

JANUARY 2013

A Non-Profit Community Publication



Director's Priorities for 2013

Bruce Fraser Area B Director

In 2013 I will address these priorities in cooperation with my Regional District colleagues and the many volunteers in the community who are working to make things happen.

Development of the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable into a strong local institution dedicated to the ecological health of the community watershed in collaboration with community groups and government agencies. This includes the Shawnigan Basin Society as its fund raising arm and an Ecological Design Panel of environmental experts to guide us in our work.

- Engaging youth and First Nations participation in the Watershed Roundtable and the Advisory
- Public discussion leading to a widely accepted design for the development of the Elsie Miles property into a central gathering space in Shawnigan Village for community activities, our celebrations, our business events, youth and seniors.
- Holding the first Shawnigan Gathering on April 6-7 to engage the whole community in discussing and celebrating the diverse initiatives that are contributing to our development.
- Completing the zoning by-law amendments that * will finally implement the Official Community Plan with sensitivity to the unique Shawnigan environment.
- Gaining community agreement to support the * renovation of Kerry Park to keep it in functioning ondition for the future.

decreasing septic field pollution to the Lake.

- Setting up a Lake Watch program in collaboration with the South Cowichan Community Policing Society.
- Establishing a support office in Shawnigan Village × for the volunteer societies of the community.
- Supporting the local community members concerned with conservation of the Koksilah old growth stand.
- Working on the revision of the northern boundary of Area B in collaboration with the OCP work going on next door in Area E.

I am open to comments and suggestions by email, phone or attendance at the office or monthly meetings.

Planning Commission.

★ Begin the work of establishing a process for

Read "A Year in the Life of an Area Dir tor" at www.fraserforshawnigan.ca

New Year's Resolution

Nicola Cusi Kali Yoga

Every year around this time, we sit down and reflect on the last year and we write down our best intentions for the New Year. Items such as improving fitness, losing weight, eating better, quitting smoking and drinking, reducing debt, spending more quality time with friends and family are pretty much on everybody's list.

Why are we all falling for the same mistakes year after year, and why is it so difficult to do what we know is necessary to make us happier, healthier and more fulfilled beings?

Most importantly, we do not like change in general. Every change means effort, fear of the unknown and the resistance to breaking old habits. How can we em-

brace change and break those habits that don't serve us any longer?

The most necessary requirement to make change is to have the presence of mind and awareness of the moment; to notice when we are falling into old habits and to realize why we are doing it. Yoga teaches us exactly that: presence in the moment. When we sit still, focus on the breath, flow from one pose into another with grace and intention, we are present. We are aware of physical limitations that we have to struggle with, and we adapt accordingly to find a pose that we can hold with ease - one we can rest in, breathe with and relax into.

Imagine - we could go through life with that very mind set, doing every task with a presence, grace

and mindfulness, that makes us perfectly aware of how much we need to eat, when to stop, why we crave cigarettes and when we lose focus and compassion in a conversation with a friend. How would life be if we could stop living for future results and in fear of the past? Every single moment is different and we can embrace every change with the certainty that we have control over that change and that we have the power to choose that next step. With presence, we lose fear of uncertainty. With awareness, we gain the power of choice.

I believe that the only New Year's Resolution we need is: To be present, to practice loving kindness, and to realize your true potential!

www.kaliyoga.ca

What's Going on in Shawnigan Lake?

More vandalism at Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park

Over the holidays, vandals removed the steel latch that closes the gate to the sports court. This is a custom latch, which can be closed from the inside. Parks staff will be repairing

the damage in the upcoming week. Approximate cost to taxpayers: \$500-700. **Please report park vandalism to CVRD parks - respect your community**.



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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

February 2013

EDITORIAL TEAM Lori Treloar Dave Hutchinson editor@shawniganfocus.ca

> **LAYOUT** Taryn Scott

ADVERTISING TEAM

Taryn Scott ads@shawniganfocus.ca.

FOCUS TEAM

Brent Beach Linda Nelson Farrell Magnusson Monica Foster Sally Davies Peter Nash Bev McCooey Marcy Green

ACCOUNTS

Robyn Greentree Dewar McCarthy

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

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. 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. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Views expressed in articles are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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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 <u>editor@shawniganfocus.ca</u>

Water

We drink it, We wash in it, We grow food n it, We are baptized with it, We decorate with it, We swim in it, We grow food with it, We wash with it, We wash with it, We waste it, We should worship it It is our life. WE POISON IT!!!

We all live downstream. We, as septic owners in Shawnigan Lake need to take care of our septic systems so they don't fail. When we are told that Shawnigan Lake has Ibuprophen and caffine which can only be traced that back to faulty septics. I know quite a few people who don't know how to use a septic. Here is a simple list of don'ts:

Don't use Chlorine bleach ever. It kills the good bacteria in your tank and stops it from functioning properly. It is poison for your septic and waterways.

Don't pour bacon grease, or any grease, down your drain. It will harden and plug up your drainage holes

Don't use products that are full of toxins like formaldehyde, phosphates, sulphates, parabens, or ammonia. These are all bad for you and for your septic as they will not go back to nature. We need to be careful what we put down our drains as the wastewater will eventually flow downhill and join the lake. That goes for washing your car too...the rinsewater gets into the ground and washes downhill.

Don't use Drano to clear your drains - use a drain snake. Don't use any cleaner in your house with a childproof cap because it is poison for your kids and for your septic I believe that our community can and will fix this problem and protect our Lake for future generations. We all need to be Living in the Soulution and that means being responsible for what we put down our drains

have a Lake to drink or enjoy.

~Shelagh, Living In The Soulution Society

We have two small children, and are hoping that we can enjoy Shawnigan Lake for generations to come:

As property owners and and residents of Shawnigan Lake, drawing our drinking water from the lake, we are directly affected by the SIA proposal to locate a contaminated material disposal facility within our watershed. We are opposed to the facility due to the potential for hydrogeologic connectivity of substrate underlaying the proposed facility location and domestic use aquifers in the area. Additionally, the roads in and out of the site are narrow and winding, and include residential developments; the potential for roll-over type incidents of loaded trucks causing an uncontained release of regulated contaminants overland or into tributaries makes this site unsuitable.

