



# Shawnigan

# Focus

Volume Three - Issue Five

MAY 2013

*A Non-Profit Community Publication*

## TAKE A HIKE - UP BALDY!



**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Well I'm sure you've heard that from the top of Baldy Mountain there is a spectacular view. Yes, yes there is, and in April we went to see it again. Our launch point started at the orange gate in the Strathcona Heights area off of Baldy Mountain Road (turn on Hawking which turns into Strathcona).

In the first 30 minutes from the orange gate you will find a noticeable butt-blasting upward incline on a roly poly, rocky road. The scenic views do not take long to show up, and every once in a while you just have to try to get your head up to turn around and see it! Also, be sure to take a water break and enjoy the view by the cell tower – pretty awesome!

In the second half, you will transform from human

to part mountain goat as you scramble up rocks and ledges bringing you up to the blasted crown of Baldy Mountain in all its glory, with its 360 degree view of the ocean, surrounding mountains and Shawnigan Lake. If you are a plant lover you will enjoy, on this rocky mountain, some pretty little items along the way – such as succulents, shooting stars and bog asphodels (from the lily family).

The level of hiker for this trail is intermediate/advanced, primarily due to the inclines and upper body strength required to pull yourself up in some places (but... some good friends can help with this too). We're not saying that beginners cannot do it – just that it can be a very challenging trek for some. Depending on speed and agility, it can take anywhere between 35 minutes and an hour to reach the top viewpoint.

Good news though! You DO NOT necessarily have to go down the same way you went up... there is the nice relaxing option of a logging road that winds all the way down taking you close to where Hawking changes into Strathcona. This particular escape route can take you about 45 minutes to an hour back to your vehicle if you parked near the orange start gate.

Good hiking footwear and trekking poles are recommended... and, as mentioned before, good friends if you need help pulling your butt up the rocks.

Next month: Maple Mountain in Maple Bay – join us!

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's viewpoints with The Iron Butts ([www.theomtree.com](http://www.theomtree.com))

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## Great News !

Ownership of the Elsie Miles School grounds has officially been transferred from the Cowichan School District to the CVRD. This is great for the Shawnigan Lake community as it protects the property as a Village green space for public use.

An announcement and dedication to this effect will be made on Saturday, May 25 at 1:00, on the Elsie Miles property, by the CVRD Parks and Recreation staff.

Join the community for this ceremony, and then stick around to cheer the entrants in the Danone Kid's Race (part of the Triathlon event) at 1:30.

## Who would do this?



### Is this your renovation?

In April, about a week apart, two loads of used drywall (likely from the same reno) were dumped in the middle of Renfrew Road out past Burnt Bridge. These pictures show the two loads on the road.

Everyone knows how expensive it is to dispose of drywall, but it can't be as much as the fine for getting caught!

Clean-up for garbage dumped in the area ultimately costs all of us as taxpayers.

Be responsible for your own garbage - if you can afford to renovate, you can surely afford the cost of disposing of your garbage.



### SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

May 2013

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JUNE 2013 Issue: June 4th

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Please do not send a PDF as it does not convert properly. Leave hard copies of articles in the Focus box at the The Chippery: 1- 2740 Dundas, Shawnigan Lake

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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 for a fee. 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.

#### MAILING ADDRESS

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Box 331, Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

## Shawnigan Moments



Summer's coming!

## 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 as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals. Send letters to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

### Canada Day Celebration: Get Involved!

Dear Editor,

Monday, July 1st is Canada Day!

Recently, many issues in Shawnigan Lake have brought people together and built commitment to our community. Then Shawnigan held a very successful Gathering introducing organizations and businesses that create the environment that Shawnigan is. One benefit from all these activities is the connecting of neighbours and meeting new friends!

Canada Day is another opportunity to connect with local folk. The Shawnigan Lake Community Association has partnered with the Community Centre to host this event annually on the Elsie Miles grounds. We are a small group of volunteers who apply to the BC Gaming Commission for funds to support it. We are very committed to our community to bring an event that 'celebrates' with fun, a parade, games, children's races, entertainment, food and, of course, birthday cake!!

We welcome new ideas and new groups who can present an activity suitable for families. We have several local group dedicated to participating both in the parade and on the grounds but there is space for more! If anyone would like more information, or to join our planning team, please email me at [stayafloat@shaw.ca](mailto:stayafloat@shaw.ca) or leave

your name and number at the Community Centre.

Beyond our community we have a nation to be proud of so come show your pride by getting involved!!

~Marian Davies, SLCA member

### What's wrong with this picture?

As the government body charged with protecting our environment stands poised to approve the dumping of contaminated soil into our watershed; the people of Shawnigan Lake are pondering the fate of a project that will enhance our community and not destroy it.

Richard Sager, Norm Magee, and David Gibson the owners of "North Shawnigan Station" - (North added when Shawnigan Station named their development on a site that has nothing to do with that development's location or history), await approval for their development that has been twenty years in the offing.

This proposed development is in the heart of Shawnigan Village, situated on a site that was the village dump. These developers have had torturous obstacles placed in their path, as they spend thousands of dollars to remediate the site and proceed with a small grocery store/farm market and ultimately a hotel that will reflect the history of our community.

All of these people live in our

community. They have raised their children here; they have a solid reputation for quality developments (e.g. Thrifty Foods), and have a proven history as good employers and community involvement. Norm Magee was a Shawnigan volunteer firefighter.

This development promises to breathe life into our village and restore this community to its vibrant former glory. The relentless changing of the goal posts, when all efforts are being made to comply with environmental concerns adds insult to injury, as we witness the atrocities that the same Ministry of the Environment appear to want to have visited upon us.

The greatest fear, as someone who cares about Shawnigan Lake, is that our friends and neighbours will abandon this project, leaving the heart of our village to God only knows what - a toxic soil dump?

~Sally Davies

### Vote For Local Control

Dear Editor:

This week an aspiring MLA approached me during a public function. I turned to find an out stretched hand and a smiling face. There was no escape so I shook the hand. This led to engagement, "what issues were important to me?"

Well, as a matter of fact, I am very concerned about BC's Private Managed Forest Land Act. This legislation

places complete control over all private forest land into the hands of the owners themselves. This means that the majority of the Cowichan Valley's watershed is now managed for the narrow self interests of a few, mostly absent, landlords.

Stewardship of these forests is currently conducted to maximize corporate return without the sanction of local communities, which depend upon and live within these watersheds. Little account is taken of the public interest when it comes to comprehensive ecosystem management or cumulative effects over time.

"But," protested the would be MLA, "this is private land." Yes, I agreed; however, even our private lands should be managed with due respect to the health and welfare of our neighbours.

He feigned agreement as his restless eyes searched for a new, less problematic, hand to shake. It was disturbing to me how completely ignorant this gentleman was of the legislation and its vast impact on Cowichan citizens. Not only was he unaware of the Private Managed Forest Land Act, he did not understand that as a potential member of government, he could change this legislation for the benefit of his constituents.

I urge my fellow citizens to vote for local control over our forests, lands, and water.

~Roger Wiles Duncan, BC



Fire mascot, 'Diesel', with Tiny the Turkey at the Gathering



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More information is available at [www.triseries.ca/shawnigan\\_lake](http://www.triseries.ca/shawnigan_lake).

### Traffic Advisory

In order to run this event safely, we ask you to please limit your use of the inside lane around the circumference of the lake, as this lane will be used by the cyclists. The following is our bike route for both events:

The cyclist will start from West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park and ride north on the inside lane of West Shawnigan Lake Road, then turn right (eastbound) onto Renfrew Road, then turn right (southbound) onto East Shawnigan Lake Road, and finish the lap by turning right (northbound) onto West Shawnigan Lake Road. Between 7:00am and 7:30am there will be high school students on both sides of the road on West Shawnigan Lake Road. We respectfully request that you limit travel in this area during this period.

Marshalls, Police and Professional Traffic Controllers will direct all cyclists to ride in a clockwise direction around the lake for 4 laps. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation for this event by organizing your day travel to be a counter-clockwise (oneway) direction around the lake, or travel outside the hours of 7:00AM and 1:00PM.

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7:00AM AND 1:00PM ON SUNDAY**

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\*\*Only 14-15 year olds may compete in the Super Sprint  
Map not to scale



**You can often change your circumstances by changing your attitude ~Eleanor Roosevelt**

## SIA application status

**Shawnigan Focus**  
Editorial

We are waiting. The permit will either be approved, or denied. This will happen either before the election, or after. An appeal to the Environmental Appeal Board is probable in any case. We reproduce three letters on this issue which has galvanized the community.

The letter from SIA raises some points which reinforce the crucial notion that it is the process for selecting and evaluating these sites that is flawed.

The concern reflected in a letter from the doctors of the Shawnigan Village Family Practice is appreciated.

The letter from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, is the first official acknowledgment that there are "gaps in the approval process for such facilities".

