



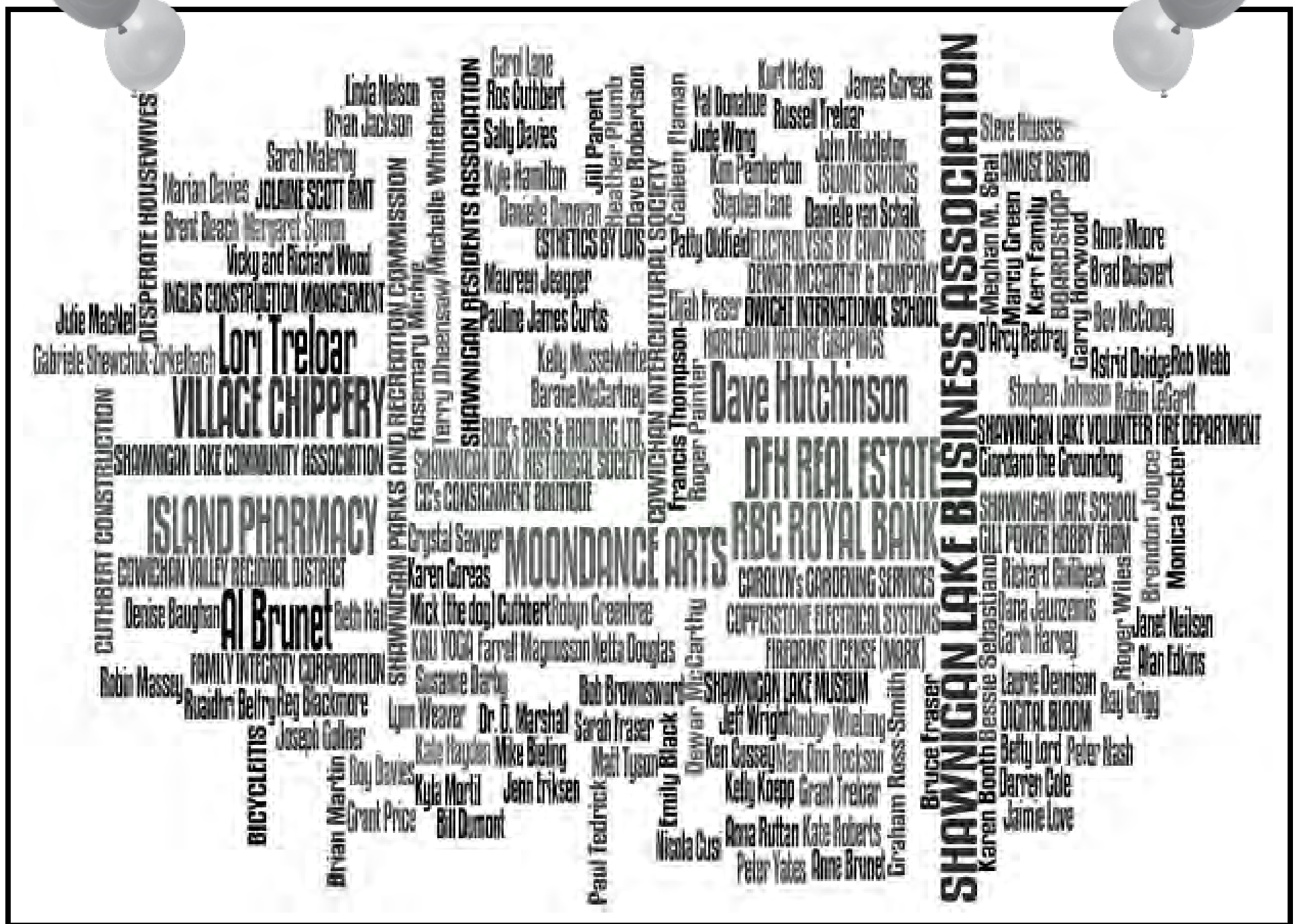
Shawnigan Focus

Volume Two - Issue Four

April 2012

"Our Voice - Our Thoughts - Our Community"

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY Shawnigan Focus



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the first year a success!

The Shawnigan Focus team, none of whom had ever produced a newspaper before, can look back over the past year and feel proud of the twelve issues that have been delivered, free of charge, to the Shawnigan Lake community.

The Focus would not be celebrating its 1st birthday without the contributions from the community – the writers, the advertisers and

the volunteers. Together, we are creating an asset that celebrates and connects our community.

We appreciate the constructive feedback that we have received to date. Judging from the reviews, the Focus appears to be a success. With more community feedback, and involvement, we will continue to evolve and improve.

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The maple syrup project



Sonia Furstenau
Dwight International

Over a series of months, the Dwight International grade 6 – 8 expeditionary class worked on a maple syrup project, which culminated in more than two dozen sweet and delicious jars of sticky syrup.

The project was initiated by Elijah Fraser, a local member of the community. Elijah has been tapping trees, boiling down sap, and bottling syrup to keep his pantry stocked – and his family happy – for the past few years.

Our project began in November with an informative presentation from Elijah outlining the history of maple syrup in Canada, from its origins in the aboriginal diet to its current status as our sweetest export. Elijah also described all of the steps that would be involved in the project. Students learned about looking for the right size of Bigleaf Maple tree, drilling holes, inserting spiles, and setting up the tubes and buckets for sap collection.

With the background in mind and the tools in hand, the class followed

Elijah into the woods behind the Dwight campus. The students' first task was to find the trees most likely to produce lots of sap – not too small, but also not too big.

After staking out the trees, the students were ready with either electric or hand drills – the old-fashioned hand drills were definitely the more popular choice. Elijah had given strict instructions how far to drill into the tree, and at what angle, to ensure the most sap production. After a few false starts (and making sure all the drills were not in reverse), the holes were drilled, the spiles inserted, and the plastic tubes leading to food-grade buckets were put in place. The tapping was complete!

Looking at our handiwork, Gabriel Liu, a grade 8 student asked, “Are we, like, tree vampires?”

At this point, all that was left to do was wait for the trees to release the sap meant to heal the wounds in their bark. For the first few weeks, the warmer weather did not help.

Our first trip back into the woods to check on our buckets was

disappointing. At the bottom of the buckets, a thin layer of what looked and tasted just like water was all that was waiting for us; for most students the highlight of this trip in the woods was nibbling on the thin layers of frozen sap that covered the liquid at the bottom of the buckets. The ice tasted no different from a regular icicle – the sugar content of sap is so low it is difficult to detect the sweetness or flavour that lurks within – but the ice itself was a good sign. A cold snap had come, and a cold snap was exactly what we needed to get the sap flowing.

Our next trip into the woods was a much more productive one – the buckets were brimming with sap. We now had enough to move on to our next stage: boiling the sap down into syrup.

Then disaster struck.

Six buckets of sap – each containing nearly 20 litres – were put in the walk-in fridge in the Dwight school kitchen for safe-keeping overnight. Early the next morning, when the cooks came in to prepare breakfast, they did not know why someone had put so many buckets of what appeared to be water in the fridge, and they disposed of all of it. More than 100 litres of sap were unceremoniously poured down the drain.

Fortunately, the Bigleaf Maples were feeling big-hearted, and within a few days our sap stock was replenished. The boiling down, which would take 3 days, began.

It takes approximately 43 litres of sap to produce one litre of syrup, and all of the extra water must be evaporated by boiling; it is therefore recommended that this is done either outside or in a kitchen equipped with an industrial fan (unless you're hoping to peel the paint off your kitchen walls).

The final boiling was done in my own kitchen, and the students were able to go in small groups to monitor the progress. At the same time, some maple syrup was being further boiled down so students could enjoy a Quebecois treat: *tire de neige*, when hot candied syrup is poured over snow and instantly hardened into maple candy.

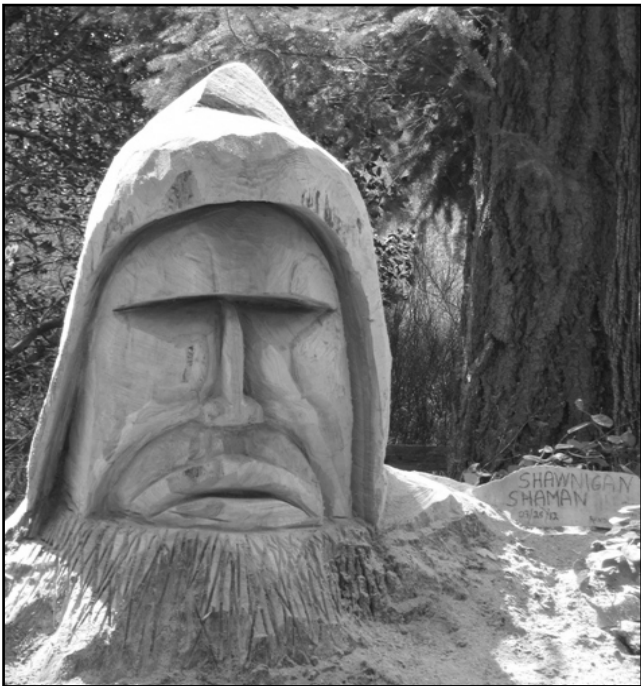
Students learned at this point to measure the sugar content of various liquids – including our maple syrup – by looking through a spectrometer. Elijah also challenged students with a review sheet, testing their knowledge and math skills. The syrup, finally ready, was poured into sterilized bottles, and each student was rewarded with one maple leaf shaped bottle of Dwight Bigleaf Maple syrup.