We hold an M.Sc. in Geology specializing karst geology and an M.GIS specializing in contaminated sites, and we are well acquainted with the geologic issues that are pertinent to this proposal. The proposed site is not an appropriate selection for accepting contaminated material. First and foremost, we are in a seismically active area. Major earthquakes in the past, and ones that are still to come, can create fractures through any rock or containment liner. Geologic faults are highly permeable, and can be direct conduits for contaminated material to enter the aquifer. Secondly, limestone is mapped in the area (http:// www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/ docs/Lmh/Lmh66/Lmh66_ ch11.pdf). Karst and fractures constitute a potential unattenuated pathway for contaminated materials to enter a domestic use aquifer in the event of failure of the liner or a host of other scenarios.

value must not trump watershed integrity. While it may be worth considering siting a facility of this type closer to Victoria than existing facilities on the island, there are many other areas that are not upstream of a lake that effectively behaves as a domestic use reservoir. The end of life strategy for the site is not well developed (cap and slope). The SIA report includes proposed monitoring plan from years 50-70. There is no bond in place for the brownfield sites which make this facility needed, yet the report provides no strategy to follow through with a 20 year monitoring plan on a site that has reached the end of its life. The location selection seems to be based more on opportunity than sound waste management judgement.

We have two small children, and are hoping that we can enjoy Shawnigan Lake for generations to come. It takes only one catastrophic event, perhaps failure of due diligence by SIA, or a natural seismic event, and the lake is lost. Why take a risk in a watershed that provides the sole source of essential drinking water, not to mention recreation and quality of life to so many people.

Sincerely,

~Colin & Rebecca Frostad, P.Geol.

2013 Property Taxes Going Up

Dear Editor,

The CVRD Board of Directors will shortly begin work on the Region's annual budget. The budget impacts us all because governments do not have money. We, the taxpayers, have the money and we use our money to fund, through our taxes, the services we require. public's well being is debatable. Increasingly taxpayers feel that these activities and related cost tend to satisfy the aspirations of vocal special interest groups and/ or the political goals of some Board members.

We, the taxpayers have obligations, besides paying our taxes. We need to make our concerns with rising taxes known to our Area Director, Dr. Bruce Fraser. We also need to support him and his colleagues on the Board in their endeavours to apply restraint to the budget process. Their objective must be to hold the CVRD budget increase to less than 2% and the same goes for our property taxes. If holding the budget increases to this level means eliminating some activities and services then welcome to 2013!

~Joseph Gollner, CT Group

Changes at Moziros

Thank you everyone- the guys, gals, babies, toddlers, doggies, tourists, cottagers, regulars, family and anyone who didn't ask me when I worked out front at Moziro Coffee, "If the boss was around?" I truly have learned from each and every one of you.

To my three Kids who Moziro was named after, MOwat, Robin (ZI) and Halle (ROse), who over the last almost eight years, had to deal with Jake and I always running off to roast beans, buy milk, make chocolate or whatever it happened to be. Thank you wee beasts. I love you guys!

To all the amazing staff

The CVRD

Dear Editor:

Clearly there are few, if any, lessons learned by the CVRD from the EcoDepot fiasco in spite of the spanking by Judge Gaul in the BC Supreme Court. The CVRD Chair is still misleading the public by claiming "most" of the \$1.7 million spent will be recovered from the sale of the 22 acre Cobble Hill property. The CVRD paid more than list price and with the recent decline in property values it will be lucky to recover 1/3 of the money spent. The CVRD has never publicly apologized for wasting more than \$1 million of taxpayer's money or properly addressed the many questionable actions they took in this mess.

But more fundamental are the governance lapses that have never been dealt with by the CVRD board. These included: bullying of a local neighbourhood, misleading the public, viewing opposition to CVRD's plans in a hostile manner rather than using public input to improve their decision-making, doing a lot of CVRD business outside of public meetings, paying retired CVRD staff consulting fees and hiring lawyers to stifle public dissent instead of listening to the public who pay the bills. The CVRD has taken no steps to assure the public it wouldn't behave again in the exact same arrogant and pushy manner they acted in the EcoDepot debacle.

Their recent behaviour confirms that in responding to the 1200 people opposed to the CVRD taking over the garbage and recycling curbside business by simply ignoring the opposition, not answering transparently the many questions asked and hiring more staff and spending millions of borrowed money to put the private sector out of business using the same guise of Zero Waste they used in the EcoDepot debate.

Don't ever put your unused prescription drugs down the drain. The drugs will end up in our lake and drinking water. Please return unused prescription drugs to your local pharmacy for disposal.

We need to think about what is going down our drains including bodycare products. Cheap shampoos full of words you can't pronounce and manmade chemicals clog up our septic systems.

We are at a tipping point with our Lake and drinking water if we don't change our bad septic habits we won't The SIA argument that the proximity to brownfield sites is the impetus for this site selection is not adequate to justify this specific location. There is money to be made through this venture and the economic 1

Expectations usually exceed available resources hence for each new or enhanced service sought there is a cost. A cost paid for by us by increasing our taxes which has become the norm. Some budget increases are fully justified, e.g. funding our new hospital. Other reasonable budget increases might sometimes be necessary to meet, for example, safety requirements in our public facilities. Other less relevant activities and their attendant increases are more difficult to justify. Over time, some of these activities have become deeply ingrained in the budget. Whether these activities contribute to the

who have offered their unique amazingness to our customers. Thank you so much.

Finally to my husband who pretty much drove me crazy everyday but I love even more. Jake, I am honoured to have built this with you. It was really an indescribable journey. I will miss working with you. I love you to infinity and back.

As I always believe: Follow your passions, dreams, and ideas. You never know what beholds for you until you step forward.