As the Focus goes to print, the most recent information is contained in a boilerplate email being sent from the

Ministry of Environment. The following is an excerpt. Our Area Director has provided a full response which can be found on his website at [www.fraserforshawnigan.ca](http://www.fraserforshawnigan.ca).

May 7, 2013

...

On April 15, 2013, Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Medical Health Officer, in correspondence to the Deputy Minister of Health, pointed to the diverging expert opinions on

risks to water quality from the SIA proposal as an area of concern and recommended a final independent review by a team of professionals. The objective of this review would be to build on the current information by providing more detailed evidence and assessment related to potential human health risks. It is important that we have all of the necessary facts before making a decision on the permit application. The Ministry of Environment is in communication with the local VIHA officials regarding a possible

further health risk assessment in relation to the application. We will work closely with health officials as needed to make sure we have all the necessary information to inform the decision. Our ultimate objective is to ensure that the activities do not impair the environment or impact human health.

...

Sincerely,  
Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division

Shawnigan Village Family Practice  
Box 240, 2749 Dundas Road  
Shawnigan Lake, B.C. V0R 2W0  
Telephone (250) 743-0793 FAX (250) 743-075

April 8, 2013

Dr. Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer  
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard  
Victoria BC, V8W 3C9  
Fax: 250-952-1362

Attention: Dr. Perry Kendall

**Re: South Island Aggregates Soil Facility**

Dear Dr. Kendall,

We, the physicians of the Shawnigan Village Family Practice, are writing to seek your immediate attention to what we consider to be a potential major threat to the public health of the residents of Shawnigan Lake. As you are aware, the Ministry of the Environment has given tentative approval to a Waste Discharge Permit application from South Island Aggregates to dump several million tons of contaminated soil into a containment facility in the watershed of Shawnigan Lake. Some of the contaminants in this toxic soil include toluene ethylbenzene and other highly toxic chemicals. There is conflicting science as to whether the level of protection that this containment offers will really be sufficient to prevent leakage into an underlying aquifer and eventually into our drinking water. Should there be a breach of the containment, either through degradation or even worse, an earthquake, the risk to the public health would be severe.

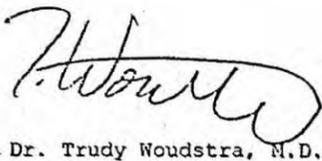
It is our understanding that, as the Provincial Medical Health Office, it is within your jurisdiction to investigate his matter to intervene as necessary when there is potential risk to the public health. With the community's drinking water at stake, we feel that this is one of those situations, as we cannot risk any uncertainty.

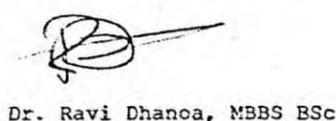
As the Minister of the Environment will be making a final decision on this application in the next couple days, we respectfully request that you call the Minister of the Environment as soon as possible to delay this application until the protection of our water is guaranteed.

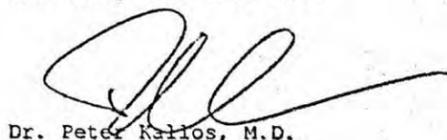
This request is submitted with respect.

Sincerely,

  
William Moulaison, M.D.

  
Dr. Trudy Woudstra, M.D.

  
Dr. Ravi Dhanoa, MBBS BSc

  
Dr. Peter Kallos, M.D.



April 22, 2013

972810

Mr. Rob Hutchins  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
175 Ingram Street  
Duncan BC V9L 1N8

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

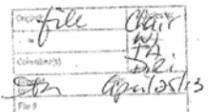
Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2013, requesting that I exercise my authority under section 4.2 of the Drinking Water Protection Act to intervene with regards to contaminated soil treatment and storage at the South Islands Aggregates site in the Shawnigan Lake watershed.

I am aware of this proposal and the concerns that have been expressed with regard to water quality in the area. Regional Ministry of Environment staff and the area Drinking Water Officer have been discussing the expectations of this proposal with respect to drinking water safety and it is my understanding that outstanding drinking water concerns will be addressed during the current application review process.

Notwithstanding the fact that the current application appears to benefit from discussion between the Drinking Water Officer and Ministry of Environment staff, consideration of the evidence available for this proposal has lead me to conclude that there are gaps in the approval process for such facilities. I am recommending that the Minister of Health raise these concerns with the Minister of Environment and to recommend consideration of a review of the approval processes under the Environmental Management Act to ensure that suitably qualified professionals are engaged to characterize factors that will inform the decision making process from a public health perspective. Due to the current election cycle, I have directed my recommendation to the Deputy Minister of Health for his action.

Sincerely,





P.R.W. Kendall OBC, MBBS, MHSc, FRCPC Provincial Health Officer

pc: Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer Vancouver Island Health Authority

Ministry of Health

Office of the  
Provincial Health Officer

4-2, 1515 Blanshard Street  
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# Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community



Cowichan Valley Regional District  
175 Ingram Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 1 N8

Attention: Rob Hutchins, Chair

## Re : Peerless Road Hazardous Waste Landfill

April 26, 2013

An article in yesterday's online addition of the Cowichan News Leader<sup>1</sup> was brought to my attention. The article indicates that the CVRD is intending to construct a hazardous waste landfill at the Peerless Road Recycling Depot. Given your ongoing efforts to protect the environment and local drinking water in terms of citing and operating contaminated soil landfills, and given our recent experience in developing a landfill design and plan, I thought you should be made aware of some key issues that stood out to me with respect to your proposed facility.

The article indicates that about 80,000 tonnes of incinerator ash "*will be unearthed and enclosed within an on-site engineered cell in accordance with all Ministry of Environment guidelines,*" using "*special sealed liners and aggregate before being capped with impermeable asphalt*". While I agree that this is a safe way to manage this type waste, and in fact this seems to be exactly what we have proposed at our facility, your efforts to halt our waste discharge application indicate that you do not find this type waste management to be appropriately protective. Further, you and your advocates have made it clear that you view landfilling contaminated soils as being detrimental to the local community and their watershed.

With respect to the Peerless Road site in particular, consider that the CVRD's own report<sup>2</sup> indicates the following:

- ★ The geology consists of "*well drained, gravelly sand*".
- ★ There is an intermittent creek adjacent to the north and west property boundaries and the ocean is only 1 km to the northeast.
- ★ There is a shallow groundwater well servicing the site.
- ★ Four water wells are located within 1km of the site including one adjacent well which is used by a residence for drinking water.
- ★ Preliminary sample results indicated that lead concentrations in the ash exceeded the then "*special waste regulation*" (now the Hazardous Waste Regulation) -so this material is likely leachable hazardous waste.
- ★ The CVRD had a permit from 1980-2000 to deposit up to 1 0,000m<sup>3</sup> of incinerator waste -it appears that they deposited a lot more than that and their permit may no longer be in effect.
- ★ In addition to ash, the CVRD has also landfilled municipal solid waste at this location as well as stockpiled woodwaste -this may have been outside of the permit.
- ★ There is a retail development to the immediate north of the site -presumably they are also on well water and should be consulted and given the opportunity to say no to having a hazardous waste landfill in their backyard.

I would be happy to send you a copy of the report if needed so that you can follow up with the appropriate decision makers at the BC Ministry of Environment to express your concerns. Especially the planned "*special sealed liners*"-as I recall, your consultant, Dennis Lowen, of Lowen Hydrogeology Consulting Ltd., indicated that these liners leak very shortly after being installed.<sup>3</sup>

Given my experience in the field of landfill design, and given that I have some land interests in the area, I would like to see your landfill engineering designs, consultation reports and permit applications so that I can have our engineers review them and provide comment. It is only my intention to ensure that local drinking water is suitably protected from your landfill operation. Since your plans and reports will all be public documents, and since you appear ready to get the landfill construction underway, I require that you provide me with this information before construction begins.

Further to this, I would like the opportunity to review and comment on your proposed environmental monitoring plan. I also would like to see correspondence between yourself and community members and First Nations Groups so that I can see how you managed to fulfill your statutory public consultation requirements so quickly. I don't recall a public meeting being held but maybe I missed it. Please include a list of local interest groups so that I might contact them to ensure they understand the application and the implications to their drinking water and their health. Please also include your assessment of the underlying geology so that the public, who relies on this aquifer, as well as neighboring aquifers, can be certain that there are no pervasive limestone deposits connecting bedrock beneath your site to that underlying the Regional District of Nanaimo. As your geologists point out, there could be "*regional limestone that spans the eastern extent of Vancouver Island.*"<sup>4</sup>

Lastly, to quote your last letter to the MOE, I'm certain that you have considered "*the science, the uncertainty, the risk and the community*" and have made "*your decision based on the community's best long-term interest*". But just in case you're not applying the same standard of review to your landfill versus our proposed facility, it seems prudent to fully disclose the details of your plan to the public so that they might have the opportunity to voice their opinion. I think it's also important for you to explain to the public why your landfill is acceptable, while our proposed facility is not. To better enable your deliberations, I offer the following comparison between our proposed facilities:

Parameter	Peerless	SIA
Use of Engineered Liners and Cap	Yes	Yes
Permitted	No	Yes
Leachate Detection and Collection and Treatment	No	Yes
Surface Water Collection and Treatment	No	Yes
Naturally Protective Geology	No	Yes
Public Consultation and Disclosure	No	Yes
First Nations Consultations	No	Yes
Environmental Monitoring Plan	No	Yes
Bonding and Financial Security	No	Yes
Only Non-Leachable Wastes	No	Yes

We look forward to your timely reply.

