't be surprised if the best spots are not shared. At the very least, buy a clear mushroom field guide for our area.

Mushroom picking is great motivation to get out in nature at a time of year when it

is more appealing to stay cozy inside. However if mushroom picking isn't for you, you can still enjoy some chanterelles this time of year. Watch for them in some grocery stores, farmers markets, or making an appearance on the menu of your favorite restaurant.



It's Fall! And Autumn! And Harvest! This time of year no longer smells like summer. The weather may be warm during the day, but there's definitely a nip in the evening air. The days get shorter until the autumnal

equinox at 7:49 am on Sept 22nd, one of two days in the year when night and day are of equal length (Latin; equi = equal, nox = night). Then starts the slow demise of daylight hours until there's nothing but

May I have a word?

Monica Foster
Shawnigan Focus

bleak dark cold night all the time...but that's just me.

Now is the time of the harvest; of pumpkins and squash; when a trip to the Okanagan fills the car with cherries, apples, peaches, peppers; when your neighbour shares plums from her tree; when everyone on Vancouver Island is across the road picking blackberries; and no thanks, I really can't

eat ANY more zucchini! The Old English word for autumn is haerfest, which became harvest. The word for the season started to refer to the act of gathering and reaping. Gradually it also came to mean the bounty itself. By 1600, give or take 50 years, the season was referred to as fall of the leaf. This expression got on a ship to the "New World" where it was eventually short-

ened to fall. Meanwhile back in England, they didn't like this mouthful either, and started using autumn (from Old French autumpne, from Latin autumnus). English is fun like that; constantly appropriating words and expressions from elsewhere to give us this cornucopia of language to enjoy.

May you fall happily into autumn, and enjoy the harvest!

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Community Policing Office

FRIENDLY PHONES

Friendly Phones is a free program performed by trained, caring volunteers. From Monday to Friday, you will receive a scheduled call, or you can email us to let us know - YOU are safe and OK!

The Friendly Phone call provides you with peace of mind and reassurance, because you are an important part of our community and we care. In today's world the phone hardly rings. Let us ring your phone with a friendly call: *Hello, this is a volunteer from the South Cowichan Community Policing office. How are you today?*

TRY IT FOR ONE MONTH, THEN DECIDE - no obligation and no fees!

Quotes from current participants shared:

Retired couple: *"We just love receiving the caring call. We know somebody cares and are watching out for us. We know if we were in trouble, somebody would be there for me and my husband"*

Parents whose spouse works away from home: *"I just need and want somebody to know that me and the kids are okay and if they can't reach me that they will call somebody I chose to check on us. It gives my husband and out of town family a peace of mind"*

Suitable participants to join our caring community would be:

- Single people living alone – any age and circumstance
- Single parents
- Retired Couples
- Those with medical or safety concerns
- Seniors who live in apartment buildings or lodges
- Women whose pregnancies require special care

Please consider receiving a Friendly Phone call. Give the office a call and we can discuss what works best for YOU! Let us provide you with peace of mind – knowing you are truly cared for, not alone, and safe.

Call 250-929-7222 or Visit our South Cowichan Community Policing Office: Unit 120 – Mill Bay Shopping Mall

Safe drivers? Not!

Today I passed a vehicle that had crashed into the embankment along East Shawnigan Rd in front of Dwight International School. The driver had obviously lost control of their vehicle and came to an abrupt stop in a school zone. School has just started. Children could have been walking along the road, crossing at the crosswalk or lounging on the grassy bank when the accident happened. What does it take for drivers to value other people enough in this community to take care with our lives?

Many families live in the Shawnigan Beach Estates; some with grown children long gone from home, some with small children playing in front yards, some with older children walking and biking along the gravel shoulder to get to school and some with teenagers driving vehicles with the green N sticker. I would suggest that most of us that live here, if not all of us, have people we care about travelling along our neighbour-

hood streets, on bikes, on foot, in a vehicle, every day. Yet, too often, I see vehicles speeding around blind corners, not coming to a complete stop at stop signs, tailgating and driving on the shoulder in an area without sidewalks. Why is getting home to your family more important than me getting home to mine, or my neighbour getting home to theirs?

I see new, young drivers driving too fast, tailgating, not looking left, then right, then left again before proceeding. They are the inexperienced ones, programmed to take risks and required to make mistakes. Commuters – stop cutting corners and slow down! If you can't stay on your side of the road, you can't handle your vehicle and are driving too fast. Tailgaters – have you noticed the volume and frequency of deer and other wildlife on the road? Give some space to have a reflex reaction if needed. Pace cars - just move over and let'em pass – save yourselves

the anxiety and keep traffic flowing – it just pisses people off, making them even more dangerous. And, those of you that come across an obstruction in your lane (cyclist, parked vehicle, roadkill, etc) – it is your responsibility to wait until it is safe to pass, not mine in the oncoming lane to move over so you can cruise on through. But, until those egocentric drivers recognize that, hey, maybe other people matter, the rest of us need to take some personal responsibility. I see pedestrians walking with traffic, with headphones on, or texting with head bent, no idea what is going on around them. Parents and educators, please talk to your children about this stuff! Without the added safety that streetlights and sidewalks provide, we need to take measures to increase our personal safety like walking against traffic, looking and listening to what's going on and carrying a flashlight or wearing a visi-vest when out in the dark.

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2012

EDITORIAL TEAM

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

ADVERTISING TEAM

Grant Treloar
Taryn Scott
Robyn Greentree
ads@shawniganfocus.ca.