All the best to Martine, Ryan and Alder, you guys rock.

Bye Guys xox,

~Jenn de Valk

This is a good case for the new Municipal Auditor's office to chew their teeth on and find out exactly what happened to all the money spent and what the CVRD must do to clean up its operating procedures.

Yours truly,

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

Court ruling confirms costly CVRD blundering

Dave Hutchinson Shawnigan Focus

"The Court has decided that the property purchased by the CVRD for the Eco Depot is not zoned to allow a recycling or waste transfer station. This is just one more surprising aspect of what appears to have been mismanagement of a project that is undoubtedly very expensive for CVRD taxpayers." So states one of the lawyers involved with the case. The December 31st ruling by Justice Gaul of the BC Supreme Court has vindicated the position of community groups opposed to the location.

In June of 2010 the 22 acre Cameron-Taggart property was purchased by the CVRD for \$651,000. The strategy of 'Decide-Announce-Defend (DAD)' was in trouble from the start but a determined group led by former CVRD Board Chair Gerry Giles, together with senior CVRD staff, insisted on pushing the project forward in a costly attempt to dismiss and override opposition.

The CVRD received legal advice in September 2010, warning that the zoning did not permit the intended use of the property. The CVRD countered that it had a contrary legal opinion but refused to disclose it. Instead they increased expenditure and effort attempting to defend their decision and spin the benefits of the "South Cowichan" facility. Feedback at public meetings was not against the Eco Depot concept but was strongly opposed to the location and also the dictatorial process.

Grassroots opposition to the project location spread and resulted in about \$25,000 being raised to fund the court challenge which was filed in July of 2011. Faced with mounting criticism the CVRD announced a non-binding referendum coinciding with local elections slated for November 2011. At the same time, spending increased significantly on signage and com-



The Eco Depot saga: A classic example of how not to govern

munication consultants in a desperate attempt to greenwash the proposal.

A decisive referendum defeat (65%) finally motivated the CVRD Board to reluctantly abandon the project. A CVRD report was produced in July of 2012 which documented over \$1.3 million in costs. Critics claim the actual total should be nearer \$1.7 million when staff time and other costs are properly accounted. Court costs for the recent ruling will also be added. Costs will be reduced if the property is sold.

Justice Gaul describes the CVRD position on the zoning definition as absurd. Current CVRD Chair, Rob Hutchins, states that the Board is disappointed in the ruling and notes that it is tough to list all possible uses for a zoned parcel.

The CVRD continues to deny any wrongdoing. There have been no consequences and no contrition or apology for a colossal waste of taxpayer funds in what some see as a deliberate attempt to subvert the democratic process.



Creek clean-out begins

Graham Ross-Smith Shawnigan Focus

Late last summer the CVRD completed the first of probably many future public works to ensure that the North Shawnigan Creek will be able to let enough water flow out of Shawnigan Lake during extreme rain events to prevent floods that could do damage and cause water quality problems. On the section of the creek that flows past William Rivers Park, immediately downstream from the railway bridge, excavators and trucks worked to remove about 15 truck-loads of material from the bottom of the creek. The goal was to restore the level of the bottom of the creek to approximately what it had been originally; to the time before settlement began at Shawnigan Lake. Because of the existence of a weir further downstream over many decades, material (silt, sand, wood and branches) had built up on the creek- bottom upstream of the weir, making it much shallower than it had once been and, therefore, restricting water flow out of the lake through the wet season.

to improve water flow out of the lake. At the end of this multi-year process, the risk to property around the lake and to water contamination due to flooding will be significantly reduced or, possibly, eliminated completely.

Paying for this water management work by taxpayers in the community has been controversial. The first attempt by the CVRD to establish a budget "function" for this work through the alternate approval process (AAP) involving 765 property owners, failed. A second atresult in the build-up of materials in the creek and that removal of this build-up would be required from timeto-time.

At the time of writing this article, the CVRD had not decided how much of the \$12,000 would be charged against either account.

Some residents have questioned whether or not the work done in 2012 would actually improve water flow rates. After all, the creek is fairly wide at William Rivers Park, and, as it rises to a certain height, it can spread out horizontally thereby enabling large volumes of water to flow past unrestricted. Officials at the CVRD agree that there are other spots between the lake and the weir where restricted flow is more obvious (such as at the road bridge at Mason's Beach), but these spots have been left to future years because permissions must first be obtained from various creek-bottom propertyowners including the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and this takes time. The CVRD was able to start with the part of the creek at the park because no permissions were needed as it owns the land.

Parts Store Pioneer Square



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Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end ~ Seneca

The creek clean-out done last summer is the first of several such projects that will be undertaken over the years

tempt involving a larger tax base (2,980 property owners) was successful, giving the CVRD the authority to spend up to \$18,000 in any given year on creek clean-out work as needed. The bill for the work done last summer came to approximately \$12,000. However, there are two possible places from which funds can be taken to pay the bill for this work. One is the "function" mentioned above. The other is a separate area in the CVRD budget related to a liability funding requirement stipulated by the Province when the new weir was built a few years ago. At that time the Province realized that the effect on summer flow rates caused by the weir would

Diamond Jubilee Award Mason's Store

On January 24, at Government House in Victoria, Bruce Fraser will be awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Bruce was nominated for the award by the Lt. Governor herself in recognition of long community service.

Bruce's comment on the award:

"To paraphrase a well-known campaign speech by President Obama: If any of us were successful, somebody along the line gave us some help. There were parents who gave us their love. There was a great mentor somewhere in our life. Entrepreneurs

have employed us and leaders across the whole country for generations have helped to create a great Civil Society that allows each of us to thrive. Together, we all invested in the schools and universities, the hospitals and recreation centres that helped us grow up educated and healthy. Although I have been gifted with recognition for individual effort, much of that recognition belongs to the many who helped me along the way and contributed to the society that made all things possible. In Shawnigan, for me, this award recognizes my family, my friends, my mentors, my colleagues in the Regional District, the many volunteers that are working to make our community a better place and the community at large that keeps us all working together."