People of this place

Graham Ross-Smith

Carving in wood began in childhood for Shawnigan Lake resident Randy Malone. He took it up at



around age six and soon developed a life-long love of creating interesting works of art out of wood. At 62, the creative juices continue to run strong, so when Randy came across a large stump on Recreation Road just around the corner from where he lives on East Shawnigan Lake Road, he could not resist the urge to turn it into something of interest and beauty. Out came the trusty chain saw a couple of weeks ago, and within hours Randy turned a large Douglas Fir stump into the “Shawnigan Shaman” – looking sad for the tree being killed at such an early age. The result is a generous contribution by this humble man to our community's outdoor public art.

Now, good stumps for carving are hard to come by. This one was created a couple of years ago by a tree service company contracted by the province to clear trees and limbs along the roads of Shawnigan Lake. The stump, about six feet high, was firm and solid to the core. In fact, its sound condition suggested to Randy that the tree was probably in very good health. “The tree was absolutely sound, as far as I could tell, and there was no sign of any core sampling being done” said Randy. Of course, this begs the question as to why the tree was cut down in the first place. But solving of that mystery

will require further investigation and another article.

Having worked with trees as a logger for much of his life, Randy has a solid knowledge of trees and wood in general. He was born and raised in the Victoria area and began working in “the bush” as a teenager at Cowichan Lake. Over the course of his life, he has worked in both the coast and the interior logging industries. He has also spent a number of years travelling throughout Canada and the States as a long-haul truck driver. Though no longer logging, he still does some truck driving; most recently hauling ore with a nine axle truck over treacherous roads between Stewart and Watson Lake. For thirty-two years, he also owned and operated a trap line in the interior of BC. His love of wood carving stayed strong throughout, as he honed his skills and acquired a collection of carving tools, both hand and power.

For most of his life, he made only relatively small carvings, but during the last few years he has moved to doing larger works as well; the Shawnigan Shaman being a good example. In fact, he has produced carvings as large as 18 feet high. Lately he has branched out into carving in stone also.

Randy can be reached by phoning Marilyn at 250-743-3587. or by knocking on the door at 2474 East Shawnigan Lake Rd.

Commentary & Opinion

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shownigan 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.

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Shawnigan Lake's watershed

Dear Editors,

Shawnigan Lake's watershed

Dear Editors,

I feel obliged to correct one important error in Dave Hutchinson's otherwise excellent article on Shawnigan Lake's watershed that appeared in the March edition of the Focus. In describing flows of water into and out of the lake, he stated that "Water level is controlled by a weir on Shawnigan Creek to provide storage and prevent flooding." He is correct with respect to storage, but is incorrect about flood prevention. The weir was built solely to store water so that the three water purveyors that are licensed to draw and sell water from Shawnigan Lake (CVRD, Lidstech Holdings Ltd. and Mill Bay Waterworks) will have a sufficient supply of water through the low-rainfall months to meet the needs of their customers.

Unfortunately, the weir has no ability whatsoever to prevent winter flooding and was never intended to do so. In fact, the very presence of the weir in the creek channel, even when the gate is wide open during the wet season, means that it might actually be a contributor to flooding as it appears to create some degree of resistance to the flow of water from the lake to the sea.

Graham Ross-Smith

High taxes in the Cowichan Valley

Dear Sir,

The CVRD board has once again confirmed to potential investors, residents, seniors, businesses and others they intend to keep the Cowichan Valley a high spending-high taxation jurisdiction with their budget approval to spend more than \$70 million this year. Unlike the BC and Canadian governments who are controlling their spending, these geniuses have just approved a whopping 7.6% increase in spending with taxes up between 4 and 8%.

They also helped themselves to their own pay increase and will give raises to all their 219 employees including \$2000 to \$3500 to each of those 30 staff already making over \$100,000 per year. They plan to increase the already generous pensions for all permanent staff.

They have been doing this every year for the past 10 years, basically rubber stamping all the spending proposals, many which don't pass the smell test, presented by their own staff and special interest groups. These special interest groups find it easy and far more productive to harvest taxpayer's money from this compliant Board than doing their own fundraising in the community.

The Board runs an amateur, mockery of a budget “review” process in public and then agrees to accept every project they and their staff can think of. They are adding more employees again including their own high-priced Spin Doctor to tell us what a good job they are doing spending our money.

To add insult to the tax pain inflicted again this year they agreed to waste a further \$300,000 to do a “sustainability” plan for the Cowichan Valley. Too bad the Board doesn’t seem to have a clue what that term means as it relates to irresponsible, ever-increasing spending by local governments.

There is good reason for the BC government appointing a new Municipal Auditor to protect local taxpayers and the CVRD should be the first to be audited.

W.E. (Bill) Dumont R.P.F.

Attention Shawnigan Lake residents! OUR LAKE IS DYING!

Attention Shawnigan Lake residents! OUR LAKE IS DYING!

"Did I get your attention?"

Shawnigan lake has been in a life and death struggle for many years. The cause of illness: human septic fields, logging, and indifference.

To give name to a couple of contaminants, our lake is high in Ibuprofen and Caffeine.

My Grandmother purchased my property 71 years ago, and I have spent 49 years playing in my paradise. I have always had this property to share and feel safe...

“Now I feel sick.”

I have watched our water quality decline from a 10 (drink the water), to a 6 (treat the water), to terminal in 10-15 years according to Dr. Mazumder; who has been testing the water since 2001. This should really scare you... it does me. This is our drinking water, our playground, and our home. We have to protect our Lake and save it, if we can, or we will be living on a big green algae filled, dead lake; with no water to drink, no fishing, no swimming, and property values worthless.

Who do you ask is the main culprit? Humans and our septic runoff. This includes anyone living in the Shawnigan basin. All water flows downhill into the lake, even if you are on the top of the hillside, your septic will eventually make it's way to the Lake through a stream, creek, or into our groundwater wells. Septics work if they are maintained and emptied at least every 2 years.

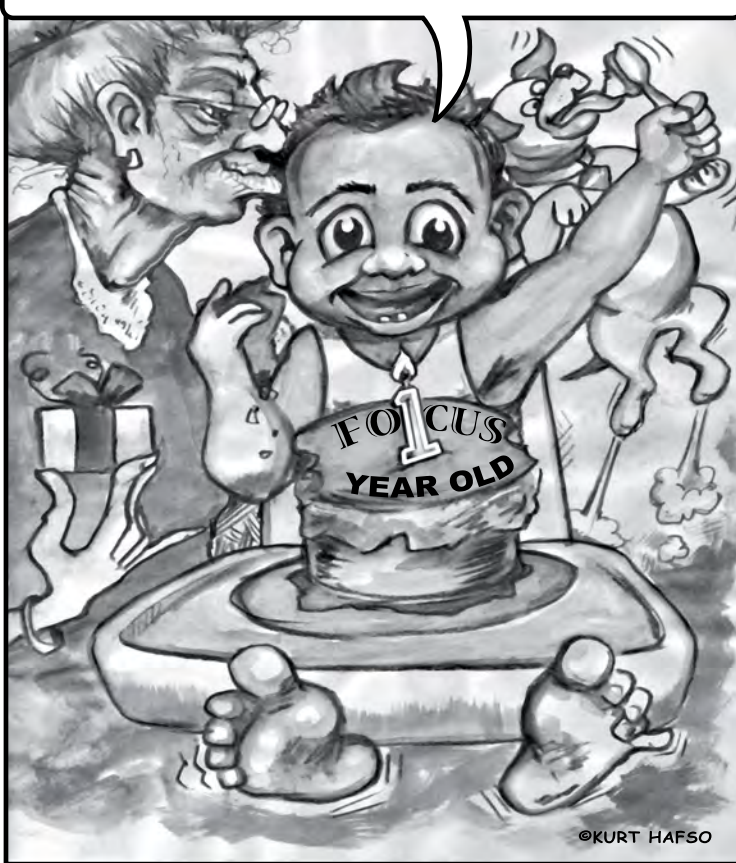
Most cleaners, body-care products, and laundry detergents are full of sulphates, phosphates, and nasty toxic chemicals; there is a reason they have childproof caps. There is a solution to our toxic ways and we as a community need to get on board and convert now, or we might not be able to save it! I think our water supply is worth the effort, don't you?