LAYOUT

Taryn Scott
Myrna Proulx

FOCUS TEAM

Linda Nelson
Farrell Magnusson
Monica Foster
Sally Davies
Peter Nash
Bev McCooey

ACCOUNTS

Dewar McCarthy

EVENTS & CLASSIFIEDS

Editorial & Layout Team

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

AD SUBMISSIONS & DEADLINE

The 8th of every month for mid-month publication. Ads must be sent in black & white, as a high resolution JPEG or PDF and in the correct sizing. Graphic Designers are available (for an additional fee) to create or reformat your ad. ads@shawniganfocus.ca

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editor@shawniganfocus.ca - \$10 (under 30 words)

ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

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

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0



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 should attack issues - not individuals. Send letters to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

A Short Version of Our Story

On 27 June, the Chief Administrative Officer of the CVRD finally delivered his report on the failure of the CVRD Eco Depot venture. The report largely blamed the failure on public opposition with attention paid to the Citizens Together Group (CT Group) and earlier F.A.R.M.S Group, and padded these accusations with lame excuses. The Cowichan Valley taxpayer has cause for concern with the use of tax dollars to pursue such ventures. The land that the CVRD purchased on Cameron Taggart Road was zoned 'agriculture' and not for industrial use. More important, the neighbourhood was not consulted.

The CVRD eco depot venture was a 2010-11, Board driven activity. The Chair, Director Giles, during this period, spearheaded the activity and constantly referred to the 'South Cowichan'. This reference was an incorporation dream. The Cameron Taggart Road land, a twenty-two-acre site, would provide room for other utilities and would help set the stage for incorporation.

Cameron Taggart Road, a beautiful country road on agricultural land near to Shawnigan Creek, was the wrong location. "Recycle Yes - Location No" was the public's position. As well, the local private recycle operations would be put out of business. After months of resistance by the CT Group and F.A.R.M.S. Group before that, the legality of the CVRD circumventing the land use zoning Bylaw was taken to the Supreme Court of BC. Today the outcome is still pending. \$25,000 was raised by the concerned citizens in Areas A, B and C to pay for this legal challenge.

In August 2011, facing a legal challenge; public opposition growing; costs spiralling; and the election approaching; the CVRD Chair announced a non-binding referendum and then spent another \$50,000 of taxpayers' dollars to pay for more eco depot advertising. The CVRD Board chose to malign those involved with opposing the eco depot location. This approach by

the Board only reinforced the public's opposition. The opposition won the referendum handily and in December of 2011 the new Board cancelled the eco depot venture on Cameron Taggart Road. The cost to the CVRD taxpayer of this venture, according to the CVRD, was only \$1,300,000. This number is suspect because it does not include CVRD staff costs estimated at \$360,000. So ended a needless and costly confrontation between a community and its local government.

Joseph Gollner
CT Group
250-743-6736

You Don't Know What You've Got 'Til It's Gone

"Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. They paved paradise, put up a parking lot."

Joni Mitchell's anthemic ode to environmental awareness has never rung truer than now, and in this community.

The gentrification of Langford with the dollars from the box stores that are located there, have pushed the car wreckers and dumps into our neighbourhood. We have become a bedroom and potential waste receptacle for Victoria.

It seems like every week a new proposal heralds another blight on our landscape and collective psyche a car salvage operation; the last pristine waterfront property ravaged for a housing subdivision; structures erected in the heart of our village that stand empty for years, leaving neighbours to ascribe dark motives to explain why anyone would do such a thing; our government is actually entertaining a proposal to dump waste into our watershed. The litany of assaults goes on.

Families are moving here for more affordable living, and we now have twice the population of Duncan. The new arrivals delight in the bucolic charms and lake diversions, unaware of the erosion of what has made Shawnigan Lake so very special, and the threats to

the very life they are hoping to have here.

As what we have is gradually destroyed, one chainsaw and one earth mover moment at a time, the agencies that should be protecting us are divesting themselves of responsibility at every level of government, leaving us all in a state of helpless resignation.

People who care about Shawnigan Lake gather to ponder the solutions, only to be thwarted by the very people who should be assisting them. It is becoming increasingly apparent that if the inevitable changes in our community are to be positive and sustainable then "WE" must assume responsibility for standing up and being the agents of change that we want for ourselves and our future, and the future of our grandchildren, before "all that we've got is gone".

Sally Davies

Noise

Phew! Another Labour Day has ushered out the crowds of summer revellers, and the golden month of September has arrived. The warm weeks of July and August were delightful for the most part. Not so enjoyable are the minority of inconsiderate half-wits who seem compelled to be loudly obnoxious while playing outdoors.

While some classic craft have a warm throaty rumble, there are always a number of boats with excessively loud exhausts. This year was notable for a couple of horribly noisy projectiles. Offensively irritating during the day, on several occasions,



"It takes power and focus to push the sound back to that wake-boarder" (advertisement)

they were also recklessly roaring around after dark, sometimes until the wee hours - no cops then, eh?

Loud engines are one thing and then there are the privileged numskulls with their \$80,000 Wake-Setters, racks of speakers, and 1000 watt amplifiers. Are they really that oblivious or is it deliberate selfishness? Maybe they just feel that their favourite tunes should be heard and "appreciated" from one end of the lake to the other - a real treat when you get several of them out there!

The same litany of complaints is voiced year after year without resolution. In the mid 1990's, the CVRD created a "no unmuffled boat" bylaw which is virtually useless. Some boats are designed to have an annoyingly loud exhaust pass through a "legal", but ineffectual, muffler. There is a Noise Bylaw but it also seems to be ineffective. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District is studying other jurisdictions and notes the following about our CVRD:

One bylaw for all electoral areas - from the 1980s - CVRD is currently reviewing it and may

incorporate new aspects. They have purchased a decibel reader, but it is not a requirement of the current bylaw and they may or may not incorporate quantitative measures into a new bylaw. The use of decibel readers was flagged as a potential issue in that relying on a set level in a bylaw as the indicator of disturbance may not be effective - noise could be disturbing (or perceived as such) at levels outside what the meter is measuring. They have had a ticketing system since 2009; there is a long process before issuing a ticket. They note that even if a bylaw enforcement officer is witness to a disturbance, i.e. onsite, and hears the noise, the officer cannot determine if the noise is disturbing, only the neighbours can make that determination.