Regards - Marty Block, Managing Partner  
South Island Aggregates Ltd.

1 <http://www.cowichanewsleader.com/news/204680181.html> (Cowichan News Leader Article titled, "Old incinerator upgraded into north-end Eco Depot", dated April 25, 2013)

2 Stage I Preliminary Site Investigation, Former Municipal Waste Incinerator, 10830 Peerless Road, Ladysmith, BC, Prepared by EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd., dated August 2002

3 Letters from Dennis Lowen (Lowen Hydrogeology Consulting Ltd.) to the Shawnigan Residents Association (September 23, 2012) and to the Minister of Environment (March 28, 2013) 4

Letter from Colin Frostad and Rebecca Frostad, dated March 25, 2013, posted to the website of Bruce Fraser, Regional Director for Shawnigan Lake

4 Letter from Colin Frostad and Rebecca Frostad, dated March 25, 2013, posted to the website of Bruce Fraser, Regional Director for Shawnigan Lake

## Parks & Recreation Commission - Area B

Margaret Symon,  
Commission Chair



Several years ago local volunteers decided a community park would be appropriate in the Shawnigan Beach and Wildflower Estates area, and set to work developing a park off Hurley and Meadowview Roads. Despite heroic efforts, the work became daunting for local volunteers, and the CVRD Parks Department assumed management of the park, which is now known officially as Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park (SHAP). A Master Plan

was developed that outlined phases of improvements over 5 to 10 years. Improvements made in the last five years include turf conditioning, development of the soccer field and softball pitch, installation of softball dugouts, development of a perimeter track, construction of washroom/changeroom facilities, parking lot improvements, plumbing and wiring, landscaping, and construction of a very popular tot lot playground.

On May 7, 2013, the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission held its AGM, at which members were voted in for 2 year terms. The Commission welcomed new member, Tom Buss, while bidding sad adieu to Lori Treloar (who remains committed to parks and recreation through her role at the Focus). Members of the Commission were pleased to conduct an official function on May 12, 2013 - the Grand Opening of Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park.

The Grand Opening of Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park on May 12, 2013, was held to coincide with Mother's Day. The event, hosted by the CVRD Parks Department and Shawnigan Parks Commission, was superbly organized by local Commission member, Gaileen Flaman. Eye-catching posters created by Melanie Seal-Jones promoted the event. Email invitations sent by Kelly Musselwhite, Alternate Area Director helped to solicit an excellent turnout. Event activities included a cake (baked by Thrifty Foods) and ribbon-cutting (and short speech by Bruce Fraser, Area B Director), flowers for moms (presented by Commission member, Catherine Whittome), family photographs (taken by Commission member, Al Brunet, with support from Commission member, Tom Buss), a Parks info parks booth with park maps and Road End maps (capably manned by Commission member, Scott Overhill), children's crafts and fairy gardens (supervised by Janet and Ned Cundall), face painting (by teen artists Alisha and Emma Turenne), and harp music (delightful! - thanks to Rennie Robson).

Despite work commitments on the Sunday, Commission member, Bill Savage, turned up three hours early to help with set-up, and stayed until take-down.

Many thanks to Gaileen Flaman and her family, Area B Parks Commission members, volunteers, and the community at large for making the first annual Mother's Day at the Park event a wonderful success.

If you've missed the Mother's Day Picnic in the Park, come and discover Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park. . .

Directions to Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park: From Shawnigan Village, follow Renfrew Road west across the railroad tracks, past Mason's Store and Shawnigan Lake School until you reach the Shawnigan Beach Estates sign on your right at Gregory Road. Turn right on Gregory Road and head up the hill until you reach Meadowview. Turn right on Meadowview, follow Meadowview until Hurley. Turn right on Hurley. The entrance to the parking area for SHAP is found a short distance east on Hurley on your right. (additional photo on page 13)

### SHAWNIGAN LAKE ADVENTURE

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Answer on Page 10

# Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Weekend May 25 & 26

**There are many events happening in your backyard all weekend long. Mark your calendar and join in:**

## 2nd Annual Shawnigan Village Triathlon Festival

Saturday, May 25

12 to 4 pm in Downtown Shawnigan Village

The Shawnigan Lake Business Association invites you to join your neighbours and visiting athletes for a community party happening in Shawnigan Village. There will be a stage with music and entertainment, art displays, marketplace and food. Many of the local businesses will have specials, so come out and spend the afternoon in Shawnigan Village!

Kinsol Trestle Art Print – Spectacular Limited Edition Canvas – Display and Pick-up

## Rotary Fundraiser to Build Local Trails

Saturday, May 25

12 to 4 pm at Athlete Race Package Pick Up (Inspire Arts Office)

If you are collecting pledges and/or making a donation to Rotary to receive a Limited Edition Kinsol Trestle Art Canvas Print, come and drop-off pledges or make a donation to pick-up your Art Canvas during this time. The South Cowichan Rotary Club will be on-site to collect your donations or assist you. If you want to obtain one of these amazing art prints (only 40 available!), visit the Rotary Club website for a donation form or to reserve your art canvas: <http://www.southcowichanrotary.org/>

## Free Kids Fun Run

Saturday, May 25

1:30 pm at Elsie Miles Fields

Kids can participate in the Danone Kids Fun Run on Saturday, May 26 at 1:30 pm in Shawnigan Village/Elsie Miles fields. Kids from 3 to 12 can participate in either a 300 m, 800 m, or 2 km distance run. All kids will get race bibs, ribbons, yogurt and a chance to stand on the Winners Podium! Danone Yogurt and other goodies will be provided, along with the thrill and excitement of racing.

Kids who participate can also win a Triathlon Prize Package by collecting fundraising pledges for one of the following local registered charity partners: KidSport Cowichan and Camp Pringle

To register and get your pledge form, contact Darcy Kulai at [dkulai@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:dkulai@cvrld.bc.ca) or call Shawnigan Lake Community Centre registration at (250) 743-1433.

## Camp Pringle Dinner Party

Saturday, May 25

5 to 7 pm at Camp Pringle Dining Hall

Community members are invited to join the local Race Captains and athletes for the traditional Pre-Race Pasta Party Dinner at the gorgeous Camp Pringle Dining Hall. This is a fundraiser for Camp Pringle and everyone is welcome! The dinner will feature the film "Once Upon a Day... Cowichan", door prizes and a chance to win a wetsuit!

The menu includes Gourmet Chicken Lasagna, Chef Bobs Famous Mac & Cheese, Gluten Free Baked Spaghetti, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, Ice Cream Berry Dessert and Beverages. Merridale Cider will be served at the cash bar. Tickets are \$19.50 adults, \$10 kids and free for kids under 6.

Get your tickets before they sell out! Available on-line at [http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/subaru\\_shawnigan\\_dinner/](http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/subaru_shawnigan_dinner/) or at the Shawnigan Village Triathlon Festival (Athlete race package pick-up location – Inspire Arts Office.)

## Free Shuttle Bus

Sunday, May 26

5:30 am to 4:00 pm

There will be a shuttle bus running all day between the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre and West Shawnigan Provincial Park to transport athletes and spectators to the Park. Spectators can hop on at any of the Public Bus Stops along Renfrew Road and ride down to the Park to Race Headquarters. Spectators will enjoy seeing the athletes and all of their fancy equipment, 4 mass start swim events, racers switching their gear in transition zone, the main stage, many tents and Race Expo exhibitors, a delicious brunch from Rotary Club, Level Ground Coffee and other family friendly entertainment.

## Rotary Club Race Day Brunch

Sunday, May 26

7 am to 1 pm at West Shawnigan Provincial Park

The South Cowichan Rotary Club will be offering brunch to spectators at the Park - menu will include blueberry pancakes or ham n'egger muffins, Level Ground Coffee and juice – all for \$6.

## Bike Course Around the Lake

Show your community spirit and watch and cheer the athletes! The Bike Course goes clockwise around

Shawnigan Lake and is open from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. Grab your coffee and a lawn chair to cheer on those athletes from the roadside; some of these riders will be going around the lake 4 times – your encouragement will be appreciated! The majority of cyclists will be on the road between 9 am and 11 am; if you are able to avoid travelling on the inside lane around the lake during the bike race, it will make the bike course safer for everyone. Thank you for your patience and support during this time.