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Shawnigan Parks & Recreation: (Area B) Parkland & Communities

Margaret Symon

Chair of Parks Commission

Happy New Year! How does Shawnigan Lake compare to other areas with respect to parkland?

As a desirable attribute of communities, the area of parkland in a community is typically measured in comparison to its population. A minimum of 5.0 ha parkland/ 1,000 residents is a common "rule of thumb" for active parkland / open space within a community. Shawnigan Lake's existing active community park area is approximately 44.02/ha/1,000 residents – a figure well above the general rule. Shawnigan Lake has extensive park space, but a relatively small amount of this parkland is readily available for community recreation. Nature Parks and River Corridor Parks constitute the majority of parks land base under the Community Parks Program at Shawnigan Lake. It should be noted that any area per population-based standard has limited utility as a measure of sufficient parks space. Instead, the appropriate amount of parks space should be targeted to the natural environment sensitivities, and the values and objectives of the community. What do you think?

In February's Focus, we'll focus on the Koksilah.





Existing Parks in Shawnigan Lake

Park Classification	Area Community Wide (ha)	Ha/1000 Population	% of Open Space
Community Parks	0	0	0
Neighbourhood Parks	1.9	0.25	1.5
Nature Parks	52.7	6.9	41.4
River Corridor Parks	31.3	4.1	24.6
Special Purpose Parks	5.9	0.8	4.7
Linear Parks	6.3	0.8	5
Lakefront Parks	14	1.8	11.8
Undefined Parks	15.1	2	11.8
Shawnigan Lake Community Parks Total	127.3	16.7	100









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Significant grants awarded to the residents association for watershed work

The Shawnigan Residents Association's (SRA) board of directors has decided to get into watershed and lake protection in a big way. For the first time in the association's eighteen year history, the SRA has applied for and received grant monies to spend on watershed issues. In regard to the lake and its watershed, the SRA has, until now, put its time and money into trying to persuade local and provincial governments to undertake programs, projects and services for the protection of the watershed, but with governments facing reduced revenues in recent years, the SRA came to realize that it will have to take responsibility

for some of the needed work itself.

Last Spring, with that in mind, the SRA applied for a grant from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and received word during the summer that it had been awarded a grant of \$15,000. The SRA also applied for grant funding from the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. and was informed in December that the foundation has decided to award a grant of \$30,000 to the association. This much appreciated Christmas present brought the total in grant funds awarded to the SRA last year to \$45,000.

The Real Estate Foundation's grant is for "Shawnigan Lake Watershed Proper Functioning Condition Assessment and Mapping." The SRA is now in the process of drawing up a contract with the well-respected firm Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd. to undertake the initial work that will lead to the production of a Shawnigan Lake watershed assessment and management plan.

A Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIRBC) press release states that the funds are to be used "to collect, verify and interpret ecological and land use information needed to develop a clear understanding of the workings of the South Shawnigan Lake Watershed. This research also includes the effect of development on the area's drinking water." The VIRBC indicated that "the form of watershed health assessment being proposed for the area could be used as a model to facilitate land use conflicts elsewhere in BC."

In addition to working with all persons and organizations that have a stake in the lake's watershed, in particular, the SRA intends to work co-operatively with the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Roundtable and its funds-raising arm, the Shawnigan Basin Society, in all future watershed and lake protection and enhancement projects undertaken by the association.

For more information and to learn how you can support the work of the SRA, please visit its web site at <u>www.</u> <u>shawniganresidentsassociation.com</u>.



What is happening with The Shawnigan Lake Walk?

Robert Brownsword

Cowichan Family Caregiver Support Society

On Sunday, June 3 the Cowichan Family Caregiver Support Society will sponsor the 9th annual what-we-use-to-call the Shawnigan Lake Walk. This event is the main fundraiser for the Society. Last year over \$22,000 was raised for the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society, a non-profit society dedicated to supporting family caregivers in the Cowichan Valley.

This year, the Walk has been transformed into The Shawnigan Lake Adventure. Why,

you might ask? Simply, because our event includes much more than just the Walk. Participants will be able to choose from walking, kayaking, bicycling, and geocaching.

For those who love strolling or power walking we still will be offering five routes ranging from 4 kilometres to 27 kilometres. All routes include some part of the TransCanada trail, several include the Kinsol Trestle and all feature interesting sights, with cool shaded stretches, lake views and beautiful scenery. Rest stations with drinks and fruit are set out along the routes. Please plan to join us on Sunday, June 2 2013.

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Department Officers Attended 1 Burning Complaint in December. Department Members Attended 15 Calls in December:
Thu., Dec. 6 - MVI on Colman Rd
Fri., Dec 7 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
Sun., Dec 9 - 1st Responder in Arbutus Mtn Estates
Tue., Dec. 11 - Mutual Aid with Mill Bay Fire Dept
Fri., Dec. 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
Sun., Dec. 16 - Chimney Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
Tue., Dec. 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
Tue., Dec. 19 - Hydro Line Down on Shawnigan Lake Rd

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- ★ Thu., Dec 19 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Fri., Dec. 20 Hydro Line Fire on Baden Powell Rd
- ★ Sun., Dec. 23 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tue., Dec. 25 Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Fri., Dec. 28 Public Assistance on Cullin Rd
- ★ Fri. Dec. 28 Alarms Activated on Cliffside Rd
- ★ Mon., Dec 31 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd



Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

Give your watershed an hour this week

Brent Beach Shawnigan Focus

On November 20, I got a copy of a document called "SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS". You can get a copy of it here: http://tinyurl.com/chohyz4

The document was written by Active Earth for South Island Aggregates and claims to be a summary of the public consultation process into the SIA proposal to store contaminated waste in their gravel pit on Stebbings Road, in our watershed.

Section 6.0 Summary and Conclusions bears no resemblance to the public consultations in which I participated.