Our solution is that we need to use products that are nature based, phosphate free, sulphate free, biodegradable, and work well if not better than the products with brand names. Natural products should be used as much as possible and I need help spreading these Green Products to the community.

I can't do this alone! It will take a community effort to convert our homes to non-polluting drains. Right now Proctor and Gamble, Johnson and Johnson, Clorox and Tide are killing our lake and our health. There is an alternative that works and if we don't try, we will never know if it saves our Lake. I am committed to saving our precious lake, I can educate people into making their homes non-harmful and using healthier products. Help me help our lake and you!

Shelagh Bell-Irving

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY SHAWNIGAN FOCUS!!



**Re: BC Hydro - Installation
of smart meter**

Greg Reimer,
Executive Vice President Transmission &
Distribution BC Hydro
33 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 5R3

Dear Greg,

We are writing to you to express our support for the modernization of BC electrical system with the installation of the New Smart Meter. However, we cannot support the use of the onboard radio communication transceivers, built into the smart meters, to deliver data to BC Hydro.

Our deep concerns about the effects of this type of radiation are based on personal experience. Since the introduction of cell phones to the world we have seen several friends, acquaintances, and family members suffer from exotic forms of both brain and intestinal tumors, malignant and benign. It is astonishing to us that these tumors all developed in areas of the body closely adjacent to where cell phones have been used or are stored. (Tumors of the brain immediately adjacent to the ear, Intestinal tumors adjacent to the area where cell phones have been stored in pouches on the waist).

We do not believe these cases to be random and there is nothing that the so-called ‘medical experts’ can tell us that will reduce our concern about the exposure to this type of radiation.

We believe that being Canadian is about having choices; after all Canada is a Democratic First World Country, not a dictatorship. BC Hydro needs to come up with an alternative to the radio communication transceiver for data delivery.

It is our understanding that the smart meter does have the ability to deliver secure data via an Ethernet connection, through a router and across the internet to BC Hydro.

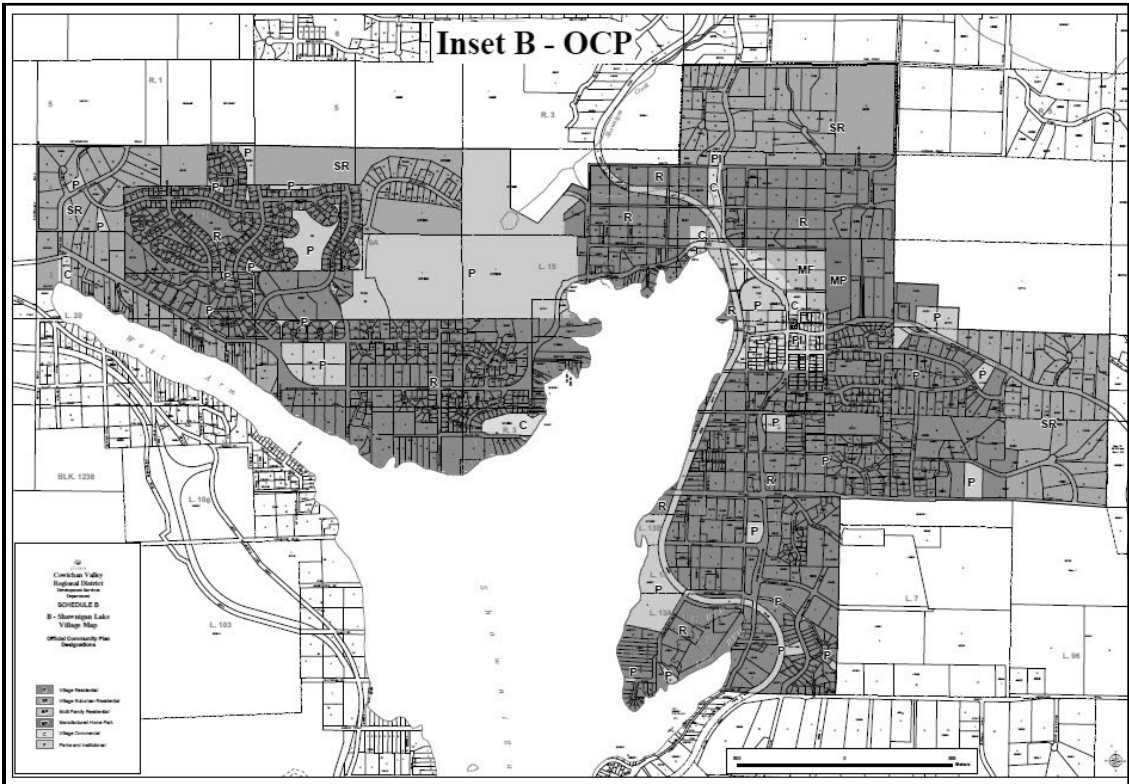
This would be our family choice and we respectfully ask BC Hydro to consider our request in the spirit of fairness and good customer relations before installing the smart meter at our home.

Yours in anticipation,

Dewar and Jen McCarthy

“The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.”
-Chinese Proverb

“The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.”
-Chinese Proverb



Shawngian Village Containment Boundary

What is the village containment boundary?

Dave Hutchinson
Shawngian Focus

The recently finalized South Cowichan Official Community Plan has a main section which covers the three Electoral Areas of Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay. It also has three appendices which focus on the village cores of each area. The village cores have been defined by a Village Containment Boundary or VCB.

As stated in the OCP the intentions of the VCB are:

a) To establish well defined boundaries between those areas

intended for urban growth and those protected for rural values;

b) To determine those areas where urban services, particularly future community water and community sewer services, will be available for development;

c) To maximise the efficiency of land use and preserve the agricultural, forestry and wilderness land base outside of the village containment boundaries;

d) To encourage appropriate community amenities and services to meet the needs of a diverse community, with commercial areas within walking distance of most residential areas;

e) To delineate areas where mixed residential, commercial, and institutional land uses will be focused, to create complete, healthy and liveable communities.

The area within the VCB seems to be targeted for higher residential densities and concentrations of commercial facilities. It is interesting that the waterfront properties along the north side of the West Arm are now considered part of the village core while the commercial and residential developments along the South Shawnigan Road are not yet part of the plan.

Focus feedback: Creek clean-out article

Graham Ross-Smith
Shawngian Focus

In the March edition of the Focus, Brent Beach questioned the wisdom of cleaning out the mouth of the outlet creek (North Shawnigan Creek) as a way of preventing water-polluting and damaging floods. He gave three reasons for his position. One was that in future it will be necessary to store more winter water to see us through the dry season, even though I cannot see what that has to do with flood prevention. He also suggested that the creek clean-out be delayed until the newly-formed Watershed Roundtable is able to make a recommendation one way or the other on this question. However, given the funding (none) and powers (none other than reasoned argument and moral suasion) of the Roundtable, it is unlikely that it will be in a position to address this matter for some time. Meanwhile, much of the watershed’s hills are being clear-cut, climate change is continuing and development is showing no sign of slowing down. The conditions conducive to floods won’t wait.

His third point is that the water-flow restriction point is not at the mouth of the creek but further downstream according to a 1985 water level study. I have read this report and cannot find words to that effect. What I can find there, however, is a recommendation to replace the old dam and the comment that “Together with a replacement dam, channel improvements could reduce damages from winter flooding.” Likewise, a 2002 report (Bryden and Barr) does not indicate a flow restriction farther downstream from the outflow mouth. This report states that, “[By 1979] sedimentation and debris in the channel upstream of the dam [weir] at the lake mouth had built-up to almost the same elevation as the top of the dam structure and controlled Shawnigan Lake outflow.” The 1985 report (Talbot) is consistent with this finding where it states that “Lake levels are also controlled by the outlet channel invert and outlet channel constrictions.” Also, according to that report “In September of 1981, . . . a shallow channel was cut through a bar forming

at the outlet of the lake. The bar build-up had been blamed by many lakeshore residents for the December 18, 1979 flood.” The report recommended, among other things that “. . . a possible new dam [weir] and outlet channel be designed to pass the calculated 1:200 peak instantaneous flow of 39.6 cubic metres per second. This was consistent with a report written thirty-two years earlier (1953) by Dewart MacLean of the Water Rights Branch, which recommended “the excavation and enlargement of the lake outlet channel to prevent the flooding of lakeshore properties.”

Clearly, it is a fact that over time silt, sand and other debris along with the growth of bushes and other shoreline vegetation cause build-up of the creek bed at the mouth of North Shawnigan creek thereby reducing the rate of outflow. That this material should be removed from time-to-time (maybe every 10 years or so) to prevent winter flooding is simply “a no brainer,” as our Area Director described the matter recently. To do otherwise would be folly.