Runners will also be on the TransCanada Trail with the majority running between 10:30 and 3:00 pm – so come out for a stroll on our wonderful TransCanada Trail / Kinsol Trestle and cheer on those tired runners!

## Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 to 7:45 pm at Shawnigan Lake School - Upper Dining Hall

If you are registered to volunteer, please plan to attend the Volunteer Orientation located at Shawnigan Lake School on Tuesday, May 21 from 7:00 to 7:45 pm.

Help is still needed, so if you have been putting it off.... please go online and register to volunteer now: <http://triserics.ca/volunteering.php> Thank you, and see YOU on Race Weekend!!

**Sarah Malerby, Race Director**

*Village Chippery*

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# Director's Report: Ecological Design Panel for Shawnigan Lake

**Dr. Bruce Fraser BSc, PhD,**  
Area Director, Area B, Shawnigan Lake

The Shawnigan Watershed has undergone extensive industrial, commercial, recreational and residential development over the last one hundred years. It's ecological integrity has been compromised by the cumulative effects of historic development and by the lack of integrated management by the host of federal, provincial and local government agencies responsible for land and water use regulation. In order to gain a greater measure of local public control over land use in the basin a set of institu-

tion building initiatives have been established.

The Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable, with open public participation, was established in 2012 to engage members of the public with regulatory agencies to begin public education about watershed conditions and to work toward a basin management plan that would govern development and contribute to ecological restoration. Initial membership of the Roundtable included members of the Area B Advisory Planning Commission to ensure that all reviews

of development applications could be given a whole watershed perspective. The Shawnigan Basin Society was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2013 to act as the fundraising and organizational mechanism supporting the Roundtable. The Ecological Design Panel was established in 2013 as a source of expert professional advice to all parties interested in achieving ecological governance of the watershed.

The idea for an ecological design panel for Shawnigan was adapted from the model of "architectural design panels" created for advancing the design of urban environments. Such panels are variously constituted in cities across North America and The City of Toronto Design Review Panel is an example.

"The City of Toronto Design Review Panel was approved by City Council as a pilot project in June 2006 and made permanent in November 2009. The Panel is an important voice for the promotion of design excellence within Toronto, and plays a significant leadership role for design professions within the development approvals process.

The Design Review Panel assists Council in fulfilling Official Plan objectives by providing City staff with professional design advice on public and private development. The Panel's goal is to improve people's quality of life by promoting design excellence within the public realm, including the pursuit of high quality architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and environmental sustainability. The Panel also plays a significant role in engendering an informed, public debate about the importance of good design within our City."

The purpose of the Shawnigan Basin Ecological Design Panel, paraphrasing the Toronto model into Shawnigan watershed terms, is:

The Shawnigan Watershed Ecological Design Panel was created by the Area Director as a component of

the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable in February 2013. The Panel is an important voice for the promotion of environmental design excellence within the Shawnigan Watershed, and plays a significant advisory role for land use professions within the development approvals process.

The Ecological Design Panel assists the Area Director, the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission, the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable, The Shawnigan Basin Society and CVRD Planning staff in fulfilling the environmental intent of the South Cowichan Official Community Plan with professional design advice on public and private development in the Shawnigan basin. The Panel's goal is to improve people's quality of life by promoting design excellence within the land of the Shawnigan watershed, including the pursuit of high quality forestland management, conservation of streams and wetlands, subdivision design, public health and environmental sustainability. The Panel also plays a significant role in engendering an informed public debate about the importance of good environmental design for the long-term sustainability of the public water supply provided by our watershed.

The role of the Shawnigan Watershed Ecological Design Panel is strictly advisory, to the Area Director, the Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable, The Shawnigan Basin Society, the Area B Advisory Planning Commission and to willing developers. The Panel does not have any decision-making authority or formal standing in adjudication of development approvals under consideration by the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

What the Panel does provide is expert professional advice on watershed management issues at the call of any of the interested parties and only with their willing participation. Members of the Panel, invited to participate by the Area Director, are volunteers who are willing to contribute their time and knowledge of ecological management to the

Shawnigan public. They are drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds to give a broad perspective on watershed issues relevant to the Shawnigan Basin. Current members of the group are:

Barry Gates, Ecoforester, responsible for the forest management design of the Living Forest Community in the Elkington Forest in the headwaters of the Shawnigan Basin

Pat Lintaman, custom, design/build contactor and project manager with experience in development and Industrial Ecology

Dr. Andy MacKinnon, PhD, Ecologist and Plant Taxonomist with extensive knowledge of the ecology and biodiversity of the Biogeoclimatic Zones represented in the Shawnigan Watershed

Laura MacKinnon, MEdes (Master of Environmental Design) A local resident with interests in multistakeholder engagement in land use planning

Dr. Lorna Medd, MD FR-CPC, Public Health Physician, former south island Medical Health Officer and member of the Cowichan Water Board

David Polster, MSc RPBio, Restoration Ecologist, with extensive experience throughout western Canada in environmental remediation and past member of the CVRD Environment Commission

Graham Ross-Smith, former member of the Area B Advisory Planning Commission with a long history of concern for the Shawnigan Watershed

Craig Sutherland MSc, P.Eng, Water Resource Engineer with current experience in water resource management in the Sooke Lake Reservoir working with the CRD and the Cowichan River Basin working with the Cowichan Water Board

Charlie Western RPF, Forester, with experience in promulgating the environmental regulations under the Forest and Range Practices Act of BC



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# People of This Place

**Graham Ross-Smith**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Over the past thirteen years, Mary Desmond was a name frequently seen and heard by those Shawnigan Lakers who took an interest in our lake's watershed. During that time, Mary became well known as an energetic and eloquent crusader for the protection of our community's precious lake, and its watershed, from the threats that come with residential development, industrial logging and many other land uses. In 2000, she and a small group of concerned citizens founded the non-profit society called the Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch. As the head of the organization, her name soon became a household word in these parts. However, Mary Desmond, so often seen in years past at public events, and in print vigorously taking to task forest company officials and public policy-makers over water quality issues, has

been less noticeable of late. I recently interviewed Ms Desmond to find out what is going on.

As it turns out, Mary Desmond, now in her late 50s, is alive and well. The Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch (SLWW) is still with us too. Though less active in a public sense, Mary still responds with submissions to all public meetings and posts information on the SLWW e-mail distribution list. The main reason for decreased activity by Mary, and SLWW (the two are almost synonymous), is that Mary has had to turn much of her time and attention to the care of her elderly mother, with whom she lives in their lakeside cottage.

Mary's strong attachment to this area began in childhood. In 1904, her grandfather purchased the land on which the family cottage now stands. As

a child growing up in Victoria she spent considerable time at the cottage by the lake. It was for her a place of refuge and recreation well into her early adult years. One of her favourite childhood memories is of autumn picnics on the Koksilah River by Burnt Bridge. As a young adult, the pursuit of higher education and adventure took her away from her beloved Shawnigan to distant places.

Her first move was to London, England, where she worked in Knightsbridge and, for a while, endured the siege of the "Grotty Green Grotto" - a lengthy battle of wit and nerve against a mad landlord. She then returned to Canada to study. After completing a BA in Celtic studies at the University of Toronto (the first specialist Celtic Studies degree granted in Canada), Mary moved to Dublin, Ireland, where she

earned a three-year M.Phil. degree in early Irish language and literature. She then went on to teach English in Cairo for a while, but missing the rain, returned here to the "wet coast."

In the early 1990s, Mary became a passionate environmental activist when she participated in the protests against logging company plans at Clayoquot Sound - an area for which she had developed an affinity while living on Wreck Bay (circa 1970) before it became parkland. Now, as a long-term advocate of eco-forestry, she deplores clear-cut logging but realizes that this is the lesser of two evils: sub-divisions for housing being the greater evil. Much of SLWW's attention has been focussed on preventing "wall to wall sprawl" here. Mary is particularly proud to have originated the annual E & N Railway birthday

celebrations held at the "Last Spike" cairn at Cliffside.

Though less active recently, Mary's concern for the lake and its watershed is a strong as ever. However, she feels that she has said what she had to say about the salient issues on numerous occasions and that "to keep repeating them would be redundant" and of little effect "given the intransigence of the present federal and provincial governments regarding environmental matters." Nevertheless, Mary Desmond is optimistic. She senses that sometimes things have to get worse before they get better. "Things go through cycles" she reflects, "Eventually there will be a more propitious time for environmental matters. But when this happens, many more of the 'Silent Majority' will have to raise their voices if we are to have any chance of success."

## Freshwater

It is good to see the community engaged and concerned about recent risks to our drinking water. We now know that we cannot rely on regulatory authorities to ensure that the lake and surrounding watershed are adequately protected. It seems wrong that we do not have more local control but there are other things that we can do to make a difference, as a community or neighbourhood - even as a family or individual. This is the first piece for **Freshwater**, which is intended to be a semi-regular column about **caring for the lake.**

### Shoreline Lawns

A well-tended and manicured lawn is a source of pride to many people. There is debate, though, about lawns that are adjacent to lakes and watercourses. We present a few references which are meant to stimulate discussion.