What actually happened

SIA held an open house. Over 200 people showed up to protest both the proposal and the way the proposal was being slipped in past their objections. Those people demanded that the CVRD hold a second meeting to discuss the project – a meeting not part of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) process. At the CVRD meeting, more than 250 people overwhelmingly opposed the project.

What Section 6.0 Says

About Opponents

Section 6.0 says are "simply opposed any commercial/ industrial activities within the Shawnigan Lake Watershed". I attended both meetings. The opponents did not talk about commercial activities in the watershed. They made specific points about storing contaminated waste in the watershed. Opposition was specific, not general.

About Supporters

Section 6.0 says supporters are open minded. There was one supporter who spoke at the CVRD meeting, claiming to have looked at the science and been led to support the project. Turns out she is the daughter of one of the owners. Open-minded? Her "science" was wishful thinking, perhaps even magical thinking.

About Everyone Else

Section 6.0 says that everyone who did not attend either the open house or the CVRD meeting is highly indifferent or supports the project. Really?

The Future

In his novel "1984", George Orwell wrote: "He who controls the present, controls the past. He who controls the past, controls the future." MoE gave SIA control of the present when it gave it the power to write the history of the consultations. If the SIA history becomes the accepted history then the outcome is certain - we will get a contaminated waste dump in our watershed.

We can make a difference. We can act now to stop this project.

As residents, we get a lot from the watershed. We get a beautiful natural place to live. A place away from the city. A place with natural values which energize our spirits.

The watershed needs your help now.

If you attended one or both of the meetings, the watershed needs you to do one more thing to show you disapprove of this project. If you were unable to attend the meetings, you can still help the watershed.

We can all write directly to the Minister of Environment telling him that we are not indifferent. That we oppose a permit to allow contaminated waste to be stored in your watershed. A few hand written lines expressing our opposition, sent to the Minister and the Premier, WILL make a difference.

Contact information:

The Honourable Terry Lake Minister of Environment Box 9047 Station Prov. Govt. Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable Christy Clark Premier of British Columbia Box 9041 Station Prov. Govt. Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Send a copy to the Shawnigan Lake Focus: editor@shawniganfocus.ca





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Quidi Vidi arrives at Riverpool Farm

Bruce Fraser

A plaintive call from Sarah in Victoria, with a particular tone of voice to which I have become accustomed, alerted me to an impending confession. "I have been to the SPCA," she says, and my sense of apprehension mounts rapidly as the 'voice' continues, "... we have a kitten, she is so cute, and we do need a mouser around the farm". Of course the farm, though recently incorporated, remains in the planning stage, with visions of heritage turkeys dancing in Sarah's head, once I build the coop and the tractor pen and spend a small, unrecoverable fortune on fencing. In the meantime, the future Mouser has to be introduced to the territorial Dog.

Introduction time lent an air of manic festivity to the house. Dog interpreted the new arrival as prey and began uproarious barking, held back by her collar from an instant kill. Kitten met this challenge with a 20-claw salute, using my bloody arm as a place to sink many of them for purchase as she bolted skyward. This was accompanied by an open mouthed hissy fit unbecoming of such a young girl. The next two days became a standoff, with barking, hissing, and claw displays keeping the household on edge and providing scratch marks on the main escape routes.

Then, one morning, Ms. Barking Mad Dog suddenly discovered her maternal instinct and began licking Miss Spitting Kitty until she was a sodden mess, now obviously considered an oddly shaped, but nevertheless deserving orphan to be properly tutored. Strangely enough, Miss Kitty began to purr contentedly with this vigorous washing routine, rubbing noses in appreciation. It is a regular occurrence now, with Kitty receiving a both-ends cleaning cycle to start the day or after visits to the kitty litter box, where BMG maintains guard until the door opens to emit the surprisingly odorous MSK.

Licking has progressed to amicably sharing the food dish and endless play fighting, with the 70 lb. dog enthusiastically attacking the 1 lb. kitten. As the entire kitten disappears inside the jaws there is a moment of apprehension that this is the end of inter-species détente. But, the bedraggled body emerges in time to swat the huge nose, bite the lips and further tempt fate before charging off to the underside of a chair beyond pursuit. Sometimes a huge canine paw flattens the amazingly flexible cat so that cowering submission is the only effective feline ploy.

So, what to name this clearly soonto-be-dominant soul? Dog's formal name is Princess Islay of Koksilah, using the Scottish pronunciation of the famous island of smoky-peaty whiskeys – otherwise irreverently called 'Dogface'. The formal name of the cat will be Dame Heather of Heatherbank Brook (after the stream that runs through the farm on its way to the Koksilah). But, in the spirit of animals with spirit names, Sarah calls her Quidi Vidi, after a tasty micro brew beer from a brewery outport just outside St. Johns, Newfoundland.

I, of course, call her 'Catface'. So, there you have it, a Whiskey Dog and Sudsy Cat, who have now turned their rambunctious attention to reducing the doomed living room furniture to the status of firewood.

History doesn't just repeat itself

Lori Treloar Shawnigan Museum

History doesn't just repeat itself – the same issues and ideas, and even the same solutions, surface again and again over time. The issues that we are working through today have been important to Shawnigan residents for over a century – job opportunities, or the ability to work and live in within our community; amenities like recreation and social facilities; sustainable agriculture and even complaints about boats. It is always a good idea to look backward as we move forward.

The Shawnigan Community emerged gradually and thoughtfully based on the needs of the residents. The true seeds of our community developed with the cooperation of residents from opposite ends of the spectrum –the rough loggers and mill workers at one end, and the resident retired British Colonels and posh Victoria visitors at the other. As diverse as it seemed, when there was a desire to have a dance platform for the community, it was workers from the mill who built it. When basketball players or rowers were needed for local teams, loggers and mill workers were asked to join in.