Meanwhile, the objectionable behaviour of a few continues to disturb everyone else. Something needs to change. Appropriate rules and effective enforcement are only a partial answer. As a community we need to acquire values which encourage respect for our neighbours and the environment. Without this, our community has no integrity and the lake will continue to fill with empty beer cans.



"Jaws" from the West Arm

**There are hundreds of languages in the world,
but a smile speaks them all. ~ Anonymous**

The advertisement is presented in a black and white format. At the top, a dark grey banner contains the company logo, which features a large, stylized 'E' followed by the text 'UTHBERT' in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'CONSTRUCTION' in a larger, bold, sans-serif font below it. Underneath this, in a smaller, italicized sans-serif font, is the text 'GENERAL CONTRACTORS'. Below the banner, the main headline reads 'Custom Homes By Quality Builder' in a large, italicized serif font, followed by 'In Shawnigan Lake' in the same font style. The central part of the ad is divided into two side-by-side photographs. The left photograph shows a two-story custom home with light-colored horizontal siding, a steep gabled roof, and a small front porch with a gabled roof supported by columns. The house is surrounded by trees. The right photograph shows a custom dock structure with a gabled roof supported by wooden posts. A small boat is moored at the dock, and a person is visible on the roof of the structure. Below the photographs, the text 'Custom Homes, Custom Docks, Pilings, Concrete Piers, Excavations, Foundations, Drainage, Retaining Walls, Concrete Countertops, Patios, Sidewalks, Etc.' is written in an italicized serif font. Below this, the text 'ANY Project or ANY Problem With Your Home - Give Us A Call!' is written in a smaller, italicized serif font. At the bottom, the phone number '250-743-9000' is displayed in a large, bold, italicized serif font.



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Subdivision dock debacle

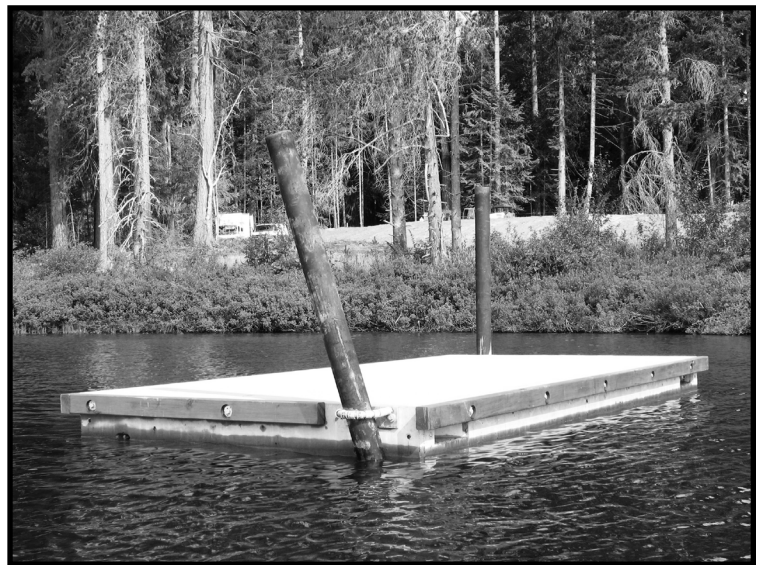
Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Developers of the 16-lot subdivision on Worthington Point have decided to provide docks for prospective purchasers. Ten individual units plus a large, shared wharf are now in place. This high-density, waterfront mix of strata and fee-simple lots has been controversial from its inception and the practice of provoking community concern appears to be continuing.

In 2011, after a review by the Advisory Planning Commission, the CVRD advised the Provincial Approving Officer to deny the subdivision application due to several issues. The province did not heed the CVRD and approved preliminary layout last December.

One topic of significant importance was that the riparian area (lakeshore) will take years to recover from the unauthorized clearing which occurred in 2008. To allow each narrow property its own dock would virtually nullify the mandated remediation. It was recommended that the developer and the strata properties owners enter into a covenant prohibiting the placement or construction of any structure within the riparian area, with the exception of one common-property wharf to serve all the lots.

Evidently the developer liked the concept of a shared dock, but just for the six back lots which are not on the water. The ten waterfront lots with their narrow strips of lakefront have also had docks provided. It is shaping up to be another spoiled and overcrowded stretch of shoreline – not an example of responsible development.



Leaning Piling

The impressive concrete structures, manufactured by Surefloat, were installed by Heavy Metal Marine Ltd. in mid-July and already there are problems.

One of the docks, located an extreme distance off the shallow part of the point, was perceived by the boating public to be a serious hazard and the ensuing outcry resulted in it being moved. Owners of an adjacent property are concerned that another dock has been placed without consideration of their access to the water and report that attempts to discuss the situation with the developer have been disregarded.

The brackets which attach the docks to the metal pilings are failing on several units. The plastic meant to insulate metal to metal contact is disintegrating which will likely result in future clanging. A number of pilings are already leaning. Some locals have commented that the pilings may be shorter than required for extreme high water years. The shared dock was broken into several pieces which drifted unsecured for some time



Bracket Coming Apart

This is an exposed stretch of shoreline which receives a lot of wave action. It is hard on docks. Fasteners become loose and components break. Ask other waterfront owners and you will hear many tales of woe. As for the future of these docks, time will tell.



Shared dock - in pieces

Reader Review

"I have a subscription to the Times-Colonist and I read the parts that are relevant to me – this usually takes about five minutes. When I get the Shawnigan Focus, I read it from cover to cover. It is a wonderful paper, and it is all relevant to the community of Shawnigan Lake.

-Doug Harris – property owner for 30 years.

Shawnigan creek cleanout - update

Brent Beach
Shawnigan Focus

I have a January 1951 clipping with a picture of flooded cabins at the Shawnaire resort. The caption: "Heavy Rains, Melting Snow Raise Shawnigan Lake To Danger Level, Many Homes, Resorts Flooded By Highest Water In Years; Outlet Now Torrent" The short article ends "Only outlet for lake is small Shawnigan Creek."

In 1985, the province reported on the outflow creek, explaining the problem and possible solutions. It identified a bedrock shelf just above the current weir as the flow limiting feature.