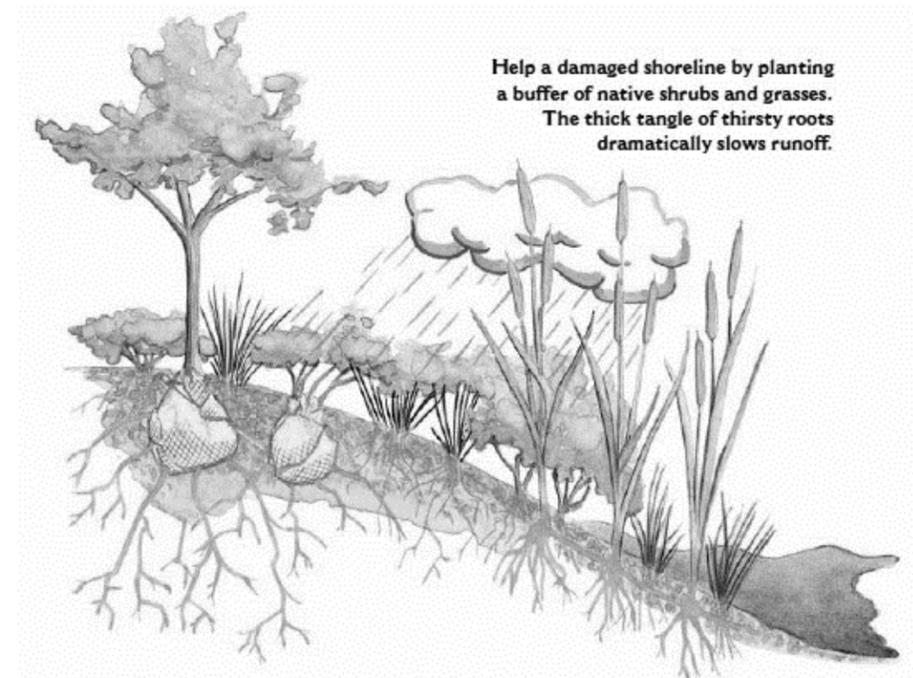
### The Shore Primer - Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

While turf has its place, lakes and lawns

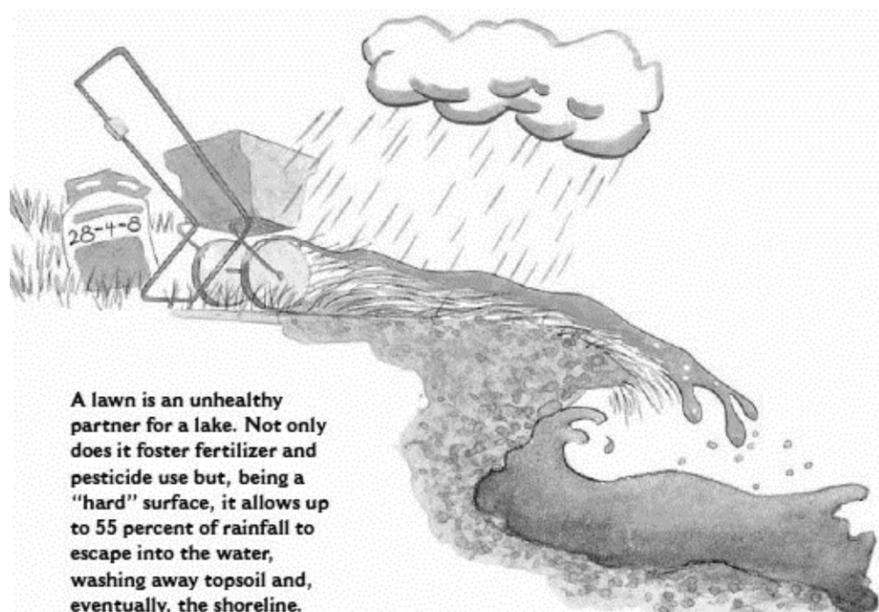
have a relationship that is uneasy at best, and poisonous at worst. Lawns displace the hard-working native plants that protect the lake, and when a heavy rain comes, they do little to protect the lake from sediment or chemical-laden run-off. Pesticides and fertilizers lavished on the lawn also play havoc with the aquatic ecosystem. Weed and bug killers may harm fish or destroy the plants and insects that fish feed on. Fertilizers promote weed and algae growth, leading to a greener, murkier lake.

### Material Safety Data Sheets on Ferrous Sulphate (Moss Killer):

- ★ Chronic Effects on Humans: May cause damage to the following organs: kidneys, liver, cardiovascular system, central nervous system (CNS).
- ★ After Lawn Treatment: **do not allow pets on the treated area for one week. do not allow horses or other animals to graze on treated area for 4 weeks.**



Help a damaged shoreline by planting a buffer of native shrubs and grasses. The thick tangle of thirsty roots dramatically slows runoff.



A lawn is an unhealthy partner for a lake. Not only does it foster fertilizer and pesticide use but, being a "hard" surface, it allows up to 55 percent of rainfall to escape into the water, washing away topsoil and, eventually, the shoreline.

### Alternatives (Washington Toxics Coalition Fact Sheet):

- ★ With the exception of mosses growing on roofs, mosses generally don't cause any damage. They do not harm turfgrass or landscape plants, and play crucial roles in their native ecosystems. In fact, some gardeners grow them on purpose!
- ★ If the moss doesn't bother you aesthetically, the simplest solution is to leave it be. This is especially worth considering in cases where changing the environmental conditions will be difficult. Moss provides many of the benefits of turf without the maintenance.

### Natural Shorelines for Inland Lakes (Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality):

- ★ By using a 'softshore' approach to landscaping your waterfront property, you can help preserve the very things that likely attracted

you to lakefront living in the first place - clean water, abundant wildlife, good fishing and access to recreation.

- ★ Native plants like sedges and rushes often have extensive root systems that help anchor the soil in place and stabilize the shoreline better than non-native plants like turf grasses (lawn). Maintaining native vegetation sustains natural biodiversity.
- ★ Natural vegetation serves as a filter between lawn and lakeshore, preventing pesticides and fertilizers from running directly into the water.
- ★ Maintaining a vegetated strip along the shore can act as a natural deterrent for Canada geese. Taller plants like native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs along the shore are less inviting to the geese, which favor open expanses of manicured lawns.

# Shawnigan Lake School students collaborate

**Sarah Doyle**  
Shawnigan Lake School

This year, the Shawnigan Lake School's Entrepreneurship 12 class and Environment Club worked together to turn the environmental group's annual maple sap collection into a collaborative exercise. After the Environment Club collected the sap (with the consistency of water), the entrepreneurship students used it to produce, bottle and market maple syrup.

During January and February, Scott Noble and the E-Club tapped into about 15 different campus broad leaf maple trees. In fact, Shawnigan has many maple trees on campus (located beyond the

composting and recycling facility), belonging to the group known as "sugar bush".

To tap the trees, students used simple materials: 16 L jugs, spiles, and a hose. The best time to collect the most sap is just after a freezing spell. When the temperature rises, the sap flows easier and faster. Depending on the weather, a jug can fill overnight or over the course of a week. Found 4-6 cm within the tree, sap is an endless resource. Without injuring the tree, this group has "tapped" into a potential resource, right here on our campus!

Georg Stroebel, and the Entrepreneurship 12 class, assisted with boiling down the sap into maple syrup. Did you know that it takes approximately 60 L of broad leaf maple sap to make 1 L of syrup? Students then strained and bottled the syrup which was in itself, a learning experience. The label was designed by School intern, Maite Urzua.

In the end, the students created 131 – 50 ml bottles of syrup through a modest program of tree tapping. Before they could implement a marketing and sales campaign, Advancement (the team at

Shawnigan who works with Alumnae and current parents to help create our Community and keep people connected) stepped in and bought all the maple syrup to hand out as gift items for parents and alumni! Needless to say, they will have to produce more bottles next year to cater for the growing demand for "SLS SYRUP."

Future plans are to develop a sugar shack where the E-Club can reduce the sap down into syrup.

Members of the E-Club engage in a host of green initiatives, both within the

school and beyond the gates. On campus they are involved as technicians and maintenance workers in the School's Living Laboratory, including the Mark Hobson Salmon Hatchery, the research forest, and the wetlands restoration project. They help to promote and showcase the greening of Shawnigan, particularly through their support of the School's recycling and composting programs and by their involvement in events such as the BC Green Games.

For more information, please contact: [sdoyle@shawnigan.ca](mailto:sdoyle@shawnigan.ca)  
250 743 6267 ~ 250 588 8027

## WHERE'S DECLAN?

Declan is exploring Memory Island, B.C.'s smallest provincial park. The island was purchased, around 1947, by two 'summer' families – the Mayhew's and the Scharff's. Each family lost a son, both in active service with the RCAF, in WWII.