We can thank two entrepreneurial men, in particular, for their vision in the early development of the area. Charles Morton built a hotel on the waterfront in 1885 – a year before the E&N Rail line was complete. He recognized that Shawnigan Lake was a natural playground and a perfect resort destination. William Lossee, an E&N employee who travelled extensively up and down the island, decided that Shawnigan was the perfect place to build a mill. With access to excellent timber and to the railway, he built his integrated mill on the waterfront in 1890. A local economy was born.

As the community grew, so did its needs. In 1910, a hall

the Residents Association; the Business Association; The Community Association; the Parks Commission etc., etc.

The infant community of the 1890s and early into the 20th century did not have to deal with multi-jurisdictional governance. The population was small and the committees and associations could handle the issues. Our population is approximately 4000% larger than at that time yet we are still problemsolving in the same way.

The time has come for new visionaries in Shawnigan, like Morton and Lossee from the 19th century. History does repeat itself! An ancient Chinese Proverb tells us "if we don't change direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed".

Shawnigan Lake has a unique story and has always been a strong community. The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society incorporated in 1977 to preserve and celebrate the history of the area. The Shawnigan Lake Museum opened in 1983 which makes it one of the longest continuously operating entities in the village. If you haven't visited the museum in the past year or the past ten years, you will likely be surprised at what you find inside that deceivingly small yellow box. The museum is open year 'round – except January. You are all invested in the future of Shawnigan but it is also important to respect and understand its past. Take a chance and venture inside the box.

Happy New Year! maybe?

Nothing can spoil the New Year like another tax grab by the CVRD and all the special interests it supports with your money.

Get ready- the CVRD is planning to inflict big tax pain again in 2013 by hiring more employees and increasing spending because it's real easy to tax, spend and give away our money.

In the past 10 years inflation was 22% but in the CVRD:

★ Taxes went up by 113%



- ★ Directors pay and expenses went up by 117%
- ★ Salaries and Wages went up by 79%
- ★ Employee pension plan costs went up 135%
- ★ Millions \$ of your money were given away to special interests
- ★ Number of employees went up 75% from 125 to 219
- ★ 20 employees now collect more than \$100,000 pay per year

Did you know the generous Municipal Pension Fund that CVRD employees participate in currently has a \$1 billion (yes \$1 billion!) unfunded liability that taxpayers are mostly on the hook for?

It is time CVRD employees and politicians stop using local taxpayers as their ATM. If you are tired of seeing your taxes give CVRD employees wages and benefits way more than you get yourself- now is the time to get involved!

The new Cowichan Valley Taxpayer's Association is looking for members to work with CVRD politicians to help them respect taxpayers.

If you want to help send an email to <u>info@StopCVRDGarbage.com</u> with your contact details.



If there was a need, there has always been a volunteer group to take care of it. Sound familiar? Hmmm...

Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

Change is good

By Elijah Fraser Shawnigan Focus

A New Year brings change, and this year a big one for local business owners Jakob Zaiss and Jen de Valk, as new owners took possession of the former Moziro Coffee Shop on New Year's Day.

Moziro opened in a shop on the second floor of the Purple Building in 2005, selling fair trade, organic, locally roasted coffee beans and artisan chocolates. Seeing the need to have more control over their product, Moziro moved to their current location and began to sell brewed and specialty coffees as a "window to our product," in 2007.

While looking forward to the increased time the sale will give their family, Jake and Jenn will continue to roast coffee under the brand name Moziro (a compilation of their three children's names). In addition, they will keep busy in the fields of drafting, construction, silviculture, farming and soul coaching. "It's time to stop fighting the urge to be a true jack-of-all-trades," said Jake.

When asked what he will miss most about the coffee shop, Jake said, "We've met thousands of people and truly feel blessed to be a part of so many rituals, addictive and otherwise. We've welcomed people into our store and been welcomed into people's lives. I've seen first

dates, recently married, and divorcee's discussions. Our very first customers in the purple building, a delightful old couple from Shawnigan, have both passed on but I've seen dozens of newborns whose mom's I had made decaf coffees for months. It feels like Moziro has been around for generations. I need to thank our dedicated and fantastic staff throughout the years. I can't believe how lucky we've been. I can truly say each of those young baristas are our friends."

Moziro's customers can rest assured that the coffee shop has been left in good hands and with a familiar face as it was purchased by one of those baristas, Martine Thomson, and her family: husband Ryan, son Alder, and mother Sue Darby. Local residents for the last four years, Martine had been an employee while running her portrait studio, Fisheye Photography (after managing The Green Cuisine Vegan Restaurant in Victoria for the seven years prior).

"It's an amazingly comfortable fit for my family. Growing up in a tight, funky community like Roberts Creek (on the Sunshine Coast), I have always looked for a community that feels right to me, and Shawnigan is it. Moziro is the heart of the village. It's where the soccer team meets for a warm hot chocolate after the game. It's



Martine Thomson, new owner of Shawnigan House

where old friends stop to joke with each other before and after a day's work. Anything is better with a warm coffee and some chocolate."

Moziro has enjoyed success over the last seven years while, unfortunately, many other small businesses in the village have struggled. For this, Jake and Jenn credit its loyal customers, "Thank you, thank you, thank you. Without you we'd have been... well, take a look across the street. That's what we would have been."

Customers can look forward to expanded seating inside Shawnigan House, online ordering of chocolate and beans at <u>www.</u> <u>shawnigancoffee.com</u>, and increased sales and support of local art and products such as Teafarm's Teas. While the coffee shop's name will change, Moziro coffee is here to stay and, like the coffee: change is good.

Film Review: Django Unchained

Release Date: December 25, 2012 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$

Reviewed by Russell Treloar

Quentin Tarantino's unabashedly controversial new film is set in Mississippi during 1858 and

slave, Stephen, played with gleeful wickedness by Samuel L. Jackson.