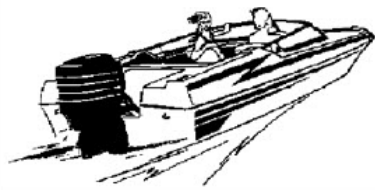
Comparative tax increases from CVRD 2012 final budget

Source: Cowichan Valley Citizen

CVRD Tax per \$100,000 of assessed home value:

- Area A (Mill Bay/Malahat) - up **5.89%** to \$216.75
- Area B (Shawnigan Lake) - up **4.19%** to \$257.01
- Area C (Cobble Hill) - up **4.02%** to \$225.66
- Area D (Cowichan Bay) up **5.49%** to \$275.89
- Area E (Cowichan Stn/Sahtlam/Glenora) up **8.63%** to \$232.57
- Area F (Cowichan Lk South/ Skutz Falls) up **4.07%** to \$287.81
- Area G (Saltair/Gulf Islands) - up **3.85%** to \$134.13
- Area H (North Oyster/ Diamond) - up **5.89%** to \$112.46
- Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) - up **3.78%** to \$280.74

SHAWNIGAN MILL BAY
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Mill Bay's
Auto/Marine
Parts Store
Pioneer Square

The new zoning bylaw let’s hope we get it right

Dave Hutchinson
Shawngian Focus

The CVRD web site states: “Each property in the CVRD is assigned a specific zone as described in one of the CVRD’s nine Zoning Bylaws. Zoning is a way of regulating the use of land by categorizing properties for a specific range of permitted uses, densities, siting, and building form. The basis for zoning is the Official Community Plan (OCP), which provides objectives and policies for land use. Zoning is the main method of implementing the Regional District’s land use policies that are stated in the OCP.”

The current Zoning Bylaw for Area B was created in 1986 and has incorporated about 100 amending bylaws over the last 25 years.

With the finalization of the South Cowichan OCP a few months ago, CVRD staff are actively crafting new zoning bylaws to reflect updated land use designations and policies. First drafts will soon be made available to Area Directors and Advisory

Planning Commissions. Public Hearings will follow in a few months.

As with the OCP, it is likely that there will be one primary Zoning Bylaw for South Cowichan and three separate sections or specific bylaws for lands within the Village Containment Boundaries (VCB) for Shawnigan, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay.

This is an important process for the community. The Zoning Bylaw is a powerful structure which will greatly influence what Shawnigan will be like in the future. It is essential that appropriate definitions and clarity are present and that the new rules truly reflect our collective vision for the next decade or two. It is also important that a degree of flexibility be present so that common sense can prevail. At the same time the wording must avoid loopholes which could be misused by vested interests. All in all this is a complex challenge. Stay tuned for future updates on this topic.

A-1	Primary Agricultural	P-1	Parks and Institutional
A-2	Secondary Agricultural	P-2	Parks and Recreation
F-1	Primary Forestry	T-1	Railway Transportation
F-2	Secondary Forestry	I-1	Light Industrial
R-1	Rural Residential	I-3	Medium Industrial
R-2	Suburban Residential	I-4	Aggregate and Mineral Processing Industrial
R-3	Urban Residential	I-5	Eco Industrial 1-5
R-4	Rural Community Residential	CLS	Community Land Stewardship
R-6	Mobile Home Residential	W-1	Water Conservancy
MP-1	Mobile Home Park	W-2	Water Recreation
C-1	Village Commercial	W-2(I)	Water Institutional
C-2	Local Commercial	W-3	Water Marina
C-3	Service Commercial		
C-4	Tourist Recreational Commercial		
C-5	Neighbourhood Pub Commercial		

Current primary zoning catigories for Shawenigan

Take a Hike!



Robin Massey

Stoney Hill...know that one? The 'hill' is nestled in among the rolling farmlands of Genoa Bay just a hop, skip and jump from Bird's Eye Cove Farm. Our hiking fieldtrip last month began with a therapeutic drive along the lovely seaside with green lushness hugging the road, which is a smidgeon of foreshadowing to what can be seen on Stoney Hill.

Parking just past the green gate our ensemble of hikey girls, boys and puppies gathered up our gear and slipped into the subtle trailhead. The first notable change since our last visit in the summer was the amount of debris that had fallen thanks to some of the crazy winds the valley has had over the past few months. However, our group of avid agile trekkers had no problem getting dirty and scrambling over logs and



through the mud that tried to deter us.

As we headed upwards on the trail we discussed how well suited the name is for the area due to the quantity of stones, rocks and boulders that somewhat resemble that of ancient ruins, telling stories of times past long before us. Beautiful mosses pleased our eyes, the freshness of the spring air opened our lungs, and the



happy birds serenaded us while we made our way to our much loved cliffside picnic site. Previously we have always arrived at this spot ready to bundle up because of the whippy winds and rain that comes out of nowhere - but not today! It was our lucky day and not only was the sun out but not even a speck of wind out on that ledge overlooking Sansum point and the narrows. Stoney Hill is

an absolutely great spot to take those out of towners who should be showing up shortly. It's an average to moderate hike which takes approximately an hour - if you go straight on the trail to the gravelly road, then 2 rights, and straight onto the cliff that is.

Many thanks and much appreciation goes out to TLC for making this magical free from development

and available for us all to enjoy. And as I always like to say, if you haven't been yet - get there! Naturally, if required I know a great group of people that would be more than happy to guide you...

The property came up for sale in 2011, TLC secured an option to purchase the site, valued at \$1.85 Million, and partnered with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Cowichan Land Trust. After an intense 5 month fundraising campaign, the property became a Cowichan Valley Regional District Park in early September. TLC and the Cowichan Land Trust have carried on with fundraising to fulfill their financial contribution and thanks to this generous gift only \$380,000 remains to be raised. Cited March 29, 2012 TLC Blog (blog.conservancy.bc.ca)

My blurbie:

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

The Wild Side

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

The beautiful Steller's Jay is British Columbia's provincial bird. It is not generally found in other parts of Canada, but is certainly plentiful around Shawnigan Lake. The Steller's Jay is a large, very dark blue bird with a crest on its head. In some light, it can almost look black. It is often found on the outskirts of town where there are a lot of trees. In general, though, Steller's Jays like to live on forest slopes among the evergreens. These birds usually nest in coniferous trees.

Steller's Jays are quite social birds and have no trouble coming close to the house for a visit to the feeder. In our yard, they happily eat the cracked sunflower seeds provided year round or the peanut butter suet that we offer in the winter. Sometimes it is comical to watch these birds at the feeder. An inexperienced bird, likely a young one, will fly up and down (like bouncing on a trampoline) trying to catch food from the feeder without figuring out how to perch there. Without the hovering ability of a hummingbird,



Natural History Notebooks. Canadian Museum of Nature

this method is usually unsuccessful. Once they do learn to perch on the feeder, they often swing precariously as they eat, due to their size. Every now and again, as a treat, we fill a feeder with peanuts in the shell. Again, they will put on quite a show. They stuff one, two and sometimes three shelled peanuts down their throat at the feeder before they fly off to hide them. This feeder is usually emptied within a few hours.

The cheeky Steller's Jay makes a raucous sound that is easily identifiable and they are great mimics of other sounds. Although they can be noisy, and might seem somewhat aggressive, they are a delight to watch and we encourage them to visit.

Slugs are everywhere

Carolyn Dowell
Carolyn's Gardening Services

Slugs are everywhere. Here, at my place, it is slug central. In the past, I have had all my greens eaten overnight. Egg shells don't work, lava rock doesn't work. In my experience the only product that works is copper wire. Slugs won't move over copper wire because they get an electrical shock. I have a small but very productive garden, slightly raised and fenced. I purchased copper mesh from Lee Valley. The copper mesh is about 5 inches wide and comes in a length of 50 or 100 feet. I used twist ties to secure the wire to the fence, all around the outside perimeter of my garden space. If you have a very large space to cover, I suggest placing the wire mesh around the base of each plant the slugs eat. Remember to keep the wire above the soil.

When I first used the copper wire, it worked, but a few weeks later, there were holes in leaves where the slugs had got in. Since I put the copper wire all around the perimeter, there was no way for the slugs to get out, that is, the slugs that were

there before I put the wire on. Every evening I emptied a beer in an upside down frisbee, and then placed the beer in the middle of the garden. The next morning, I found several dead slugs in the beer. I continued to do this until the beer was clear of slugs. This took at least a week. In that week, about 20 slugs had died in the beer. The sizes ranged from the size of my pinkie finger nail to 4 times the size of my thumb. The slugs are attracted to the hops in the beer, but once they are swimming in it they die.

I grow fungi (mushrooms), all kinds, Reishi, Shiitake, Chantrel and Oyster mushrooms. I buy the kits and follow the instructions. Once they began to produce,

I would see tiny formations on the logs, hundreds of them. The next morning all the tiny mushrooms would be gone. After some research, I realized that the slugs absolute favorite food is mushrooms. Now, what I have to do is surround the mushroom logs with copper wire, this is almost an impossible task, since the logs are set on wood pallets, the slugs can come up thru the horizontal boards. What I plan to do is purchase a plastic pond, stand the mushroom logs vertically in the pond, tie the logs together so they don't fall over and cover the perimeter with copper wire. For more information on growing your own mushrooms, contact Fungi Perfecti go to www.Fungi.com

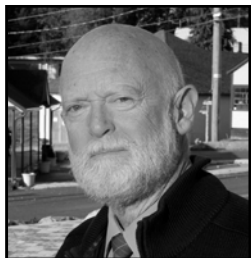
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Director's Report April 2012



Dr. Bruce Fraser
Area Director

Now that the CVRD budget is finalized, the next financial question for our Director's meetings will be about "where the gas tax money goes".

Our agenda for May 7th is:

1. Introductions
2. Guest Artist Presentation
3. Questions and Comment from the Public
4. Where the Gas Tax Money goes
5. Community Policing Initiatives
6. Report from the Watershed Roundtable
7. A profile of the Elkington Forest Village Development
8. Report from the Advisory Planning Commission
9. Reports from Civic Groups
10. The CVRD Ecodepot Review (if available by then)
11. Other Items from participants
12. Director's Summary

The Director's meetings, 7pm on the first Monday of each month at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, are open to the community and a good place to get questions answered, issues brought forward and for community issues that need broad based discussion. Please join us when you can.

Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks Commission

Margaret Symon
*Chair of Parks
Commission*



With the longer days of spring bringing more opportunities to sortie out of doors, your Shawnigan Parks and Trails Commission has some good news for "South Enders." We'll start with a couple of news items from the South Cowichan Parks Commission. This "south end" commission, comprised of the parks commissions from Areas A, B, C, and D, oversees Cowichan Bay's Hecate boat launch, the Cobble Hill dog park, the Cobble Hill Cenotaph, and the Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery. In March, after several years of public meetings and input, and assessments from engineering and architectural professionals, a well attended public meeting at the Mill Bay Historic Church saw the CVRD presenting plans to remove the old church hall and rehabilitate the century-old church on a phased multi-year agenda. Some of the church's former parishioners were in attendance at the March meeting; one elderly gentleman said he was

married in the church in 1956; he had helped build the church hall, which has fallen into disrepair. Like many in

attendance at the meeting, he applauded the CVRD's plans to move forward with rehabilitation plans for the church and grounds. When completed, the church building will provide additional meeting space in the south end. Several requests have been made to the CVRD to hold weddings at the church.

The South Cowichan Parks Commission also oversees the direction and planning of Bright Angel Park. The provincial government recently approved a large grant to improve infrastructure at Bright Angel Park.

The South Cowichan Parks Commission supported Area D's plans to build the Cowichan Bay Interpretive Centre, scheduled for official opening on or about Earth Day.

Moving onto to Area B, we are pleased to announce the washroom facility at Shawnigan Hills Athletic Fields is nearing completion, just in time for ball season. The Silvermine Trail, which connects Shawnigan Beach Estates with Silvermine Estates, was completed over the winter months. Later in the spring your parks commission will be announcing a date for a grand opening for both the Shawnigan Hills washroom facility and the Silvermine Trail.

Another newsworthy item at Area B involves the road ends around Shawnigan Lake. As part of land use planning schedules in the new South Cowichan OCP, the CVRD is preparing maps officially designating more than 70 public Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road end accesses around Shawnigan Lake as "parkland."

That's the news for this month. Happy exploring our parks and trails!

"Congratulations to the Shawnigan Focus on its 1st year anniversary!"

INSPIRE! Gallery opening

Shawnigan is busy preparing for officially opening its doors to the public on Saturday, 7 – 9 PM April 21st. The gallery space (on the top floor of the purple building on Dundas Rd) will be decorated with the artwork of a number of local artists, and there will be an opportunity to find out about many of the creative things going on in our artistically rich community, including free upcoming workshops and demonstrations.

INSPIRE! is an organization which supports, funds and fosters the development of the arts, culture and heritage in our community. The office / gallery space will provide a centre for creativity, and a comfortable meeting place to network with others, share ideas and support one another.

Each month, INSPIRE! will profile a community member who is making their way through the arts. INSPIRE! is now developing its membership base, so come out on Saturday evening and bring a friend, share a glass of wine and a taste treat, and help build community.

Find out more about what INSPIRE! has to offer you.

Be Inspired!

With a comfortable, confident manner and a friendly smile, Cheryl Bakke Martin takes on her roles as curator of the INSPIRE! gallery/office, and as one of the directors of the newly formed Arts Council. Through a life-long appreciation and study of the arts, she has found her own personal renewal through her experiences as an artist, and delights in sharing that experience with others. "I see myself as an artisan and crafts person first, as I am drawn to use the tools-hammers, anvils, and torches I grew up with." Cheryl grew up in a family of artisans, the fourth generation of Saskatoon blacksmiths. "It is however, the unique and varied ways to combine seemingly unrelated media, processes and disciplines that I find most engaging.

Often what starts as a large painting, transforms itself by completion, into a framed miniature stained glass element for a piece of jewelery, combined with metalwork and lamp-worked glass techniques." A busy mother of two boys, Cheryl balances her time with family, and studio work with

a focus on inspiration. "I am infinitely curious about life, and use my art to challenge our common perspectives, and explore deeper into the origins of existence and of higher consciousness."

Her current works include acrylic and mixed media paintings and illustrations, finished jewelry and wall

sculptures that combine blacksmithing and other metalwork, colour pencil, acrylic painting, kiln and flameworked glass, and beadwork. She is co-creator of "Wine, Women and a Paintbrush," an event and retreat-based program that provides creative adventures of self-discovery and connections for women.

The classes Cheryl leads are designed to engage people in a reflective, yet playful, creative process that allows them to experience deep renewal and personal insight. She believes strongly in the healing potential of the arts.

Cheryl creates out of her home based "Inspirations Studio" in Shawnigan Lake.

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Shawnigan Callouts

Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department attended 20 incidents during the month of March:

- ◆ Thursday, March 1st - MVI at West Shawnigan Lake and Ida Roads
- ◆ Saturday, March 3rd - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Sunday, March 4th - First Responder call in the Village
- ◆ Sunday, March 4th - First Responder call off Northgate Road
- ◆ Sunday, March 11th - Hydro Line Fire off Mable Road
- ◆ Monday, March 12th - Possible Structure Fire in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Monday, March 12th - First Responder call off Shawnigan Lake Road
- ◆ Monday, March 12th - Hydro Line Fire off Shawnigan Lake Road
- ◆ Tuesday, March 13th - First Responder call off Renfrew Road
- ◆ Thursday, March 15th - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Saturday, March 17th - Auto Alarm call off West Shawnigan Lake Road
- ◆ Sunday, March 18th - First Responder call off Sylvester Road
- ◆ Sunday, March 18th - Auto Alarm in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Monday, March 19th - Hydro Line Fire off Malta Road
- ◆ Saturday, March 24th - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Monday, March 26th - First Responder call off Northgate Road
- ◆ Tuesday, March 27th - First Responder call in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Wednesday, March 28th - Carbon Monoxide Alarm in the Beach Estates
- ◆ Wednesday, March 28th - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Road
- ◆ Wednesday, March 28th - First Responder call in the Village

Our vision statement:

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

Support, at last!



Bob Brownsword
Cowichan Family Caregivers

Here is a real story of how our program can be successful. Mary was caring at home for Ray, her husband of 50 years, who has dementia; she needed to spend more and more time helping him as his disease progressed. As Ray became less able to speak and respond to her, Mary grew increasingly depressed. Mary was tired because of the physical demands of 24 hour care, and upset about the slow loss of her partner.

When Mary joined the caregivers support group, she learned how others were managing and was able to try respite for the first time. She formed friendships with people who cared about her, and her husband, and began to feel less isolated. Mary also received one-on-one emotional support from staff to help her through very difficult times. Although the sadness and challenges of caring for her husband did not leave her, she was better able to cope, access help and feel less stress.

Recently, we initiated a project to raise awareness about, and to

support, youth who are caregiving. There is a surprisingly large segment of the population, still in their teens, who are the primary caregivers in their households. Their quiet efforts have gone largely unrecognized by peers, governments and the general population. In the first stage of the project a DVD, that exposed this issue, was produced and distributed in the Cowichan Valley and beyond. These brave young people deserve our recognition and support. Go to: <http://youthcaregivers.org/> for more information.

It is our hope that you recognize how important caregivers are to our society and how important it is to support them. Please bring the whole family out on June 3 for an enjoyable walk while helping a worthwhile cause within the Shawnigan Lake community.