The two families bought the island to create a permanent park and playground for children in memory of their boys, and all the other airmen from this district that lost their lives in the second world war. Memory Island is a lovely day park that is accessible only by boat. It is the only island on the lake the public can access. The island is co-managed by the CVRD and BC Parks.



## New Board and new events at Inspire!

**Cheryl Bakke Martin**  
Inspire Curator

Activities continue to develop at Inspire! Shawnigan Arts, Culture and Heritage and The Community Gathering Space has been bustling with energy and events. Our recent AGM and community social was well attended and we are thrilled to welcome new members to our board which will certainly go a long way in helping us be more involved in a number of community events. Barb Imlach and Jennie Stevens will Co-Chair this year with Lynn Weaver remaining on the board as Vice-Chair. The rest of the board is made up of Georgia Collins, Terry Dheensaw, Wendy Sehn, Stephanie Cerins, Peter Schumaker, Edward Epp, Leanne Boschmann and Shelagh Bell-Irving. Cheryl Bakke Martin will continue as Executive Director and Gallery Curator. This year is sure to see many new and exciting projects happen that will bring the arts alive in our community for all

to enjoy. There were several great ideas that popped up during the social that piqued the interest of many...so, keep a look out for some artsy projects in the village in the months to come. Upcoming events are on our website and include a number of regular programs open to all. As well, we will be welcoming Shawnigan Triathlon athletes on May 25th with art and entertainment in the village from noon to 4pm.

We thrive because of our volunteers, so we are grateful to those who have joined us on the board; and to those who help us with a number of different projects and events; and to those who spend time in the Gathering Space to keep it open to the public. Special thanks to Julie Ross who has been an enormous help to both the Shawnigan Basin Society and to us at Inspire! as she researches possible grant opportunities for us and is keeping the space

open on Thursdays. We keep the space open to the public with the help of volunteers. If you have projects or things that are portable and you can bring down to The Community Gathering Space to work on here, while allowing the space to be open to the public, we'd love to hear from you. If you would like to help, but are available only on a short, as needed, notice and would like to be on our "On-Call List of Volunteers", please let us know. When we have events or projects on the go that we can use a hand with, we will send a note out. We'd love to involve as many in the community as possible as we continue to create this shared space. It is our hope that in this way we can create a sense of shared ownership in the creative goings on in our community and help to build a connectedness amongst us all. Contact us at: [www.inspire-shawnigan.com](http://www.inspire-shawnigan.com) / [cheryl@inspireshawnigan.com](mailto:cheryl@inspireshawnigan.com)

[www.shawniganfocus.ca](http://www.shawniganfocus.ca)

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## Neither wind nor rain, nor sleet nor blisters....

I watched the news with bated breath, the Friday before the Save the Lake walk. Great news! It was going to be a gloriously sunny spring day – perfect for a 23 Km walk from Duncan to Shawnigan Lake that a group of us had planned to do.

The sun rose in all its beautiful glory and shone down as 12 of us (including members of Idle No More) gathered at the Quwutsun Cultural and Conference Centre. We all had one common goal in mind that day - to raise awareness of the battle to stop the contaminated fill site from proceeding in the Shawnigan Lake watershed.

The smell of the cottonwood trees (if you don't have allergies, the scent is heavenly), the songs of the spring birds, the feel of the morning sun on our faces, and the eagle that soared overhead, welcomed us as we set out on our trek. There were seven walkers, and five drivers keeping pace with us to ensure our safety.

Many of us were strangers as we set out on the walk, but as will happen when a group of people united in a cause will do, we started talking as we walked and finding out other things we had in common. Of course, the biggest thing that united us was our desire to save our

drinking water.

We took a break at the rest stop at Country Grocer. While we rested, an RCMP car came up and told us that our drivers were causing a driving hazard, so we couldn't have them driving along side of us any further. That was ok, because the RCMP were protecting drivers of cars on the road - and us as well. The drivers drove on - the seven of us walked on.

While we walked, we carried our signs and waved as the cars rushed by – drivers showing their support: some honking, others with smiles and waves and “thumbs-up” sign language. We absorbed it all.

We talked about how we wanted clean water for our families and generations to come. Mother Nature heard our conversation, and gave us what we wished for! The glorious sun that was supposed to be with us the entire day, disappeared behind some very dark ominous clouds...and the showers came. We didn't mind. After all, we were walking for clean water!

Then the monsoons (ok, maybe monsoon is a bit of an embellishment, but it was raining and blowing and at one point we were sure it was hailing!) came, but we walked on. We were getting drenched from

the rain and wind not once, but twice, because, as the cars sped by, we were also doused by spray from the road. We looked like drowned rats – but that was ok, because we were walking for a cause! The monsoons eventually backed off – and Mother Nature teased us with blue patches in the sky.

One of our walkers, who was wearing shoes that just weren't made for extensive walking, eventually gave up on her shoes and walked barefoot down the highway. That's dedication!

After walking about 15 Km, one of our walkers had to call for a driver to come get her. Her knee had given out. She'd pushed it as far as she could go, and didn't want to stop, but her body had other ideas. So, she conceded and told us she'd meet us further on. We walked on.

I can only imagine some of the drivers' comments as they drove by and saw the double stroller being pushed along with us, thinking “those poor babies!” In fact, the stroller was filled with water and a first aid kit – to ensure that the walkers stayed hydrated and that any first aid emergencies were prepared for and any blisters received Band-Aids (and, yes, I used 2 myself!).

As we walked the last few ki-



lometres, our bedraggled crew was met on the road with more like-minded community members, united in our cause. The last block, as Mother Nature again poured fresh water on us, we were met by a woman with tears streaming down her face as she clapped and encouraged us weary walkers on. Shawna, from Idle No More, drummed us onward and into the accolades of our friends and neighbours gathered at Aitken & Fraser, who'd all gathered to show their support to keep our watershed clean and free of industrial waste.

We all agreed – water is life – if we don't have clean water, we can't make coffee (I bet that got your attention!), we can't cook, bathe, fill our pets' water bowls, do laundry or enjoy the lake for any of our water activities

we currently take for granted! As a community, it's up to us to stand up for ourselves, to protect ourselves. We can't stick our head in the sand and think this threat is just going to go away. We have to make it go away.

A special thank you to Carolyn for providing tasty nourishment on our walk, and to each of you who walked, those who met the walkers that day and to all of you who have done whatever you can (or plan on doing what you can) – to prevent this from happening.

~Tammy

*PS. I will share with you that it took 3 days for me to recover LOL! as I'm sure it took most of everyone who participated - but we'll all agree it was a small price to pay for clean drinking water!*

## Conservation covenants

### Brent Beach Shawnigan Focus

Covenants in BC are legal agreements (Land Titles Act, Section 219) registered against a land title that put legally enforceable restrictions on that land. The restrictions apply to all owners for the duration of the covenant - which can be forever.

Covenants can be used to achieve many goals, including historical and conservation goals. Conservation goals are considered here.

A conservation covenant sets certain ecosystem goals for a piece of land and requires that a competent conservation group be allowed access to the land yearly to check that the covenant conditions are being met.

What are the key differences a conservation covenant makes? First, inspection of the land is done by conservation organizations who have the skills to measure compliance. Second, future rezoning cannot affect the land.

### Elkington Covenants

The Elkington property at

the upper end of the south Shawnigan watershed has restrictive covenants that apply to most of the land. The goal of the covenants is to produce a forest on that land that is on average, 150 years old. The forest should have all of the ecosystems expected in a forest of that age. Logging is allowed but the average age of the forest must be maintained. The land is inspected by Ecotrust Canada.

### Cortes Covenants

The Renewal Land Company has 100 hectares with 25 1.5 hectare lots, the remaining 60 hectares under a forest conservation covenant. Forestry is allowed but ecological values and biodiversity must be maintained. The Land Conservancy holds the covenant.

Everwoods is a second development on Cortes with a sustainable forestry covenant: the amount of timber harvested never exceeds the annual growth. Anne Mortifee is a founder of this development.

### Island Trust Covenants

The Island Trust operates

on the islands in the Salish Sea (aka Georgia Strait), from Comox to Saanich. Conservation covenants are sought by individual landowners to preserve conservation values on their land. In return landowners of ecologically sensitive areas can pay up to 65% lower taxes on parts of the land. If the covenant lowers the value of the land, they can get a lower assessment.

### What motivates the landowner?

Yes, a covenant may lower the value of the land. The single lot value of a large piece of forested land may be less than its value subdivided. Why would anyone do that? For most people who put a covenant on their land, the value of forested land is greater to them than the money they might get by developing the land.

Once a perpetual covenant is applied to the land, this loss of value could last as long as the covenant. In some cases, the loss of immediate value may be compensated for by the gain in long term value. As the conservation value of

the land increases, the value may increase as well. Many future purchasers are willing to pay a premium for a mature forested land than for recently cleared land.