The CVRD this spring created a new taxation function to clean out the creek. The intent of proponents was to remove shrubs at the mouth which were thought to be limiting flow.

Last week, the CVRD contractor brought an excavator into the William Rivers Park, dammed the creek just below the railway bridge and below the park, pumped the water out and removed some of the creek bottom. They repaired the park creek bank with large rocks. Excavator tracks show the areas in which the work was done.

On Saturday, Sept 8, Grant Price, Graham Ross-Smith and I kayaked the creek from the lake to the weir - a distance of about 480 metres (525 yards). The creek varies in width but is narrowest under the road bridge at 4 metres (13 feet), the rail bridge at 10 metres (35 feet) and the weir itself at 6 metres (20 feet) wide.

With the weir gate up, under current water conditions, some water is leaking around the gate and some is going through a fish ladder. Very little water is flowing down the creek below the weir. The water level is 15.81 at the weir gauge, which corresponds to 115.81 metres above sea level. It is at the same level in the lake (more or less). If you want to make a water gauge on one of your pilings, you can base it from this reading. Do it now!

At times of high water, the William Rivers Park is flooded. Water covers all the grass, coming up to the steps. This suggests to me that the restriction is downstream from the park (as suggested in 1985). If the park floods again this winter at high water, then this clean out will have been of little value.

Patrick Lucey, a freshwater ecologist who has been helping the Watershed Roundtable a great deal, says that the stretch of water between the lake and the weir is not properly a creek. He says it is actually part of the lake. Its level rises and falls with the lake. Only when the creek turns west at the Black Swan and begins to fall does it become a true creek.

Call it part of the lake or call it a creek, during times of high water its essential function is carrying excess water out of the lake. During flooding, this function overrides all other uses of the creek.

We found other material in the creek that inhibits water flow. In particular, in several places below the park, the creek is clogged with woody debris



Current water level on the gauge at the weir is 15.81, or 115.81 metres above sea level.

- both natural and man-made - that reduces flow.

On our kayak trip, we found that the shallowest places are actually in the lake in front of the road bridge and under the road bridge itself. The rock that should be on the banks there has been tipped into the creek. This happens every year and is thought to result from the natural exuberance of young people. We will need to harness that exuberance each September to return those rocks to banks.

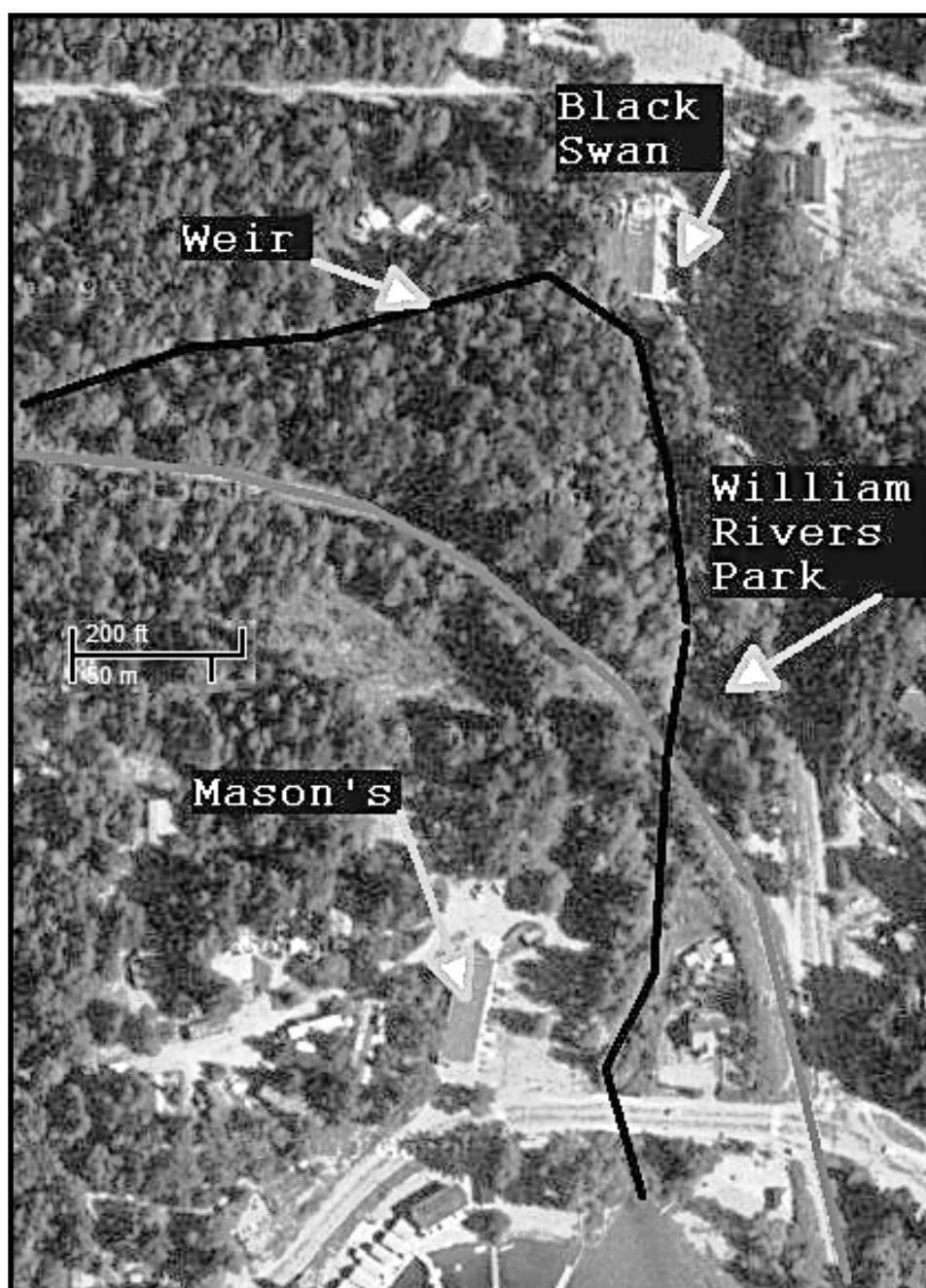
The condition of the creek (section of the lake) from the road bridge to the weir is of vital concern to all residents of the watershed. It was an error to not

tax all residents to support maintenance of this crucial flood way. It was also an error to spend the first year's money to excavate a part of the creek that may not be a limiting flow during flooding.