8th Annual Shawnigan Lake Walk Sunday - June 3rd 7:30 am at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

There are five selected walks ranging from 4 km to 27 km. Please check out our website at www.theshawniganlakewalk.com



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!

EXPECT CONGESTION ON ROADS DURING THIS TIME
Maps | Info | Register | Volunteer | www.TRISERIES.ca

Shawnigan Lake triathlon update

Sarah Malerby
Race Director,
S.L. Triathlon
s.malerby@triserics.ca

Canadian Triathletes rejoice! Spring is upon us and so is the official start to 2012 Triathlon Season!

The Shawnigan Lake Triathlon on May 27 is the season's first Open Water Triathlon in Canada and a very important race to many serious athletes because it now has the prestige status of a World Championship Qualifying Race. Spectators will get the thrill of watching some of our Elite Triathletes, such as Nathan Killiam, Rachel McBride and Kyle Marcotte, right in our own backyard.

However, it is not just the Elite who will be competing in Shawnigan. There are three different event lengths which provide a good range of options for beginners and local athletes, so spectators will also enjoy seeing many of our local neighbours and friends on the race course.

Relay Teams

Many people are not aware that you can put together a "Relay Team" for the triathlon. Relay Teams can be 2 or 3 people – each person performing one leg of the race. The Shawnigan Triathlon offers a Relay Team matching service, so if you are a cyclist looking for a runner and a swimmer, we will help you find some team-mates.



For more information on entering as a relay participant, visit our website or contact our Relay Captain, Megan Slee at meganslee@shaw.ca.

Run Kids Run!!

Registration is now open for the Danone Kids Fun Run on Saturday, May 26 at 2:30 pm at Elsie Miles Fields. The Kids run is free for 3 to 12 year olds with three course lengths available – 300 m, 800 m, and 1.7 km. All kids will get race bibs, ribbons and goodies and enjoy the excitement and fun of participating in a sporting event. To register, contact Darcy Kulai at dkulai@cvr.bc.ca or call Shawnigan Lake Community Centre registration at (250) 743-1433.

Shawnigan Village Triathlon Festival

Saturday, May 26 – 12 to 3 pm

Family activities, marketplace, local artisans, performers and businesses with specials and entertainment. For more information, or to get involved, contact Rick Restell at rick@awinins.ca.

Camp Pringle Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, May 26 – 5 to 7 pm

Anyone can join our athletes and local volunteers at the Pre-race Pasta Party and also help send needy kids to Camp Pringle this summer. Dinner tickets are \$22.50 and available for purchase at http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/subaru_shawnigan/. Get your tickets soon, before they sell-out!

Rotary Pancake Breakfast – Race Expo & Entertainment

Sunday, May 27 – 6 am to 3 pm

Plan to come out on race day and support the athletes and the South Cowichan Rotary Club, who will be offering a great Pancake Breakfast from 6 to 10 am followed by a Lunch menu. The Race Expo and Entertainment will ensure a fun and exciting day at West Shawnigan Lake Park. Plan to take a free Shuttle bus and get there early – it will be a great day to celebrate the spirit of our community and the sport of Triathlon.

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteering for a race is very fun and rewarding. In addition, volunteers get a great K-Swiss technical shirt, food and beverage and a Volunteer Appreciation After-Party at Merridale Cidery. Areas of particular volunteer need are: Watercraft Support (boats, kayaks), motorcyclists, bike course marshalls, site marshalls, lifeguards, medics/first aid attendants and help with food preparation. Volunteers can view the complete list of duties and register by visiting the Subaru Western Tri Series volunteer form at <http://triserics.ca/volunteering.php>.

The Triathlon website has lots of details and contact information, so check it out and get involved! http://triserics.ca/shawnigan_lake/index.php

Holocaust survivor visits Shawnigan School



Kelly Koepp
Shawnigan
School

This month Shawnigan had the honour of welcoming Holocaust child survivor Alex Buckman who shared his important story with our staff and students.

Alex Buckman was born in Belgium, and spent the duration of WWII in an orphanage with his cousin. His parents, who were aware of the dangers they faced and the difficulties in moving a small child from hiding spot to hiding spot, first tried to place their young son in Catholic homes, to hide him

from the Gestapo. Alex was moved a dozen times by the time he was four years old, until his parents ran out of money to continue this plan and decided that the safest place for him would be an orphanage. Two weeks after placing him in the orphanage, his parent's were denounced and taken to Auschwitz. They would later die in the concentration camp in 1943.

Alex was four when he entered the orphanage and he remained safe there with his cousin until Liberation three years later. Afterwards, he was taken in by his aunt and uncle, and immigrated to Canada in 1951.

Mr Buckman captivated the Shawnigan audience with his deeply personal story, detailing his own harrowing moments in the orphanage when being hidden from Nazi soldiers below the floor boards with other Jewish boys, to the tragic death of his mother and one of his aunts in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

But the story Mr Buckman wanted us to take away from his visit was one of courage and hope. While imprisoned in a concentration camp, one of his aunts began to create a recipe book using what little paper she could find or trade for and a small pencil. That recipe book miraculously

survived the war although his aunt did not. The book was delivered to the family four years after Liberation, but Mr Buckman did not hear the story about it until many years later when he was already an adult living in Canada.

Taking a moment to pause and quell his emotion, Mr Buckman stated, "It (the recipe book) was so special, I thought it was an act of defiance to create something like this in a concentration camp." As a gift, Mr Buckman requested that a cake recipe from his aunt's book be distributed to all the staff and students at Shawnigan.

He asked us to go home and bake that cake with our parents in honour of his parents and his aunt. "For too long all the child survivors were silent. We thought camp survivors should speak and that no one wanted to hear us until we decided that we have a story to tell as well. You have all become witnesses to my story. When I no longer can, it is your responsibility to speak for me and make sure people remember. Please, bake this cake with your parents and while doing it hug your parents, kiss them and tell them you love them".

Young Senior Action Group

Chess Club - Shawnigan Lake
Wednesday afternoons
1:00 - 4:00pm at the Legion
Membership fee: \$20 per year
More info: Dieter 250-743-8740

More on Chess :

Two complaints about chess that are voiced frequently:

A) It takes too long! Well, yes, it can take anywhere from 5 minutes to 120 minutes; but, believe me, when you are playing, you are not aware of the time because the game is so interesting and sometimes you wish it would be longer

B) You have to think 3 to 4 moves ahead and your brain can't handle that! Yes, you will have to do a bit of planning, but it all depends on how your opponent

moves. Here are some possible moves in chess (so much for planning!): after each player makes one move, there are 400 possibilities; after the second move, 72,084; after the third, about 9 million; after the fourth, about 288 billion; and after the first 10 moves, about 169 octillion; and after that it becomes astronomical.

Two things you have to do in Chess:

A) You have to be able to concentrate. Concentration improves with practice and is a great mental exercise.

B) You have to be a good loser. There can only be one winner, and as you progress, you will win some and you will lose some. You will be a good loser if you don't take the game too seriously and

look at it as a fun game. Always look at the mental health benefits you get from this brain exercise. Here is a piece from the internet:

GROW NEW BRAIN CELLS.

Impossible, scientists used to say. Now it's believed that thousands of brain cells are born daily. The trick is to keep the newborns alive. What works : aerobic exercise (such as a brisk 30 min. walk every day), strenuous mental activity (CHESS, Crossword puzzles, etc) eating salmon and other fatty fish and avoiding obesity etc.

From Jean Capers newest book : 100 simple things you can do to prevent Alzheimer's.

O.U.R. ecovillage



Mike Cloutier and Meg Loop teaching a module during our 2011 Permaculture Design Certificate

This summer, O.U.R. Ecovillage is offering a wide variety of internships for those who are interested in permaculture, farming and natural building practices. Read on – perhaps this is the place for you! This summer, we have three different building internships, ranging in length and focus. O.U.R. Ecovillage will be partnering with Robert Laporte and Paula Baker-Laporte to build a beautiful EcoNest home, which combines a precise Japanese style timber frame with light clay-wall construction. We're looking forward to having Robert and Paula's energy on site. We are also happy to welcome Pat Hennebery, who will be working to finish our Community Commons Building through his cob-intensive course. On top of this, we are still offering the

chance for you to obtain your Permaculture Design Certificate. The knowledge which is acquired during this hands-on learning experience is invaluable as we collectively pursue a greener future together. One of these certificate courses begins in May. Alternatively, you can work with Starhawk in August for Earth Activist Training, which also comes with a Permaculture Design Certificate.

We will be offering an Organic Master Gardener's course (certified through Gaia College) as well as a Community Farm Skillbuilding Internship. Furthermore, we have just introduced a new option which boasts the fusion working in the garden with the joy of cooking. Do you want to be a part of our zero-mile meal eatery and help to cook delicious food straight from the source? If so, this internship could be for you!