### Covenants in Shawnigan Lake

The Elkington property covenants are powerful examples of how covenants can define the land for generations. People living there can buy with the certainty that the conservation values of their land will only improve.

Almost 30% of the land in the watershed is owned by timber companies and wood-lot operators. In addition to that, an equal or perhaps larger area is forestry land, with other owners. The options

for what happens on this land are limited under the current OCP. The minimum lot size is 80 hectares. Few people will buy an 80 hectare lot that has been recently logged.

The key question facing residents of Shawnigan Lake - what happens to this land over the next few years? Does it remain forestry land, subject to periodic clear cutting? Is it converted to small lot subdivisions? Is the Elkington model a possibility?

### The Blog

Find links to web based material on which this article is based. Also, several additional items not included in the paper edition of the focus. **BrentAtTheFocus.blogspot.com.**



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# Have fun and learn how to live green at Ecostravaganza!

The Ecole Mill Bay Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be holding Ecostravaganza, a fun family event celebrating World Environment Day, on June 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ecole Mill Bay. Ecostravaganza promotes green living to Cowichan Valley families, and includes a children's "Green Generation" activity area, a marketplace featuring local eco-vendors, a food court, live stage, plant sale, used book sale, and silent auction.

Ecostravaganza's 2013 theme is "Year of the Bike,"

so ride your bike to the event and get an expert tune-up while you wait. For those not arriving by bike, additional parking will be available at George Bonner Middle School and will be serviced by a BC Transit shuttle bus. Come watch John Webster, bike trials rider and Mill Bay Elementary alumnus, who represented Canada at the 2011 World Championships, show off his absolutely amazing bike skills. Browse our green marketplace for local products and services from vendors selling farm fresh veggies, pesticide-free

lawn care, handmade jewelry, environmentally-friendly cleaning products, reusable sandwich bags and much more. Try some great local food for a picnic lunch while you watch Cowichan Valley performers strut their stuff on Ecostravaganza's main stage. Children will love challenging our "Green Gauntlet" obstacle course and climbing wall, watching local artisans weave and knit, and trying out recycled games and crafts. Pick up a good used book or two for a great price, or fill up your trunk with some local edibles for your garden.

One of the most popular features of Ecostravaganza is the plant sale, which has been a feature at the school since 2009, when the contents of

an entire established flower garden were donated to Ecole Mill Bay. The garden had been nurtured for years by Mary Plunet. Her husband, Dale Plunet, donated the plants to the school after she passed away from cancer, allowing her gardening legacy to be spread throughout the Cowichan Valley. Ecole Mill Bay named their children's teaching garden in honour of this devoted and accomplished gardener, and a total of \$1,000 from the proceeds of the first school Eco-fair, in 2009, was donated to the Canadian Cancer Society in Mary's memory. The plant sale at Ecostravaganza is made possible by parent volunteers, who dig up donated plants from gardens around

the Valley, then nurture the repotted plants until the plant sale.

Ecostravaganza proceeds will help equip Ecole Mill Bay's classrooms and library, and make improvements to its music program. Partial proceeds will go to U-Fix it BikeWorks & Youth Art Studio in Duncan, part of the Cowichan Valley Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which recycles and repairs old bicycles for youth in our community. For more information, or to become a green marketplace vendor, please visit [www.ecostravaganza.ca](http://www.ecostravaganza.ca). Admission is free, so come join the fun on June 1st at Ecole Mill Bay, 3175 Cobble Hill Rd., in Mill Bay.



Photo: Juliana Wigmore

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## Our Lady Queen of the World Church

Lori Treloar  
Shawnigan Lake  
Museum

It appears that, within the next few years, the Catholic Parish is considering selling Our Lady Queen of the World Church, and its property, in Shawnigan Lake. In addition, they will likely deconsecrate, and then deconstruct, the church prior to the sale. Historically, this would be yet another major loss for the community. A deconstruct leaves us without the original school/church building - and its connected history.

One of the earliest signs that Shawnigan Lake was an official community was the construction of a local public school. In 1893, Malahat School was built on the current site of Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Church. The name was changed to Shawnigan Lake School in 1914.

In 1916, the original school building was condemned and a new school built. In 1924, however, the enrollment was such that the old building had to be repaired and put back into use. One building housed the primary school and the other, the upper grades. In 1951, when a new school was built in the village, the original school property and buildings became redundant. The Catholic Church, who had held masses in Shawnigan Lake from as early as 1899, bought



Shawnigan Lake School c1928

the property with the two old school buildings from the School District.

The 1916 school building became the main body of the new church. Part of the 1893 building was attached and used for the entry and vestibule. Our Lady Queen of the World Church was officially opened in July 1956 with a blessing from the Most Reverend Bishop Hill.

This building is one of the few very early, historic buildings in our area to survive either a fire or a senseless tear-down - until now. This property has been home to a Shawnigan school, or church, for the last 120 years. Since we have lost so many of Shawnigan's early buildings through fire, or the lack of foresight, perhaps it is time that we, as a community, put a plan in place to protect further erosion of our history.

In the true spirit of Recycle, Reduce and Re-use, these old buildings can be rehabilitated for a new life. Steeples Bar and Grill was beautifully remodeled from a 1950's church into a restaurant. Great care was taken to retain historic characteristics. This has created a space with a rich ambiance. The former Auld Kirk Gallery was another great transformation of a 1913 era church. Currently on the market, this beautiful building is waiting for someone with imagination to transform it once again into an asset for the community. Our Lady Queen of the World Church could also be rehabilitated into another community jewel.

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## Wild Side

**Lori Treloar**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

For the past several years, we have shared our property with a family of very raucous birds. Especially in the spring, when we spend more time in the yard, we notice that these birds are very vocal. Although it seems like they are constantly screaming, one can't help but enjoy watching them swoop and soar high above our heads. These birds must feel comfortable in our tall trees because they return year after year, presumably to mate and manage their young.

It has taken a long time to identify these birds as they are always flying so far above us. Even though it has taken a while to commit to my assertion that they are Merlins – they don't make it easy because they are also very fast - the sound bytes available on bird identification sites on the internet, and bird books, support this conclusion.

The Merlin is a small species of Falcon. Scientific name: *Falco columbarius* - *Falco* meaning hooked bill and curved or scythe-like talons (claws). In North America, the Merlin used to be called a "pigeon hawk" even though, being a

falcon, it is not very closely related to true hawks. In Medieval Europe the Merlin was popular for falconry and was often considered the 'falcon for a lady'.

According to local bird books, Merlins live year around in this area. From below, the Merlin looks black but is actually chestnut brown on the back with dark or chestnut brown underneath – throat to lower abdomen. Second-year males molt into a colour that looks purple-blue in the sunshine – otherwise it looks dark brown. The adult and juvenile females do not change colour. Also, the females are ¼ larger than the male.

Merlins prey on smaller birds, especially perching songbirds, aerial insects (particularly dragonflies) and a small number of mammals. Merlins rely on speed and agility to hunt their prey. They capture most prey in the air, and will "tail-chase" startled birds. Breeding pairs will frequently hunt cooperatively, with one bird flushing the prey toward its mate.

The Merlin does not build a nest, but instead takes over old nests of other raptors or crows.



Merlins have a variety of calls. The common call of the male Merlin is described as a high pitched kee-kee-kee, similar to the Douglas Squirrel of the Northwest. A group of merlins has many collective nouns, including a "brace", "leash", and "illusion" of merlins.

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## Watershed Health An ongoing strategy for monitoring water quality

**Submitted by Aqua-Tex for Shawnigan Residents Association**

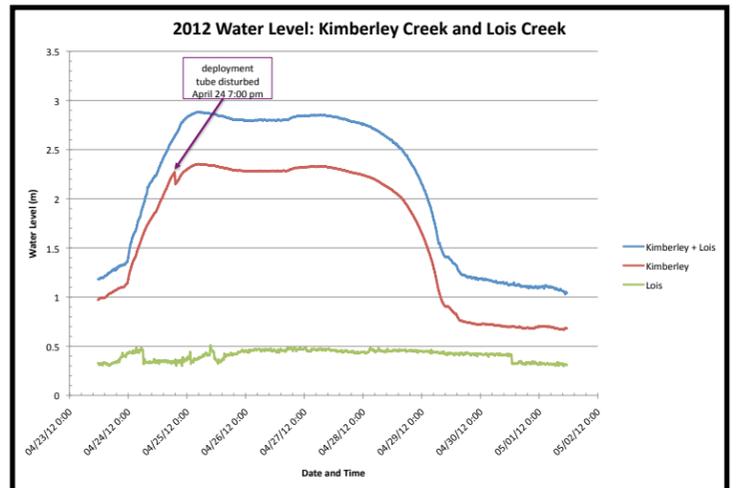
A broad range of land uses can have adverse, cumulative effects on water resource values if we do not ensure that development is designed using an integrated model that protects watershed function. Watersheds that are functioning properly are commonly referred to as “healthy watersheds”. Streams are the arteries of the landscape – when streams and their riparian-wetlands are healthy, or functioning properly, they reflect a healthy watershed. While riparian-wetland areas are among the first landscape features to reflect damage from improper management or natural events, they are also resilient due to the presence of water, which creates opportunities for restoration and recovery. Healthy watersheds and riparian-wetland areas are critical to providing communities with the economic, ecological, and social benefits that come from the avail-

ability of reliable, adequate supplies of clean water.