What's done is done. Grant, Graham, and I will continue to check the condition of this part of the creek as waters rise. Expect reports from those trips in future editions of the Focus.

(Thanks to Patrick, Grant, Graham, and Dave Hutchinson for additional information.)

Visit brentatthefocus.blogspot.com to see more pictures taken during our kayak trip, maps of the creek and links to source material.

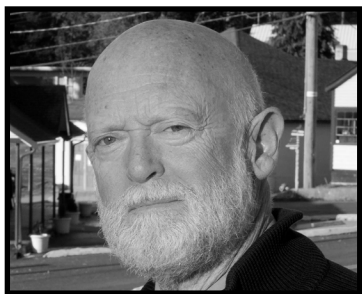


New weir. Fish ladder on the left, controls on top.



Brent in the front, Graham & his intrepid dog Cocoa behind, as we go under the road bridge.

Director's Report September 2012



Bruce Fraser
Area Director

Tax Priorities

The feedback that I have received so far on what Shawnigan residents believe are the right priorities for the use of public tax funds include:

- Water quality improvement on the lake through

effective management of our watershed

- Introduction of proper sewage treatment in the village and lakeshore areas
- Improvement of the safety of local roads
- Enhancement and usability of our natural park and trail assets for both non-motorized and motorized user groups
- Revitalization of Shawnigan Village

So far, no-one has commented on the sports and community centre infrastructure of our area, but this is obviously one of the major drivers of

tax costs for Shawnigan and is an important sector of community activity. I would be very interested in continuing comments on what our community priorities should be as we enter into the budget discussions for the 2013 fiscal year and beyond.

Watershed Roundtable

We are continuing to develop the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable as a means of improving the management of our watershed. One of the key initiatives is to bring together all the regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over parts of the watershed. VIHA, Ministry of Transpor-

tation, RCMP, CVRD, Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, Coast Guard, and the Private Managed Forest Land Council are among the agencies that we must engage. Roundtable member will be meeting with as many of these agencies as possible on September 29th and we will report the outcomes both in the Focus and on the roundtable website:

(shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca)

Comments to the roundtable can be directed to its Chair, Georgia Collins at the email address (georgia@shawnigan-watershedroundtable.ca)

Director's Meetings

I would like to remind everyone that I am available by appointment, hold office hours at the room above the Chipperry Restaurant MWF from 11am to 1pm each week and hold Director's meetings the first Monday of each month at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. I can be reached directly at my email address (fraser@islandnet.com) and by phone at 250-733-0771 or on my cell at 250-888-0160. There is also an opportunity to make comment through the contact link on my website (fraserforshawnigan.ca).

Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks & Recreation Commission

With summer's bright days languishing into golden September, our parks and trails continue to be popular spots with both locals and visitors alike. The Shawnigan Parks Commission hopes you took the opportunity over the summer to get out and explore the numerous and diverse parks and trails in the South Cowichan area. At the top of the list for popularity, the newly rehabilitated Kinsol Trestle was able to accommodate an ever increasing fan club this summer, thanks to a much needed parking lot expansion off Glen Eagles Road.

At the end of last summer, the CVRD Parks Recreation and Culture Department polled parks commissions around the region for feedback from the public about smoking at parks and trails. The general consensus was that the issue was more or less self-regulating – in the outdoor setting, it seemed, smokers generally considered non-smokers before lighting up. Over the last year, BC's Tobacco Laws have become more stringent. In any indoor public place or worksite, it is against the law to smoke. Designated smoking rooms are non-existent, and public



Margaret Symon
Chair of Parks Commission

transit, transit shelters, and work vehicles are also smoke-free. There is also a 3 metre non-smoking "buffer zone" around public and work place doorways, opening windows, and air intakes.

The BC Lung Association states tobacco-related illness remains the leading cause of preventable death in BC. The BC Lung Association is supporting efforts by the provincial government to create a smoke-free environment by providing official "No Smoking" signs clearly defining where smoking is, and is not permitted.

Smoking is now banned in a growing number of municipal parks. When asked if BC

Parks would consider placing a smoking ban in provincial parks, former member of the Shawnigan Parks Commission, and now executive director of regional operations at BC Parks, Robert Austed stated BC Parks does post 'No Smoking' signs in parks when the forest fire hazard rating is high, but is not considering a smoking ban in provincial parks. Instead, Austed noted, BC Parks promotes education on forest fire prevention.

Anyone stepping out for a walk in a Metro Vancouver regional park will no longer be allowed to light up a smoke while hiking the trails. The new smoking ban for all 33 regional parks and greenways went into effect January 1, 2012. Violators can expect fines up to \$75. In Ottawa, smoking on city property, parks and beaches can now lead to a fine of \$305. Hookah water pipes are included in the list of smoking instruments banned under the Ottawa bylaw.

Promoting healthy living and reducing the risk of wildfire are two good reasons why it makes sense to ban smoking at CVRD parks and trails.


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Dock alert!!

Boat stolen - A red and grey tin boat (Lund) with 9.5 h.p. motor was stolen from a private dock near the galley.

Contents were stolen from a boat tied to a dock on one of the islands.

Focus subscriptions available - Stay informed!
Contact us for more information: editor@shawniganfocus.ca



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Dwight Global Leaders light up Times Square

Stephen Johnson

Dwight International

It was an exciting event for participants and staff of the Dwight Global Leaders Academy early last week as a group picture of the academy lit up Times Square, congratulating the group on their achievements. The academy, which was held in early August, saw 50 students from around the world attend to learn and practice social entrepreneurship. "It was pretty cool to see," commented Roan Nix, Grade 11 student of Dwight School Canada who also attended the academy, "It's not very often you get the opportunity to have your picture light up Times Square."

The unique program, which began this year on July 27 and ran through August 10, is located at Dwight School Canada, an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for boarding and day students in grades 6-12. The DGLA is specially designed for young people who not only want to learn, but also want to give back. Through an immersion curriculum that encompasses project management, team building, leadership training, collaboration, goal setting, fund raising and promotion, each participant will graduate with a tool kit to effectively plan, execute, and promote his/her own service project.



Dwight group onscreen in N.Y. Times Square

Inspire! Profile

Lynn Weaver's modesty conceals her many contributions to the communities and people she has touched elsewhere, as well as closer to home here in Shawnigan Lake. Lynn has been dancing all her life and loves sharing her passion as an educator, performer, director, and advocate of human potential. She has studied extensively across a wide range of disciplines, finding a deep kinship in "Cultural Dance", specifically West African Dance and Drumming. Travelling to Guinea and studying their music and dance, Lynn saw how fully these arts encompassed community building, as well as supported and respected each individual's contribution to the whole.

Cultural Dance fits perfectly with Lynn's vision for her school MoonDance Dynamic Arts. "We dance for joy, for community, for self-confidence, for fitness, for vivacity, and for each other," says Lynn, in her warm, gentle manner. The school offers a diverse collection of lively classes for a wide range of ages and levels of ability. Many talented dancers and musicians create the team of teachers that make up the school.

In addition to owning and operating MoonDance for the past 12 years, she is also chair of Matoto Multicultural Arts Society, a grassroots, non-profit society based in BC that provides humanitarian aid to a community in Guinea, most recently by building the first school in the village of Kubian.

"The gift of multiculturalism is in what it teaches about humanity. Using the arts to channel the natural desire to connect in meaningful ways, we participate not through philanthropy but by invitation and with full recognition of others' unique experiences." Lynn reaches broad audiences to share the Arts and

cross-cultural understanding. She collaborates regularly with Power of Hope, Canada World Youth, Cowichan Intercultural Society, and other leadership groups on Vancouver Island and abroad.

"My life is art. My art is my work, my play, my social time and my family time. We eat well. Live well. Play, sing, and dance. I know that I am following my dharma, in other words, sharing the gifts I was given to share." Lynn's sharing takes place regularly in the Art House, a welcoming community gathering space for various arts related classes and events, in the heart of our village. Recently co-founding Inspire! Shawnigan, an arts, culture, and heritage collective, Lynn is moving towards a goal of what she calls 'arts for evolution.' "Arts transcend language barriers, unite us, highlight our uniqueness, and give us tools for communicating when other methods break down. Arts are the impetus for drawing out human potential. Arts are community building, peace building."

Friday, September 21st, 8-10 PM Join us for a musical evening with Brad Prevedoros at the ART House Saturday, September 22nd, 7 - 9 PM, INSPIRE! Gallery reopens, featuring a new exhibit:

"OUR WATER - OUR LIVES".

Sunday, September 23rd, 1-6 PM. Bring your families to the 3rd annual community INSPIRE! ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL (formerly SLAM),

It is sure to be an upbeat event celebrating the creative, diverse people of our community!

All happening in our village!

www.InspireShawnigan.com

Just checking...

We have recently heard from many people that they do not receive (and, some that never have) a copy of the Shawnigan Focus in their mailbox. Since April 2011, we have paid Canada Post every month to deliver a copy of this community newspaper to all of the mail boxes in the Shawnigan area. We would like to know if you do not receive your copy of the Focus.

Please contact editor@shawniganfocus.ca if you do not receive the Focus.

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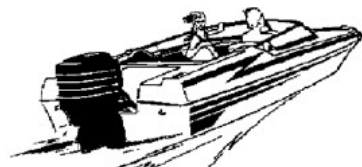
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RCMP Shawnigan Lake Detachment

SGT. Rob Webb

Shawnigan RCMP

Shawnigan Lake RCMP have been kept busy with an increase in calls for service over the summer months. Early July, when the sun finally hit, calls increased for party complaints and boat traffic. Late-night boating this summer was an area that we focused some increased presence on the water. RCMP were fortunate to have the Island District South Island Marine Unit (from Victoria) out on the water with their boat for several days. We look forward to their participation again next year. Sgt. Webb received many positive comments from residents advising they were very pleased with the RCMP presence on the water this summer. Sgt. Webb credits the support of the CVRD, Island District RCMP and the RCMP officers themselves who rearranged their schedules to help make the water safer.

The RCMP were also kept busy with too many "shots fired" complaints. The Detachment has made a concerted effort in this area but citizens continue to frequent the West Shawnigan area and use firearms in unsafe areas.

Speeding of vehicles and aggressive driving continue to be another top complaint from the community. Shawnigan Lake RCMP are looking to outfit an unmarked vehicle soon

and hope to introduce it in the next edition.

Over the summer, the officers both on the water and on the land continued to issue positive tickets to youth for wearing life jackets, wearing bike helmets, and other positive behavior. The South Cowichan Community Police Station is now open in Mill Bay and offers a variety of information. Gail Stroud is the coordinator and is pleased with the increase in Block Watch areas started up as well as the increase in Speed Watch volunteers.

The summer saw the local Detachment members involved in many community events including the July 1st parade in Shawnigan, Mill Bay Days, Malahat Days with the Malahat Band and community, and the Cobble Hill Fall Fair.

School is back in session. Please remember the school zone speed limits, as we will be out to ensure our youth make it to school safely.

Sergeant R.E. (Rob) Webb -
Detachment Commander
2780 Shawnigan Lake Rd.
Shawnigan Lake B.C.
V0R 2W0
250-743-5514 Work
250-743-1549 Fax
rob.webb@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Telephone: (250)743-2096 Fax: (250)743-2096

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Department members attended 17 calls in August

Department Officers attended 8 burning complaints in August

- Wednesday, August 1 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Road
- Thursday, August 2 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road
- Thursday, August 2 - 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Road
- Saturday, August 4 - Ambulance assist in the Rock Quarry
- Tuesday, August 7 - 1st Responder off Sylvester Road
- Wednesday, August 8 - Alarm activated in Hillcroft Acres
- Tuesday, August 14 - Yard fire off Orme Road
- Tuesday, August 14 - Smell of smoke in Hillcroft Acres
- Wednesday, August 15 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Road
- Thursday, August 16 - Bush fire on Baldy Mountain Road
- Thursday, August 16 - Smoke sighting on Silvermine Road
- Sunday, August 19 - Alarms activated on W Shawnigan Lake Road
- Sunday, August 19 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Road
- Saturday, August 25 - 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Road
- Monday, August 27 - MVI at Renfrew & Shawnigan Lake Roads
- Tuesday, August 28 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road
- Thursday, August 30 - 1st Responder on Renfrew Road



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department is currently accepting applications for Fire fighters & junior fire fighters.

Applications can be obtained on the Department website: www.Shawniganfire.Com

Or on Wednesday evenings @ 7 pm

Hall 1 - 1645 shawnigan-mill bay road

Like Father Like Son

Janet Neilson
Shawnigan Focus

A long-time, dedicated employee for the Shawnigan Lake Garage, Bruce Lorimer has left his job as a mechanic in the village after 28 years of service. Bruce started pumping gas at the garage for the Reid family, the owners in 1984, when he was only 14 years old. Bruce told me he started helping his dad at the age of ten with automotive work at his parents' home-based business on Heald Rd. At 19, Bruce apprenticed as a mechanic with Tom Buss who, along with his wife Laura, operated the garage from 1986 until 2009. In July, Bruce decided to leave Shawnigan Lake Automotive & Marine and start his own home-based business, like his father did over 40 years ago. Bruce's Automotive Inc. is located in the Silvermine Estates at 3015 Miner Rd.



Bruce Lorimer at work in his home shop

Good luck to you Bruce.

Malahat Legion

September Schedule

Lunches are available Tues - Fri. 11 a.m - 1 p.m.

Mondays -----League Dart.s Bar open 6PM to 10PM (only when our Dart team is home team dates will be promulgated when known)

Tuesdays----- Bar open 11am to 6pm (League Pool Sept 11. Bar will remain open until approx. 10pm that day)

Wednesdays-- Bar open 11am to 10pm. Crib night -- and Open Dart night

Thursdays---- Bar open 11am to 6pm

Fridays----- Bar open 11am to 10pm. Wings available starting at 4pm (until sold out)

Saturdays----- Bar open 1pm to 8pm (Volunteer Bartender will stay later, if there are enough customers) Meat draw is 3- 5 p.m. with the first draw at 3 p.m. (The kitchen will be open if we have a volunteer)

Sundays--Closed except for Sept 09 Zone Meeting 12pm & Radar plotter Re-union starting at 2pm.

October - first two weeks

Lunches are available Tues - Fri. 11 a.m- 1 p.m.**Mondays** ----League Darts. Bar open 6PM to 10PM (only when our Dart team is home team dates will be promulgated when known)

Tuesdays-----Bar open 11am to 6pm (League Pool Oct 2nd). Bar will remain open until approx 10pm that day)

Wednesdays---- Bar open 11am to 10pm. Crib night-- and Open Dart night

Thursdays----- Bar open 11am to 6pm

Fridays----- Bar open 11am to 10pm. Wings available starting at 4pm (until sold out)

Saturdays----- Bar open 1pm to 8pm (Volunteer Bartender will stay later, if there are enough customers) Meat draw is 3- 5 p.m. with the first draw at 3 p.m. (The kitchen will be open if we have a volunteer)

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Take a Hike!



Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Once upon a time, up until about the late 70's, the old Bamberton Haul Road was used to haul limestone from Kingzette Lake (the Quarry) to the Bamberton Cement plant by the ocean. About 13 kilometres, I'm told.

I also heard that back in the day the portion that exists in Shawnigan is not only the major powerline corridor but was also known as the 'Island's First Dragstrip' in the 60's thanks to San Cobble Raceways. Can you imagine? (I know some of you were there!) I visualize that as I'm treading down the road and how much fun it must have been! Don't bother trying to

revive this sport as now the road has a blockade at the far end of it, rejecting full access through to Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road.

Surrounding the Haul Road is a network of trails through the forest which lead up to behind the Firehall and the Legion or to Malta Road or many other exits and entrances. One thing for sure is please be aware that a lot of these trails spill out onto private land so be respectful and courteous to the neighborhood and residents. Oh, and that being said, there is a bear or two that call this area home as well...

In addition, between the Haul Road and Owl Road are the remnants of what was once perhaps a wicked bike obstacle course of sorts - not very safe now but, again, fun to imagine what it was like when it was thriving.

The Haul Road and surrounding trails are very, very easy and pretty good for all levels for the most part. The only really tricky part that I've encountered is the entrance that goes in from Malta Road that has some really steep areas,

overgrown brush and creek crossings. So, if you are just venturing out for the first time, the easiest access point is from Peerless Rd next to the adorable alpaca farm which will take you right onto the Haul Road itself.

Hope you check it out and if you see me say hi!

*** Next month we take on Shawnigan Lake Trans Canada Trail from Sooke Lake Rd to Renfrew Road, wanna come?

Robin Massey (Captain Tailfeather) plays on various trails in Cowichan Valley with The Iron Butts. www.theomtree.com



Amphibious car on the lake

Water: More precious than gold

Jim Musselwhite
G.E.T. Solar Solutions

Our world is changing. The environment and its diminishing resources require different thinking and choices. Managing our water in a way that supports sustainability is not only increasingly important, experts deem it critical. We do not have a limitless supply...

Both water quantity and quality are significantly deteriorating in the Cowichan Valley - and the world. For example, studies show that the incoming water to Cowichan Lake has declined by 36%!

Shawnigan Lake's water quality is also on the decline. In past, our water rated 9/10. More recently, that rating reduced to 6/10. Contrib-

uting factors to this significant drop are numerous and overlapped, yet one major culprit is aging and failing septic fields. Seasonal flooding also force lakeside septic fields under water. If we remain on course, Shawnigan Lake, a drinking source for more than 4500 residents, will be dead in 10-15 years.

Solution seeking is imperative to ensure this does not happen. One such solution is an inexpensive composting toilet system, which requires little to no water and no septic field. Different thinking and different choices - appropriate responses to our 21st century water reality.

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The Wild Side

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

The day after the Labour Day holiday was spectacular and I was lucky enough to be able to relax and enjoy the quiet lake. With some of the ‘seasonal’ wildlife gone, some of the native wildlife took full advantage of a great day.

The impressive Pileated Woodpecker (think Woody Woodpecker) arrived on our deck for breakfast and spent quite a while peacefully chowing down on the feeder. Later, the Kingfisher made his noisy rounds, checking the empty docks - and what might lurk beneath.

My favourite sighting of the day was a Mink, which nimbly skittered across a log, carrying a fish half his size. Mink are a common sight at Shawnigan, and although their silky, durable fur has been a symbol of luxury for over a century, they aren’t very popular. This is because of their unfortunate tendency to create messes or smells in boats, or buildings, with their middens or latrines.

The Mink (*Mustela vison*) is a member of the

Weasel family and has the typical long, thin weasel shape, mounted on short legs. The Mink has a flat head with a narrow nose attached to a long neck. They have black beady eyes and rounded ears. Their furry tail is approximately half the length of their head and body combined. Their famous coat of short, dense glossy fur is uniformly brown although, most often, there is an irregular, white patch on their chin, throat, chest or groin. The Mink is a fierce hunter that preys on aquatic animals, fish, small mammals and birds. Males weigh less than two kilograms, and females are about half that. It takes a lot of mink to make a coat for a human!

Although they can be a nuisance, they can also be very entertaining. One hot summer day, we enjoyed the antics of a Mom and four babies trying to cross the beach. Much like human children, there were distinct differences in the personalities of these young minks. Some of the babies forged bravely across the beach (in spite of a large hu-



man audience) to follow their mother, while others refused to leave the safety of the bushes. Momma Mink raced back and forth between, chiding the stragglers. Eventually, she swam off with three of her offspring leaving the fourth to call her bluff, which it did reluctantly, choosing to swim to catch up rather than run the length of the beach.

WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT? WHY IS IT?



First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins

WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER: JUNE ISSUE

Congratulations

The winner for August was
Naz Sicherman.

It is the Shawnigan Lake School Crest located near the entrance gates. It contains the school mascot, the stag and is in the school colours, black and gold. The motto. “*Palmmam Qui Meruit Ferat*”, is Latin for “*Let whoever has deserved the palm bear it*”.

Winners receive two
specialty coffees at Moziro’s

New rules for PAN Disposal

It seems that many people have been caught unaware that new rules are in place for curb-side waste pickup. This notice is intended as a public service.

PAN Disposal, a private company that has been picking up south-end garbage for decades, has some new rules which started this month. They still come by every week but now alternate weeks are for alternate waste. The schedule started with the first week in September being for garbage, the second week for organics (aka compost), and continues from there.

The reasoning behind this, according to PAN, is

that “All transfer and dump stations will be making it mandatory for garbage and compost materials to be separated. In time they will be refusing loads and issuing fines for mixed materials.”

Orange tickets continue to be required for garbage containers while new green tickets are available for containers of organic waste. People with fixed term contracts do not require tickets. Organic material must also be placed in “approved” compostable bags.

More detailed information can be found on a brochure which is available where tickets are sold, or by calling PAN at 250-743-3053.

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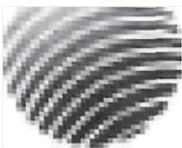
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Community Calendar

Area B Director's Meetings

- 1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre

(SLCC) Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission

- 1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at SLCC Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission

Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission

- 3rd Thursday of each month 6:30pm at SLCC Shawnigan Improvement District

Shawnigan Improvement District

- 2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall

Shawnigan Lake Residents Association

- 3rd Tuesday 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 themVillage Chipperry. AGM will be Tuesday October 2, 7:30pm at Cafe Crème, 2-2740 Dundas Rd.

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

- September 15 as announced. Everyone welcome

Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable:

- September 22nd, 10:30am: Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Workshop with the Aqua-Tex team. Meet at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. A chance to get out in the field and co away with practical knowledge about our watershed.
- September 22nd, 7pm: Art Opening/Reception - “Our Water, Our Life” in the Inspire! space
- October 4th, 9:30am: Timber Company Watershed Tour. Join us for yet another tour in our Watershed. Representatives from TimberWest, Island Timberlands and woodlot owner(s) will tour us around their properties showcasing their practices and discussing the future of forestry in the Shawnigan Watershed.

Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage

- September 21st, 8-10 PM. musical evening with Brad Prevedoros at the ART House
- September 22nd, 7 - 9 PM, new exhibit “OUR WATER - OUR LIVES”upstairs in the ‘Purple Building’ featuring the works of several visual artists, dance performance and music.
- Sunday, September 23rd, 1-6 PM ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL in the Village

Thank you to our Advertisers
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Shawnigan Weather for August 2012

(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network) ~compiled by Grant Treloar

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	23.1	26.3	24.8	25.7	24.0
Avg Low	11.9	13.3	12.8	13.3	12.8
Extr High	36.1	34.2	32.6	34.3	31.0
Extr Low	3.3	9.3	8.8	9.2	9.4
Precip	29.3	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
Days with Rain	6	2	2	2	2

Lake Temperature: August 5th: 24° August 12th: 24° August 19th: 24° August 26th: 21°



Lunch - 11:30am
Brunch - 10:30 Sundays
Dinner - 5:00pm Daily

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