Like every good Tarantino film, Django Unchained has again stirred controversy not only because of its somewhat cartoonish portrayal of slavery, but particularly for its over-prevalent use of the "N-word" – uttered 110 times throughout. Tarantino faced similar controversy with his 1997 film Jackie Brown in which the word was said a mere 38 times by comparison. Some have denounced Django as offensive, such as outspoken director and Tarantino nemesis Spike Lee who says the film is "disrespectful to my ancestors" without having seen it, while many others, such as cast members Samuel L. Jackson and Jamie Foxx, have defended the film. RBC

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stars Oscar winner Jamie Foxx as Django, a slave who attempts to rescue his wife from a cruel plantation owner with the help of a sympathetic German bounty hunter played by Oscar winner Christoph Waltz. This film is Tarantino's follow-up to his WWII revenge-fantasy Inglourious Basterds (2009) and is another raucous genre mash-up, this time blending the spaghetti-western and blaxploitation film to invent what Tarantino has proclaimed a "Southern."

The performances are all exceptional, but Christoph Waltz is the standout again and should expect another Oscar nomination for his role here. Waltz seems born to deliver the lyrical Tarantino dialogue with such precise, comedic timing. Yes – this is a funny film, and Waltz and Foxx's buddy comedy interactions garnered big laughs at my screening. Even the somber subject matter and often grisly violence are often played for laughs, or in the least with tongue-in-cheek. Other noteworthy characters include Leonardo DiCaprio's Calvin Candie, the South's most notorious plantation owner and his evil house

In the film's audacity, there's no doubt Tarantino sets out to provoke, be it emotions or thoughts. However, above all he aims to entertain and with Django Unchained he has again proven his consistent ability to reinvent what unbridled, unfiltered on-screen entertainment can be. Despite its 2 hours and 46 minutes runtime, shot for shot this is the most entertaining film for me in 2012. If you can accept it as an engrossing artistic indulgence and not an insightful historical documentary you can't help but have a grin on your face the entire time.

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Are you creative? We need cartoonists. Send us your stuff! editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Take a Hike!

Robin Massey Shawnigan Focus

Oliphant Lake is one of my most favorite hikes... however, turning left onto the highway from South Shawnigan turnoff is most definitely not. And although this article is not really about Oliphant, it was my initial destination!

When rolling south along Shawnigan Lake Road, you may notice how the landscape climbs upwards to a ridge on the left. We know that on the other side of that ridge is the highway. Our group has explored that ridge and both Spectacle & Oliphant Lakes, as well, and have seen the immense forest that exists between the two areas. My goal was to find a path from South Shawnigan to Oliphant Lake.

If you were to watch intently, you may see a lot of sneak peeks on the left side of the road upwards but one of the most prominent ones is the orange gate near the Estates at Shawnigan Station. Through that very gate you will find what is called the Trailer M/L access road which splits off in many, many directions. If you stay on it to its completion it provides a very nice scenic route paralleling Shawnigan Lake Road until it dead ends around Cliffside Road.

More adventurous spirits can follow our route: Start at the orange gate, continue past the blue/ yellow flagged trailhead (about 2 kms in) and take the next inconspicuous trail up on the right (watch for it!). Go across the tracks and up onto the next trail. When you reach the 4 way junction at this trail follow the pink flagged trail to the right up... and up... and up... and... you know what I'm saying, its waaay up! It will essentially go up to



Find your way to Oliphant Lake: http://tinyurl.com/c7fnhw9

the ridge I'm told, but for us after about an hour we decided to turn around on such a wet day. I vow to go back and find a way to Oliphant Lake from Shawnigan – anyone want to join me?

A lot of people know this area as Mt. Wood. Is it a mountain or a ridge? I will find out one day! It really is a beautiful area and is good for all ranges, ages and stages. There are secluded portions, as well, so please be hesitant to travel it alone. Like most of the Cowichan logging roads there are so many access points. Please respect the area residents - use the orange gate...unless of course you're invited!

See photos from this hike and others on The OM Tree Studio Inc.'s Facebook page.

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley playground with The Iron Butts www.theomtree.com

The Wild Side

Canada Goose: Noble Emblem or Ecological Menace?

Dave Hutchinson Shawnigan Focus

Though not an official national symbol, the Canada Goose (Branta canadensis) is perceived to be one of Canada's emblems. In the early 1900s these handsome birds were seriously threatened due to over-hunting and loss of habitat. Enhancement programs, adaptation, and interbreeding with a non-migratory sub-species have resulted in large populations of resident birds that have become a pest in many areas. Ecological damage to estuaries and other wetlands have prompted calls for a total eradication of the estimated 15,000 resident birds on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Apart from being a hazard to aircraft, no one seems to have a problem with their migratory cousins. The majestic V-formations of these birds are part of our national identity.

It is interesting to observe where the birds frequent around the lake. Their favourite places are man-made grassy areas like the Provincial Park on the west side. They are also a messy lesson for waterfront owners who replace natural lakeside vegetation with inappropriate lawns.

Facts and Factoids:



Resident Canada Geese: An Ecological Menace

survive to adulthood ranges 10–24 years.

4 to 7 eggs make up

excrement comprising forms of E. coli and salmonella microbes. eradicate the population ... rounding them up during the summer molt," he said. "Nobody likes talking about it, but it has to be addressed. They have exceeded the carrying capacity of the ecosystem."

- Depending on who you talk to, there are up to eleven subspecies of Canada Goose. The largest is the giant, with a wingspan of 6 feet and weighing up to 20 pounds.
- The life span of geese that



★

Migratory Canada Geese: A Noble Emblem

a typical clutch and incubation is done solely by the female. The male (gander) zealously guards the nest and will attack any intruders. Incubation takes 25 to 30 days and the goslings are led to water within a day after hatching.