One strategy designed to accelerate cooperative riparian restoration and management is a program called “Creeks and Communities”, developed by the U.S. Government’s ‘Riparian Coordination Network’ and implemented by Aqua-Tex and our partners. This program is based upon the idea that as demands on our Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services increase, the only effective way to ensure the sustainable production of values and benefits is through strong, lasting, public and private partnerships. After decades of experience, it has been shown that a better approach to managing riparian-wetland areas is to facilitate efforts designed to build capacity within communities to confront and resolve the complex and contentious problems surrounding aquatic resources. Successful management of freshwater resources is dependent upon bringing communities of people together around sound science,

working at the watershed level and beyond political boundaries, to create a common vision for productive and sustainable riparian-wetland conditions.

Watershed condition is the state of the physical and biological characteristics and processes within a watershed that affect the hydrologic and soil functions supporting aquatic ecosystems. Watersheds that are functioning properly have terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems that capture, store, and release water, sediment, wood, and nutrients within their range of natural variability for these processes. In general, the greater the departure from the natural pristine state, the more impaired the watershed condition is likely to be. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) is a state of resiliency that will allow a riparian-wetland area to hold together during high-flow events with a high degree of reliability. Riparian-wetland areas that are not functioning properly cannot sustain the production of those values essential for creating healthy communities. PFC is also an appropriate starting point for determining and prioritizing the type and location of quantitative inventory or monitoring that is necessary to maintain stream health. One of the challenges in any community watershed is the long-term provision of



a database of water quality parameters, watershed attributes and stream processes, that form the foundation for assessing the health of riparian-wetland areas.

One of the most important physical attributes is the hydrology of the watershed – what are the baseline flows in the streams that eventually flow into the lake? Local volunteer efforts have been initiated to begin collecting long-term data on stream flow and on lake water levels, to complement information obtained by senior levels of government. In an effort to supplement this background data, Aqua-Tex, working with the Shawnigan Residents Association, has installed a series of water level sensors to collect continuous water level data on the major streams flowing into Shawnigan Lake, as well as on lake level.

These data loggers will help build an understanding of how water flows may be changing over time. Such changes may be due to natural weather patterns, the effects of land-use (e.g. increased runoff), or restoration of riparian zones (which would tend to decrease runoff). While it is difficult to determine direct cause and effect linkages, basic knowledge of typical stream flow patterns is essential to informed decision-making on issues related to watershed health.

An example of a typical data set is shown above. This graph, from a different watershed, shows two creeks that flow together. The top line of the graph shows the total amount of water and the lower two lines show the relative contribution of each creek over the year. In time, similar data will be available for creeks in the Shawnigan Watershed.

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*Department Members Attended 10 Calls in April  
Department Officers attended 0 burning complaints.*

- ★ Tuesday, Apr 2 – First Responder in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Saturday, Apr 6 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Apr 11 – First Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Monday, Apr 15 – First Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, Apr 16 – Chimney Fire on Peerless Rd
- ★ Thursday, Apr 18 – MVI at W Shawnigan Lake & Renfrew Rds
- ★ Tuesday, Apr 23 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Apr 26 – Hydro Lines down on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Apr 27 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Apr 27 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd



**Your house is on fire.....**

**A family member has fallen down the stairs.....**

**Someone is breaking into your home.....**

**.....and it's dark outside!**

**IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE???**

# A family adventure with a happy ending



**Kim Wildfong**  
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

A morning spent walking, biking, kayaking or geocaching at this year's Shawnigan Lake Adventure can leave you satisfied, but perhaps a little hungry and footsore.

Never fear. Foot massages, energy treatments and delicious vegetarian (and free) food provided by local restaurants will

soothe the body. All day, live music will feed the soul. And when the day is done, you can take home a handcrafted souvenir from The Artisan Market. All this, while supporting caregiving families in our community!

It all happens Sunday, June 2, 2013. Info and registration at [www.shawniganlakeadventure.com](http://www.shawniganlakeadventure.com)



# Rite of Passage



**Garth Harvey**  
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

*It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes life worth living. (Oliver Wendell Holmes)*

On 25 April 2013, our Society will be 13 years old. A rite of passage, a teenager pushing the envelope. I am told no one can understand a teenager, but knowing where the Society came from may help. About 18 years ago two people met that seemed fated to work together. One had great organizational and social skills and the other some resources and a need to do something useful. As they worked together an idea grew. An idea? I like the words of Diane Deher, *I would like to acknowledge the many leaders... who have held out a new, more democratic vision of leadership. This vision creates dynamic partnerships, combining the best of what we are collectively while empowering us as individuals.*

The idea was to acknowledge and support people in their caregiving role, alleviating stress and improving their quality of life. The new democratic way would be that the circumstances in the caregivers home would drive what the Society did, and a staff, carefully chosen, using their skills and strengths with a minimum of supervision. This style of management works. Our staff stay with us. One said, "There is the feeling that everyone is valued." Another said, "It allows one to be their best."

Over the years, the work of the staff has touched the lives of hundreds of caregivers and their families. A book has been written about our unique service and our young caregivers have given a workshop at an international conference. Our budget has grown from

\$66,000.00 to \$232,293.00, so we assume our major funders, which includes government agencies, recognize it makes economic sense to support caring for people in their own home.

One caregiver has said, "They come to you and say, what do you need? How can we support you in what you are trying to do?" Another said, "I felt a great weight had been lifted from my shoulders." Another one drilled a hole in a coin and hung it on a gold-coloured pin, and I would not trade my dime-und-pin for a million.

Oh yes, we are still a teenager pushing the envelope, but the envelope is much bigger now.

*With strength of character, nothing is impossible. When our hearts expand to embrace the impossible we are able to lead with Tao. (Tao 59)*



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**Property Security and Maintenance for the Shawnigan Lake Area**  
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## March against Monsanto regarding GMO food

**Stephanie Harnett**  
*Shawnigan Resident*

**SPREAD THE WORD** - there is a march on May 25th at the legislative buildings. There are many organic farmers in our area, and the Canadian government fully supports genetically modified seed. This law affects not only local farming business but also our health as a population. This issue is of equal importance to our water issues at Shawnigan Lake and concern our future health and safety.

Info on the march: <http://www.march-against-monsanto.com/p/blog-page.html>

Link to a great documentary (Canadian) on this very issue: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omtYlsG1P5U>.

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



### CONGRATULATIONS

APRIL

The winner for April was Helmut Teunissen. The photo showed a section of an Arbutus tree which was mysteriously suspended in the utility wires on Renfrew Road near Linden Lane. A tree crew had been working in the area after the March windstorms. They had to leave this piece dangling for a few days as the wires were actually embedded in that section of the tree.

*Winners receive two specialty coffees at Shawnigan House*

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*First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins*

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**  
1st Monday of each month - 7 pm at SL Community Centre (SLCC)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission**  
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
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](http://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 [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca) 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! Meet at Inspire! 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. May 23 - Watershed Tour. May 28 - Meeting re: Creating a smart phone app for better community connectiveness, sharing infok, tourist info; business promotion and a community events calendar. See website for details: [www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca](http://www.shawniganwatershedroundtable.ca)
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage** Info at: [www.inspireshawnigan.com](http://www.inspireshawnigan.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>
- ★ **Malahat Legion:** 1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road - For more info: 250-743-4621
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)** A group for active seniors around Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay. Info at: [www.ysag.ca](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Local Talent:** DFH home-based business directory. Will meet again in September
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum** - Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. [www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com) email: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

## Shawnigan Weather APRIL

UVic Weather Network ~ by Grant Treloar

Weather Icon	April Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	13.2	13.5	13.3	12.9	12.9	13.6	13.5	13.4	13.5
Average Low	3.5	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.4	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.9
Extreme High	30.0	21.1	21.2	20.2	19.9	21.3	21.3	20.5	19.5
Extreme Low	-5.6	0.6	-0.9	-0.7	-1.8	0.4	-0.9	0.5	-1.0
Precipitation	65.2	120.9	77.0	90.2	63.5	91.4	59.9	89.8	55.8
Days w precip	15	17	15	16	14	18	16	18	18

**Lake Temperature:** April 7<sup>th</sup>: 9° April 14<sup>th</sup>: 10° April 21<sup>st</sup>: 10° April 28<sup>th</sup>: 11°



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