Please see our website for further information, or give us a call if you have any questions. See you this summer!

-Your friends at O.U.R. Ecovillage (One United Resource). www.oureecovillage.org 250-743-3067

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Camper’s delight

Kim Pemberton
Shawnigan Lake House

When I bought a home on Shawnigan Lake, it was a happy surprise to realize that the Easter Seal Camp for children with disabilities was just two minutes down the road.

For the past five years, my daughter Hannah has been attending the Squamish Easter Seal Camp, but she needed no convincing to switch camps last summer.

The anticipation of a return trip this summer to Shawnigan Lake’s Easter Seal Camp has already begun for my 16-year-old outdoor enthusiast eager to make

more memories here.

After all, what could be better than having a summer camp experience actually on a lake? To get out on the water in a canoe, go swimming off the dock, or do a “sneak out” to JJ Coconuts to get ice cream.

Opened in 1976, the Shawnigan Lake Easter Seal camp offers five camping sessions each year, between June and August, for 250 children and youth with disabilities.

Last year, Shawnigan Lake also provided an opportunity for 35 young adults to have a camp experience for a week. So many youths dread the day they turn 19 since they become too old to be a

camper. Recently, the Lions Club has started offering an additional session for people with disabilities, ages 19 to 25.

These camps provide an opportunity for young adults to meet again with friends in a recreational setting. And for the younger campers, like my daughter, who carry their “special needs” designation with them year-round in school, it’s an opportunity to shed that label and just be a kid having fun.

There are no speech or occupational therapy sessions, tutors or hospital visits here. The lake is a place you can truly unwind and for Hannah and so many other children, youths and now young adults, it is the highlight of their year.



Hannah Pemberton with Rowan, a Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS)-trained Golden Retriever, who comes with his handler registered nurse Lisa Markin to visit Shawnigan Lake’s Easter Seal Camp each summer. (Markin runs Inspire, which offers animal assisted therapy on Vancouver Island.)

View From the River

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

That long gone puppy with the pin teeth - Dame Islay of Koksilah - is now a sixty-pound teenager with a full set of fangs and a severe case of independence. Suddenly a five-acre property has shrunk to the size of a residential lot, capable of being covered in a single bound. Robins, searching for bugs in the lawn, tremble in fear of being jumped while the short life span of moths has led to them to abandoning the windows to avoid being consumed. Gargantuan bags of kibble, large enough to break a stevedore’s back, are lined up at the door, waiting for their short stays in the bowl. Of course the lawn, now replete with cavernous excavations, is also replete with small perfumed mountains of

lightly transformed kibble.

We have taken to collecting dog hair for the weaving studio, anticipating that we should be able to decrease next year’s winter heating bill in proportion to the cost of food. Collecting, carding, spinning and weaving takes up at least an hour a day. Not much of importance has been chewed during the puppy months, but we do know that the excuse “the dog ate my homework” is based in objective truth. We discovered this during a vain attempt to reassemble the mail left on the front porch, and she does a really spectacular job of shredding the Shawnigan Focus! A general notice to creditors was essential to avoid being foreclosed. Everything of value in the house is suspended six feet off the floor or is in sealed metal drums.

The command language of the family now consists of “sit, stay, down, off, don’t do that, stop biting my slippers, ouch, wait, come back here, have another duck tender treat and get in your crate”. We have to be careful not to say that to each other lest the evenings become frosty even when the wood stove is going full blast. All those commands turned out to be useless when Islay enthusiastically captured her first car. A horrific thump and a thousand yipes was the result, but the toll was a bruise or two, a stitchable cut and a five hundred dollar emergency visit to the vet. She now sports the dreaded cone and looks like a megaphone with legs. Her name is Islay, pronounced Aylah in the Scottish fashion, and her family is listening to her masterful voice while sipping, in grateful relief, the nectar of her island namesake.



A Megaphone with Legs - Photo submitted by Sarah Fraser

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be blown about my house as freely
as possible.” - Gandhi

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Sally Davies
Shawnigan Focus

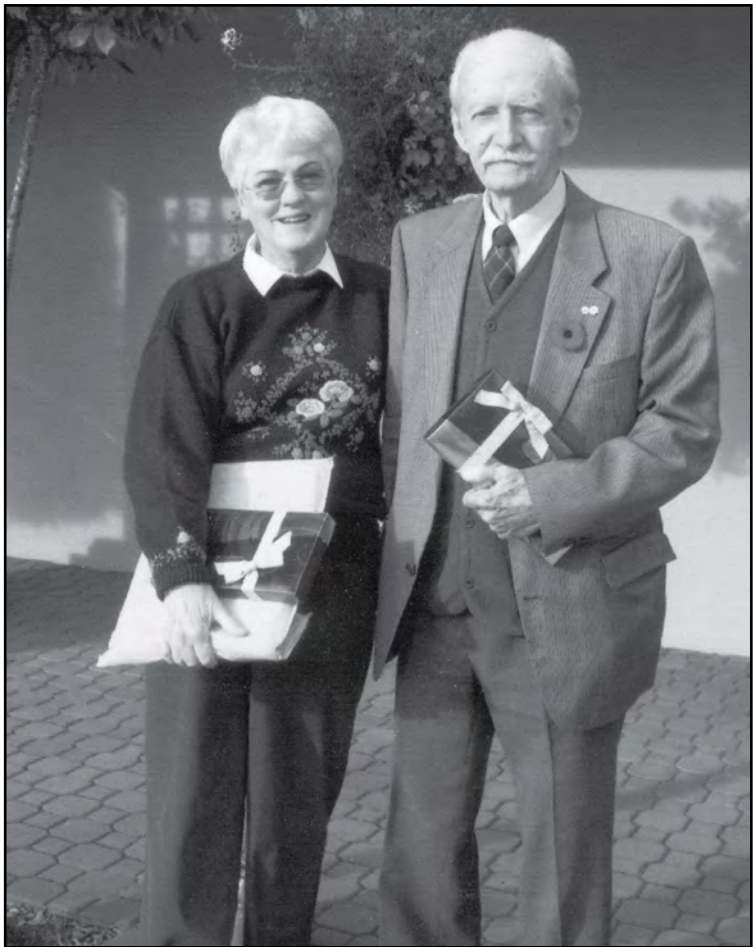
On May 12th Shawnigan Museum will open a pocket sized gallery with the original works by a giant in Canadian Art. E. J. Hughes lived, worked, and is buried, along with his family, in Shawnigan Lake.

The museum was given original drawings by the artist, and his estate has bequeathed some of his personal articles, including the brushes and palette with which he painted some of his iconic works. Pat Salmon, Hughes personal assistant and trusted friend, has also generously donated drawings and ephemera to the collection. Pat will be in attendance for the opening.

The E.J. Hughes collection will be on display at the new gallery honouring Hughes and his life at Shawnigan. Paintings from local private collections will also be on display, for this event only.

It is fitting that the everyday items of such a quiet and modest man should be preserved in a cottage museum just down the road from where he lived and was ultimately laid to rest.

Long-time Shawnigan resident, Lin, whose family lived a few doors away from Hughes, recalls being a regular visitor to his home when she was a child. Her mother would have tea with Hughes' wife, Fern. Lin and her sister would tag along. On occasion, Edward (as they called him) invited the



Pat Salmon & E.J. Hughes

girls up to his studio to view a landscape in progress. Edward was always interested in the opinions of children, believing that they had an uncorrupted eye for art. He would ask what the girls thought of the painting - were too many boats, was the colour of the water or sky right, were there too many clouds, would a certain boat would look better if was a different colour. Lin claims that she and her sister would humour him and tell him that they preferred a different colour. He would often defer to their ideas.

The art of Edward John Hughes belongs to the world but his gentle spirit belongs to a once sleepy village called Shawnigan Lake.

On May 12, 2012, the Shawnigan Lake Museum will open the new display dedicated to Mr. Hughes. The Shawnigan Lake Museum will host an opening reception for members and invited guests from 4:00 – 5:00. Between 5:00 – 7:00, the public is encouraged to visit the museum to view the new display. After that, the “gallery” space will be open during regular museum hours.



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Shawnigan Lake



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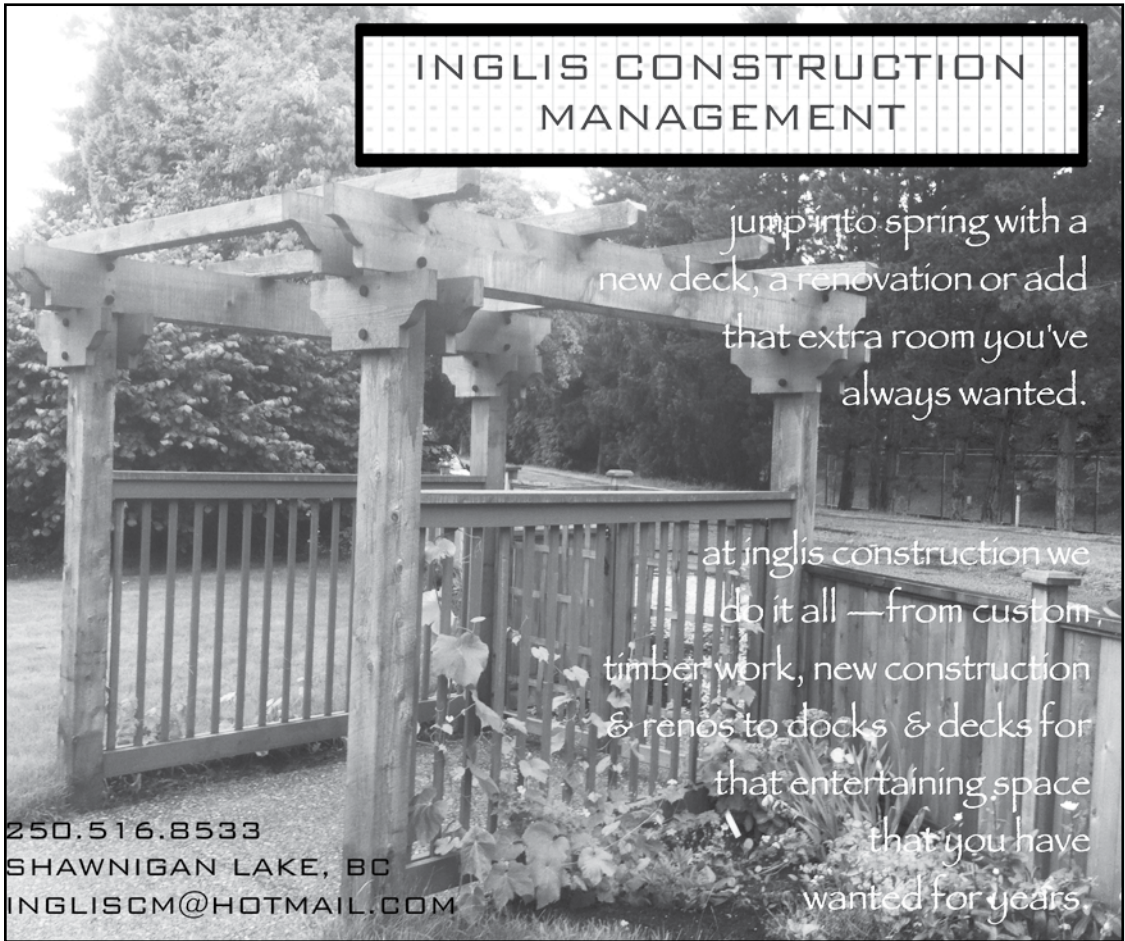
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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

April 2012

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May 2012 Issue: May 8th

Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, RTF or Appleworks to:

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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

1- 2740 Dundas, Shawnigan Lake

AD DEADLINE

The 8th of every month for mid-month publication.

CLASSIFIEDS

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

ABOUT THE FOCUS

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

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available. Please contact editor@shawniganfocus.ca for details. Note: *Views expressed by individual authors are not the opinion of Shawnigan Focus, but of the comment writer.*

Additional copies are available at:

Style Centre Barber Shop, Subway, Village Chippery, Moziro's Coffee Shop, Aitken & Fraser Store, Mason's Store, Kinsol Market, Cafe Crème, West Arm Grill and Olde School Coffee.

MAILING ADDRESS

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www.shawniganfocus.ca

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



First correct answer sent to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

WHAT IS IT? CONTEST WINNER: MARCH ISSUE

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Linda Joyce had the correct answer for our March Where is it? What is it? Contest. The picture was taken from the top of the Government Wharf looking down into the water. Linda wins two specialty coffees from Moziro's. Thanks to all of the participants.

Sports Fans?

Are you, your child, or someone you know involved in sport or recreation in Shawnigan?

We'd love to cover and highlight local youth/adult athletes & teams at games, events, and tournaments in our newest column:

SPORTS STUFF



From hockey, orthodox fastball and soccer to wakeboarding and boating. We will enthusiastically include all aspects of recreation in Shawnigan Lake.

Please send contact/sport information to:

editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Shawnigan Weather March 2012

(stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network)

compiled by Grant Treloar

	Shawnigan Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay	Discovery School	Museum	Kelsey School
Avg High	10.0	8.1	7.9	8.4	8.9
Avg Low	1.4	1.2	0.3	1.0	1.2
Extr High	22.2	15.3	15.5	17.1	15.7
Extr Low	-11.7	-2.6	-3.5	-2.6	-2.8
Precip	120.2	202.7	160.1	148.2	109.3
Days with Precip	18	23	23	26	22

Lake Temperature: March 4th: 4° March 11th: 5° March 18th: 6° March 25th: 6°


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Wedding Dress - Mermaid style - worn once - needs dry-cleaning - can e-mail photos - \$500 obo - 250-885-3025

Doors & Bathtub - 2'8 & 2'4 white slabs, 2'6 slab, 3' prehung, 24" bifold. 60" fiberglass soaker tub with taps - 250-710-0931 - offers

GENERAL

SPCA Annual Garage Sale
Our annual garage sale is happening June 2 - 3 at the Cowichan Exhibition Grounds from 8:30 AM to 3PM. We are now accepting any quality used items. All proceeds from this sale stay in the Cowichan Valley to help our homeless animals. COWICHAN & DISTRICT S.P.C.A. 7550 Bell-McKinnon RD. Duncan, B.C. V9L 6B1
Phone: 250-746-4646
Fax: 746-4633

ATTENTION SHAWNIGAN BUSINESSES:

Win cash for the local charity of your choice with your scarecrow on the Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail!

Local businesses have partnered with the Cowichan Intercultural Society to help Shawnigan be a welcoming community to newcomers. Scarecrows exist the world over, and can be personalized to any cultural or business theme. So begins the Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail.

Local businesses can purchase a scarecrow frame for only \$10, decorate it according to their business or cultural heritage, and get it on the Trail Map. Spectators can vote for their favourite, and the winner is able to make a contribution to the local charity of their choice.

The project is highlighting newcomer Dewar McCarthy, and his Shawnigan Village business, Dewar McCarthy and Company.

Scarecrow frames can be picked up on April 22 (Earth Day) at Dewar's between 11am – 2pm. If you can't attend on the 22nd, let us know and we can make alternate arrangements for you to get your scarecrow frame.

On Saturday May 12th there will be a South African cultural event at Dewar McCarthy & Co. 11:00am – 2:00pm to launch the start of the Trail.

Then the final votes will be tallied and the winner announced as part of the Triathlon Festival in the Village on May 26th.

Put your scarecrow and business on the map of Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail from May 12 - 26 "Taking your story to the street" Details at The Chippery, Family Integrity, MoonDance Dynamic Arts School (the Art House), and Dewar McCarthy and Co.

Community Calendar

Area B Director's Meetings:

1st Mon. of each month - 7pm at SL Community Centre (SLCC)

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 Chippery. Members welcome to attend.

Shawnigan Lake Community Association:

4th Monday of each month. Note: AGM Feb 20th at the Village Chippery, 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.
Open House: April 21st 7-9

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS BUSINESS FEATURE

Need a getaway?



Escape to Shawnigan Lake House
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In the design blogosphere, one blog stands out with an international audience - Apartment Therapy.

Shortly after it was launched, in 2004, The New York Times described it as "soothing, prescriptive and communal." Apartment Therapy's large team of editors carefully select homes from around the world to showcase, following the blog founder's belief that a "calm, healthy,

beautiful home is a necessary foundation for happiness and success in the world."

So what does this have to do with Shawnigan Lake?

Apartment Therapy recently featured

Shawnigan Lake House, a year-round vacation rental. The home epitomizes what Apartment Therapy is all about. The house is full of character and high in "lake chic" style. It's the ideal place to kick back and relax, whether for a weekend getaway in spring, fall or winter, or for spending time on the sunny side of the lake in summer. Bring your own boat to the private dock or use the owner's canoe.

This charming 2,100 sq. ft., three-bedroom home, sleeps 6 to 8 people, with an additional 800 sq. ft. available in a fully self-contained, garden suite - perfect for the in-laws or visiting friends. As you sit back in a wicker chair, on the 40-foot front verandah, the views you see were once enjoyed by the parents of Shawnigan Lake's most famous resident, artist E.J. Hughes. His parents lived here at one time, while their famous son lived next door for more than 20 years.

See why Shawnigan Lake House is so special at www.shawniganlakevacationrentals.ca or read all about it in Apartment Therapy at www.apartmenttherapy.com/kims-absolutely-inviting-lake-154612.

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