- ★ During the second year of their lives, Canada Geese find a mate. They are monogamous, and most couples stay together all of their lives.
- ★ Estimates vary but a single goose produces between 1 and 3 pounds of poop per day.
- ★ Fecal contamination from Canada geese is significant, including up to 94% of

- ★ Molting of adult birds occurs every summer, for up to a 6 week period, rendering all birds flightless.
- ★ Resident geese were introduced to the island in the 1930s from a game farm near Victoria and, unlike Canada geese of wild origin; they do not migrate but reside yearround on Vancouver Island, feeding heavily on plants in estuaries.
- ★ "We messed up and it's urgent that we take action," said retired Canadian Wildlife Service biologist Neil Dawe. "You can cull the population, but that takes time, or you can
- In 1995, a US Air Force aircraft at Elmendorf, Alaska struck a flock of Canada Geese on takeoff and crashed, killing all 24 crew. The "Miracle on the Hudson" occurred Jan 15, 2009 when a flock of migratory Canada Geese brought down US Airways Flight 1549 at an altitude of 2818 ft. The pilot brought the plane to an emergency 'splash'landing in the Hudson River, causing only minor injuries to the 155 passengers and crew.

Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community



Shawnigan Weather DECEMBER stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Treloar

December	December	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Kelsey School	
	Normal	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
Average High	5.6	4.7	5.4	4.5	6.0	5.1	6.6	5.9	7.0
Average Low	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.9	-0.7	1.5	0.3	1.7	0.2
Extreme High	16.0	9.2	10.9	8.7	11.2	9.6	11.4	10.6	12.7
Extreme Low	-15.0	-0.4	-3.7	-1.5	-5.2	-1.3	-4.1	-1.2	-3.6
Precipitation	208.7	307.1	122.5	252.1	84.2	265.0	90.1	174.6	60.8
Days w precip	20	29	14	27	15	28	13	30	14
Lake Temperature: Dec 2 nd : 8° Dec 9 th : 6° Dec 16 th : 5° Dec 23 rd : 4° Dec 30 th : 4°									



Custom Homes By Quality Builder In Shawnigan Lake

WHERE'S DECLAN?

Declan is on the Cowichan Valley Trail on the south side of the Kinsol Trestle. The Cowichan Valley Trail, considered a CVRD Regionl Park, is 122 km of trail from the south end of Shawnigan to the town of Lake Cowichan. The trail is our portion of the 23,000 km Trans Canada Trail system - the longest network of recreational trails in the world. Along the Cowichan Valley Trail you will enjoy spectacular scenery, several historic railway trestles, picnic areas and washroom facilities.



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WHAT IS MISSING IN SHAWNIGAN?

- 1. A Deli meat counter, also serving smoke meat sandwiches homemade soups etc.
- 2. A gift and fashion jewelry shop.
- 3. Pet supply store.

@ owichan

If you believe there is a need for something I have not mentioned feel free to add it to my list. Please respond in order of preference to: Guinivere555@msn.com

MIXED 4's GRASS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Spring 2013 Session Starts May 1st for 9 weeks

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For advance registration and details contact: Bonnie Griffiths 250-597-8831 Email: bonnie@brentwood.bc.ca

WWW.COVL.NET

Spring Sign-up Wed. April 17th @ 7:30pm at Whiskey Point Grill, Mill Bay Centre Bring this AD and receive \$10 discount off your team registration or \$5 off an individual registration!

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 3rd Thursday of each month 6:30pm at SLCC
- ★ Shawnigan Improvement District 2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- Shawnigan Residents Association Board meeting
 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm www.shawniganresidentsassociation.com
- ★ Shawnigan Lake Business Association 1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm, currently at the Village Chippery
- Shawnigan Lake Community Association 4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact <u>bburr@shaw.ca</u> to get on the mailing list. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.
- Shawnigan Village Development Council As announced. Everyone welcome!
- Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable Everyone welcome! (see website for details: www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca)
- ★ Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage
- ★ Shawnigan Lake Facebook group has the objective to be for daily postings of people's stories, news and events on a more personal scale. Please view https://www.facebookcom/groups/129586433786330/
- ★ Malahat Legion: 1625 Shawnigan–Mill Bay Road For more info: 250-743-4621

GOOD LUCK DOWN UNDER!

Shawnigan's own Jed Leech will soon leave the cold Canadian winter for the warmth of the Australian summer. Leech is part of the Canadian team that will compete in the Junior World Waterskiing Championships at Mulwala from Feb. 20-24. Leech began water-skiing around the age of eight continuing the Leech family's long legacy at the Victoria Aqua Ski Club on Shawnigan Lake. Jed recently made the jump finals at the Pan-Am Games (last September) and helped the Canadian Team to place second overall.

CELEBRATE FAMILY DAY 2013 "Passport to Shawnigan"

Who:

Any family that would like to participate is welcome.

What:

Participate in a Shawnigan family adventure to discover some of the treasures in our community and win and win \$hawnigan dollar\$ that can be spent at any participating businesses in Shawnigan.

With your passport, you will visit seven designated locations that have been chosen this year to celebrate our train history. Choochoo-choose to participate! Take a current snapshot of your family at each destination and bring your photos (printed; on your camera; on your computer) to the Village Chippery, The Shawnigan Lake Museum or The Style Centre Barbershop where your passport will be stamped for each location visited. The more locations you visit, the better your chances are to win prizes!

On February 11, attend a wind-up at the Dwight School gym from 11-2 for great family activities – a maple tapping demonstration; a community craft that your family can create which will become part a special outdoor community art display; hot dogs and hot apple cider and more.

To support Jed's trip, a fundraiser will be held at the Cobblestone Pub on Jan. 19, with \$20 burger and beer tickets, a silent auction and door prizes. All proceeds will go toward Leech's travel and training expenses.

For more info, contact Lalani King at 250 743 2625

12 SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

When:

Registration begins February 2nd. You have until the wind-up on February 11th to complete your passport.

Why:

Register your family to participate in this truly Shawnigan experience!

Register to get your family Passport by filling in the attached form and dropping your registration and applicable fees to Shawnigan Lake Museum, the Village Chippery or The Style Centre Barbershop (or register in person at one of these locations). \$1 per family member includes a hot dog and drink.

Where:

It's all happening at Shawnigan! Grab your passport and go on a family adventure in and around Shawnigan.

Number of family membe	ers: Amount enclosed:
Family Name:	
Contact (email or phone)	: