

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
October 2014

EDITORIAL TEAM

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

LAYOUT

Taryn Treloar

ADVERTISING

Kim Hennecker
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

FOCUS TEAM

Linda Nelson
Farrell Magnusson
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Grant Treloar
Janet Neilsen

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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 involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS

Shawnigan Focus -
Box 331, Shawnigan Lake,
V0R 2W0

Putting the brakes on
Childhood Cancer

Oriana Parker
Volunteer South Cowichan
Community Policing

The South Cowichan Community Policing Society would like to thank the Village of Shawnigan Lake for their generosity in supporting the Tour de Rock, Rocks in the Box fundraiser. The following local businesses participated: The Village Chippery; Steeples Bar and Grill; Masons Store; Shawnigan Lake Automotive Services; Black Swan Liquor Store; Island Pharmacy (Shawnigan Lake). Other businesses also contributed: Pharmasave; Lucky Paws; Thrifty's (Mill Bay); Curves; Drumroaster; Island Savings Credit Union and the Royal Bank.

On September 29th when the Tour de Rock rode through Mill Bay, the South Cowichan Community Policing office was proud to present them with a cheque in the amount of \$569.55. The winner of the gift basket was Doreen Hogben. She guessed

a total of 155 rocks in the box when, in fact, there were 156! A very lucky guess indeed!

I spoke to Doreen and asked her why she supported the Tour de Rock. She replied, "My sister and mother both had cancer and I think it is really important to find a cure to this dreadful disease that takes away so many of our loved ones. In one way or another it touches all of us. My son-in-law, Richard, cycles in the fundraiser Bike for the Cure." Doreen worked at the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health in Victoria and is well aware of the pain and suffering associated with childhood cancer. The BC cancer cases in children aged 0-14 for the year 2012 amounted to 95. The highest statistic was in 2007 with 130 cases of childhood cancer. Today, 82% of children with cancer will survive into adulthood.

The 2014 Tour de Rock Team raised \$337,817.08, an absolutely remarkable contribution for our young

cancer victims. These Cops for Cancer, a total of 20 police officers, come together from municipal, military and RCMP detachments (a new team every year) to take on a gruelling bike ride from Port Alice at the northern end of the island to Victoria in the far southern tip covering an area of over 1,000 kilometres stopping in 27 communities on the way.

The physical side of their journey is punishing enough, but the human side is very emotional and bitter sweet. Throughout the ride the policemen are paired with a junior team of children all of whom have been touched by cancer and some of whom are still dealing with the disease.

A special thanks to all who contributed including all the volunteers who worked so hard to help make this happen. The Canadian Cancer Society continues to fund childhood cancer research. This year more than \$3 million will be invested.

Wildside: Giardia
& "Beaver Fever"

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

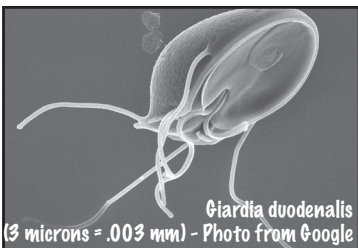
According to a 2013 study there are an estimated 280 million cases of giardiasis worldwide annually. Giardiasis, also known as Beaver Fever, is caused by a small flagellated parasite named *Giardia duodenalis* (also sometimes called *Giardia lamblia*

or *Giardia intestinalis*).

Although we do have an increasing beaver population, it turns out they are unfairly singled out as they are by no means the only source of the parasite. Various studies have determined that human and animal faeces (especially cattle) are major contributors. Other animal hosts include muskrats, dogs, sheep and horses.

The symptoms of giardiasis include violent diarrhea, excess gas, stomach or abdominal cramps, and nausea. Resulting dehydration may need immediate treatment. The infection can be slight and may resolve without treatment within 2-6 weeks. Sometimes it can be severe and last longer. Medication containing tinidazole or metronidazole decreases symptoms and time to resolution.

The life-cycle of Giardia involves two forms: a trophozoite (mobile feeding) stage, and a cyst stage. The mobile bugs target the mucosa of your small intestine and then produce cysts which are excreted. Cysts can survive for long periods in the environment. These organisms enter recreational waters as a result of contact with human or animal faeces. Transmission to humans occurs through the accidental ingestion of contaminated waters.



One BC study from 2000 measured average concentrations of below 3 cysts per 100L at three sampling locations on Shawnigan Lake. Interestingly, the Shawnigan results were slightly better than those obtained in the Sooke and Koksilah watersheds. Concentrations are higher after significant runoff from rainfall events.

In theory, a single cyst is sufficient to cause human infection. However, studies have shown that the dose required to cause infection is usually greater. Human (volunteer) feeding studies have suggested that the median dose for infection is around 50 cysts.

Last month there was a report of a person contracting the bug by drinking untreated water from Shawnigan Lake. Treated water from the CVRD and other service providers is generally very safe. However, caution is required for those who draw their water directly from the lake. A common recommendation is that boiling suspect water for one minute will kill Giardia and other bacteria and disease causing organisms. Note that a full rolling boil is required and more time is required at altitude. Filters, UV treatment, and disinfectant are also options.

ELECT



Larry Jorginson 
Director Area B Shawnigan Lake

FOR LOWER TAXES AND RESPONSIBLE TAX EXPENDITURES

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE - LET'S DO IT NOW

larryjorginsonshawnigan.com

Authorized by Larry Jorginson

Financial Agent - 250-818-5950

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 or groups.

The completely unfortunate Shawnigan Lake log boom fiasco

Once upon a time in the village of Shawnigan Lake, the citizens decided to develop a public beach adjacent to the outflow of the lake. In order to stop debris such as old docks, logs and boats from clogging up the outflow creek they decided to install a log boom around the perimeter of the swimming area. This boom not only stopped things from going down the creek, it also served as a safety barrier for the swimmers at the beach.

Decade after decade passed and the log boom continuously served the people of the community. One day a man from the C.V.R.D. appeared at a Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He appeared well paid, well dressed and well spoken. This fellow advised that all the log booms on the lake had to go and must be removed. The Parks Commission members cried "no! no! no!" and asked "why? why?" The fella from C.V.R.D. explained, that due to liability insurance and safety reasons the log booms had to go. The Parks Commission members reluctantly agreed.

Over the next few months the booms were removed. The following spring, all the beaches that previously had the booms had new perimeter and safety markers installed. A whole bunch of pretty white and red floating balls on a rope were tied to the existing pilings. These improvements cost parks lots and lots of \$100 bills and were supposed to be an improvement. These pretty white and red floating balls were installed every spring and removed every fall - again, with a cost of many \$100 bills.

Debris started floating up on the beach such as docks and derelict boats and logs. All this stuff had to be removed because it was a liability and safety issue. This started costing parks many \$1000 bills. Year after year the little Parks Commission, with their little Parks budget had to spend money on a problem that didn't exist prior to the visit from that well dressed, well spoken, well paid fella from the C.V.R.D. Last year, a large structure was pushed all the way up the lake to the creek and went under the bridge. "Oh, oh," cried the public. "Told ya!" cried the Parks Commission, "Oops!" said the C.V.R.D. "but no problem," they said. "We can fix this. We have highly paid engineers to solve all our problems." The fellas from the engineering and planning department jumped up, hopped in their cars and trucks and came to Shawnigan

Lake to see what they could do. They measured, they took pictures, they talked, they consulted, they had site visits, they took out their pencil sets and calculators and sat down at their drawing tables and WHAM! BAM! WOW!!!! Got it all figured out. We are going to install...wait for it...the solution???? A 280 foot long, 16 by 16 inch boom. Made out of concrete and Styrofoam, which will be installed each fall and removed each spring. So, wow, what can I say. Engineering said to parks, "don't worry guys, it won't cost you a cent." "What?" I asked. It won't be an expense to parks at all, they exclaimed. Grrreat! Thanks. I'm curious? Do they realize that the taxpayer is on the hook for all of this? Tens of thousands of dollars, and now an annual expense for parks to install and remove pretty white and red balls each spring and fall as well as an annual expense for engineering to install and remove a concrete boom each fall and spring - all of this to prevent debris from getting sucked through a twenty foot wide creek.

Personally, I think they should have left the log boom. Don't worry folks, they can save us big bucks by having it all redone by the same crew on the same days, you know, cement out, floaties in. Floaties in, cement out. Again, thanks fellas.

~Bill Savage

Let's Keep Island Savings Local

In response to the recent article about the proposed Island Savings merger.

As a business owner, and 15-year member, I urge all Island Savings Credit Union members to carefully consider their proposed merger vote with First West Credit Union.

My main concern is losing local control of our credit union. We will no longer have a main office and decisions will be made at First West's head office in Langley. At the present time we have 100% representation on the Board of Directors but under the new structure we will have aof20% the seats on the Board for the first two years, after which representation will be based on total membership and assets.

As credit union members, we want our deposits available to other members of our community. Bigger is not always better.

I believe the Board of Directors has not proven the need for the proposed merger, even to some of its fellow board members since the vote among board members was not unanimous. The board has not presented a business case to show how the merger will be

beneficial to members.

We are told members will get access to First West's "Simply Free Account." If that is important to members, why can't Island Savings provide it without giving up local control?

We are also told that profitability will grow due to increased scale, efficiency and cost sharing. If there are not going to be any layoffs as a "direct" result of this partnership, then where does the efficiency come from? The case for change doesn't explain how this is to be done.

I will not be voting in favour of this proposal and I ask that all Island Savings members come to the aid of our Credit Union and vote NO.

Don Skerik is a member and business owner based in the Cowichan Valley who has been a member of Island Savings for 15 years.

~The Editor

UBCM wasted a huge amount of time debating silly and irrelevant issues

Once again, we taxpayers provided free meals, generous allowances and nice accommodation for our local politicians and senior staff at the recent Union of BC Municipalities meeting in Whistler. And once again, the UBCM wasted a huge amount of time debating silly and irrelevant issues and took no action at all or debate on the most serious waste of taxpayer's money - paying excessive salaries to senior staff. More than half the UBCM resolutions this year were directed at the BC government to spend more of our money!

A recent BC government report given to the UBCM confirmed what we all knew - salaries for senior staff in local government are out of control and increased at twice the rate of similar jobs in the BC government and 4 times the rate of inflation over the past ten years.

In the Cowichan Valley the CVRD's Chief bureaucrat takes home a pay and benefit package bigger than the BC Premier and close to what a BC Deputy Minister gets who looks after thousands of employees, up to a \$1 billion in spending and has way more accountability and responsibility.

The CVRD has more than 220 employees of which 55 make more than \$75,000 in pay + benefits and half of those make more than \$100,000. There is a total disconnect between these pay rates and local economy, inflation rates and taxpayers ability to pay.

I witnessed staff presentations promoting their own wage increase recommendations to the CVRD board this month

where board members were bamboozled about why staff don't want to compare their salaries to the private sector or taxpayer's incomes. They prefer to cherry pick using pay rates of other local governments - all inflated compared to the real world.

CVRD staff negotiate pay rates for one level of employees that automatically increases their own pay by the same amount. Has no one in local government ever heard the term "conflict of interest"?

We really need local politicians who are going to rein in this salary mess and start representing taxpayer's interests and keep spending below growth and inflation.

~Yours truly, W.E. (Bill) Dumont

Dear Shawnigan Taxpayers,

Grab a coffee, have a seat and let me tell you a story. Like a Stephen King novel, it's going to be horrifyingly amusing but, unlike his books, this isn't fiction. Please pay attention. This is stuff you really need to know.

My tale revolves around the little known term "Regional Grants In Aid" (RGIA). Now, before you roll your eyes and think "Oh brother, more CVRD mumbo jumbo", take heart dear taxpayer. I promise to make this interesting and easy to understand. Don't believe me? Keep reading.

The above little known term is actually not so little. More like a money grubbing monster brought to life by the CVRD Directors.

Years ago, the Directors thought it would be a good idea to give struggling, worthwhile community organizations a one-time only handout in the form of a cash donation. Cash donated by you through your property taxes. It started our innocently enough. \$8000 in 1999, then \$20,000 in 2001, and up to \$35,000 in 2005. The money went to things like the Hospital Auxiliary, Arts Councils, Music Festivals, Warmland House, and the Chesterfield Sports Society. You know what the CVRD doled out in RGIA's in 2014? \$666,076.

Ooops, I'm sorry. Did you just spit out your coffee?

Yup, that's not a typo my friends. Six hundred and sixty six thousand and change. Can you say "Shut the front door!"

All kidding aside, the RGIA program has ceased to be a prudent, fiscally well managed entity. Even the head of the CVRD Finance department got a little worried and has since put a cap on the limit the Directors can give out, plus it's now a three-time only handout.

Isn't that nice. Too bad the cap is set around \$300,000.

Hang on to your mugs, dear taxpayers. It gets worse.

Do you remember me mentioning the Chesterfield Sports Society earlier? They run the Cowichan Sportsplex. There's a Referendum coming up November 15th asking you to support yearly funding of the Sportsplex. Guess what - you already have! They've received a RGIA every year for the past 7 years. The running total so far - over \$750,000. Not bad for a one-time only handout. This latest ask will cost you \$1.40 per \$100,000 of your assessed property value, if Area B votes in favour of funding. Meanwhile, the Sportsplex administrator is making over \$100,000 per year in wages and benefits. But I digress.

Once this Referendum is over, there are two more community organizations waiting in the wings for their turn at the taxpayer trough. The Cowichan Green Community has had 4 one-time only handouts so look for them to use the AAP process (I'll explain that some other time) to secure stable funding. The Cowichan Valley Arts Council is in the same position. The Hospice Society only took 3 RGIA's before they got long-term funding. I'm sorry - you didn't know? Their AAP passed last September. They now receive \$62,500 per year from you, dear taxpayer - you're awesome!

One last thing. Hate to also let you know the RGIA isn't the only grant program the CVRD has going. There's two more - Electoral and Grant in Aid Functions. No need to get into specifics. All you need to know is they are costing you large amounts of cash. End of story.

Financially, things aren't all that rosy for taxpayers at the CVRD. The ever increasing annual budget, skyrocketing salaries, and the excessive grant handouts really have some villagers getting out their pitch forks. Good for them - they are paying attention. And so should you. It's not rocket science people.

Feeling helpless? What can you do? You can start by voting on November 15th for your Shawnigan Lake Area Director. Choose wisely. Then, if you get brave, come on out to a CVRD meeting! A few of us "community activists" have been sitting in the seats on the second floor at 175 Ingram St. watching the show for years. After all, it's our money they're spending. As I like to say "It's no longer an option not to pay attention".

Thank you for giving me some of your time, dear taxpayers.

~Barane McCartney

Watch that First Step, it's a Dandy!

Al Brunet

At the instigation of the Shawnigan Residents' Association, and with the kindness of Shawnigan Lake School who provided a meeting space, a group of community-minded citizens met on October 14 to test the waters around a move towards municipal status for Shawnigan. The committee will be a fully independent

Committee of the Board, free to carve out its own direction. Several options were discussed, in addition to that of municipal incorporation, including expanded responsibilities for the local Improvement District and the possibility of a "Branch Office" for the CVRD that would give it a local presence to improving their services to

this area. The feeling of the group was that all options should be explored before any recommendations are made at a public meeting in the new year. The first task for the committee is to gather as many relevant reports, papers, studies, maps etc., to help in the process. It is hoped that anyone involved in past attempts for incorporation

will join this group and/or share any materials in their possession. The committee is also inviting anyone with expertise in government, law, accounting and/or research to lend their valuable talents. While not ruling out the possibility of a joint bid with Mill Bay and Cobble Hill, the members of the panel thought that a "Shawnigan only" approach would be

more relevant at this time, leaving open the possibility of approaches/cooperation from the other two communities. A website will be created to help with this work, and to keep people informed but, in the meantime, all communications and questions can be sent to Al Brunet at (dynaprint@islandnet.com re: Municipal Status Committee)

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FIRE DEPARTMENT



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Phone: (250)743-2096 ~ Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030 Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

- ★ Monday, Sept 1- Grass Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 1 – MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 1 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 3 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 6 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 8 – 1st Responder off Furlonge Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 9 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Saturday, Sept 13 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 13 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 14 – Bush Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 16 – Alarms Activated on Tharrat Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 21 – Vehicle Fire on Sallachie Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 23 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 24 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 24 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 26 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 26 – Structure Fire on Galland Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 29 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 30 – MVI on Ceylon Rd
- ★ The Fire Chief Attended Two Burning Complaints during the month.

On November 15th, 2014



VOTE
SONIA FURSTENAU
For Shawnigan Lake Area Director

Sonia will focus on:

- stewardship and long-term protection of the Shawnigan watershed
- localized and cooperative economic development
- community-building and the creation of vibrant public spaces
- open, responsive, and transparent governance

www.soniafurstenuau.ca
facebook.com/soniafurstenuau

A strong voice for Shawnigan

Authorized by Financial Agent Blaise Salmon, bsalmon@shaw.ca

South Cowichan APC Meeting

Please note: detailed minutes of all APC meetings can be downloaded at :
<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/Archive.aspx?AMID=127> (Shawnigan APC) and
<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/Archive.aspx?AMID=135> (South Cowichan APC)
****There is NO SCHEDULED MEETING FOR NOVEMBER 2014****

Summary of SOUTH COWICHAN APC MEETING
7pm, Thursday, Oct 2, 2014 Shawnigan Watershed Planning Office

Rezoning Application: (3-B-14RS Spilker, agent for Lyle Holroyd Sunny Daze Camp-ground)
To rezone the property at 3999 Renfrew Rd. to permit camping (26 tenting spaces and 12 recreational vehicle spaces), seasonal weddings and events (music festivals, theatre, and visual art shows). Existing Zoning: F-1 (Primary Forest) Proposed Zoning: A new zone that would permit camping in tents and RVs, weddings, and events
Motion: Move that the APC strongly recommend against approving the application and further recommend that no further special

event permits be issued or existing permits extended.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.
Rezoning Application: (2-B-14RS Dunton-Friesen)
To amend the South Cowichan Official Community Plan and Shawnigan Lake Zoning Bylaw to permit a residential subdivision of two parcels into 28 one hectare (2.5 acre) lots at 1875 Sooke Lake Road.
Existing Zoning: F-1 (Primary Forest) Proposed Zoning: Rural Residential 2 (RR-2) or a new zone
Motion: Move recommendation to decline the application.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.
Summary of ELECTORAL AREA B (SHAWNIGAN) APC MEETING
9pm, Thursday, Oct 2, 2014
Shawnigan Watershed Planning Office
Development permit application to allow for a 5 lot subdivision at 2660 Nora Place (7-B-14DP -O'Neill)
Motion: Move recommend acceptance of the application as written.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Gratitude beyond words, life’s endless teachings, and milestones one never dreams of achieving...

Kelly Musselwhite

In reflecting upon my life, I think of a handful of occasions when an opportunity presented and my future was forever changed...

I recall finishing a book, *Feel the Fear...And Do It Anyway*, going to my job of more than a decade the next morning, and giving my notice – just like that! The following day, I was hired as crew on the *Maple Leaf* (an internationally acclaimed eco-adventure sailboat) where I cooked for 15 people from all over the world, five times a day; cruised Vancouver Island’s Inside Passage; camped in an abandoned First Nation’s Village in the Kitlope Valley; hiked through the Great Bear Rain Forest; served lunch on the beach at Cape St. James, Haida Gwaii; and travelled as far north as Juneau, Alaska. It was then my love for nature began, becoming the premise of my life’s direction. I participated in adventure beyond words and imagination. I was humbled and I have learned...

I recall enrolling at Camosun College in my early 30’s to begin my formal education. With no idea what I was ‘going

to be when I grew up’, I found myself studying a diversity of courses, and the feeling of worry when I had yet stumbled upon my intellectual passion. But on my first day of second year, I became captivated in discussions about the early philosophers – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle – and heard new words such as epistemology, metaphysics, logic, and ethics. I discovered wisdom beyond words and imagination. I was humbled and I have learned...

I recall the day my son was born. He was two months premature and diagnosed with a very rare medical condition – Esophageal Atresia and Tracheoesophageal Fistul, a 1 in 8000 chance - and underwent a five-hour surgery at two hours old. I lived in the hospital and thus began our nine year journey of medical navigation: watching him undergo multiple surgeries; numerous hospital admissions; too many late night emergency visits; a diagnosis of Eosinophilic Esophagitis at two and a half years old; and most recently Tracheomalacia. Only in the last few months have we been able to achieve pain management. Today, he thrives in his newfound freedoms to

choose all that was not within reach before. I aided in his gaining health, an importance beyond words and imagination. I was humbled and I have learned...

And I recall wanting to be an active member of my community, to be recognized in the streets and shops, to know the governance structure, the processes in which decisions were made, and above all, the organizations, committees, and citizens – the people! – who lived in Shawnigan Lake. I threw myself into this endeavour and the new opportunity that waited. I became a candidate in the 2011 municipal election, was supported by a remarkable group of people, and met Bruce Fraser.

Although entirely naïve at the time, (I had no idea what I did not know!) I was wise enough to support the man who would become the next Director of Shawnigan Lake. Blessed was I when he asked me to be his Alternate for I have witnessed brilliant leadership, inspired volunteerism, ecological stewardship, policy innovations, community building, procedural evolutions, powerful collaboration, a myriad of

conversations, and unthinkable controversy. I have received a first-class education and have reaped the rewards from the creation of diverse and intimate relationships; have been the recipient of smiles, handshakes, and hugs in the local market; and have developed an overwhelming pride for my community – my home – beyond words and imagination.

Thank you Bruce, for all you have given over the past three years to both your civic duties as Area Director and the profound ecological initiatives necessarily undertaken. Thank you for the endless upon endless upon endless hours... and I thank you, personally, for your unwavering patience, support, guidance, hu-

mour, trust, insight, teachings, direction, respect, and friendship. Thank you for helping me reach yet another milestone I never dreamed of achieving...

And thank you to every citizen in Shawnigan Lake who helped to propel our unique and beautiful community forward! Thank you for your strength, your voice, your laughter, your joy, your time, and your determination. It has been my deep honour to come to know each of you and I have gained an enormous wealth from the knowledge and friendships you have so readily shared. Indeed, I am blessed beyond words and imagination. I remain humbled and I continue to learn...

Goodbye, and thanks

Bruce Fraser
Area B Director

The Regional District is responsible for 36 functions in Area B. The lion’s share of the annual budget is for our recreation centres, parks and trails, planning and solid waste management. Considerable effort also goes into managing water systems, sewage systems and drainage all of which are charged directly to the property owners receiving the service. Most of what an Area Director does is to tend the public interest in these major bread and butter functions. Most of the work of the Regional District 15 member Board also deals with these basic services.

While the election process places 15 individuals and their alternates in the most visible positions of responsibility, in fact behind each of them is a large contingent of volunteers helping to serve their communities. In Shawnigan we have our Community Center Commission, our Parks and Recreation Commission, our Advisory Planning Commis-

sion and we also participate in the Kerry Park Commission, South Cowichan Community Policing, South Cowichan Parks, South Cowichan Water Study and the South Sector Liquid Waste Management Advisory Committee. Every one of these groups is made up of local citizens who freely contribute their time and energy to serving the public interest. Behind these formal CVRD groups are the Historical Society, Inspire, the Community Association, the SLBA, the SRA, the Improvement District, the Basin Society, Family Caregivers, YSAG, Rotary, Lions, the Triathlon team, the Gathering team, the Hub team in Cowichan Station and many more. Our local democracy runs deep.

The election of 2014 will bring some new faces to the Regional District table. They will shoulder the formal responsibilities but they will not do it alone. Each of them will be responsible for recruiting the volunteers, meeting with them regularly to ensure that what is done is done well

in the larger public interest. A vision for the future of the community is derived from this larger group, not exclusively from the elected representatives.

Many people have stepped up to the local governance task during my three years of office. Kelly Musselwhite, my alternate Director, has worked tirelessly for the Shawnigan Community, most often behind the scenes and deserves much recognition. I thank her especially and all those others who have served so tirelessly for the well being of their neighbours. To be associated with such people on behalf of community life is the real reward of office. To the six aspirants who are willing to take on a four-year term at elected public service life, I salute your civic commitment. To those who will elect them, pay attention to their platforms, test their ideas, come out to use your franchise and once having chosen a representative, give them your support for the long haul.



Brent Beach
bFAB.ca
BrentForAreaB.ca

Incorporation

My sense is that people of Area B are not happy with the current governance situation but just don't know enough about the options to make a decision.

One way forward is to - as a community - go through an informal municipal incorporation study, following the steps of the formal incorporation study. We can as a community get a sense of the options available to us.

The formal process is based on these principles: locally initiated and focused, involves all sectors of the community, is decided by an informed electorate through a referendum.

Our informal process must be based on those principles.

The formal Ministry process involves

- broadly representative restructure committee that oversees a restructure study and manages public consultation.
- a restructure study that obtains objective information on fiscal impact of restructure, implications for local services.
- presenting findings to community, determining if a vote should be held
- holding a vote and if vote passes, beginning the restructuring

Our informal process should involve all of those steps. Broadly representative and wide consultation throughout - open government and community involvement. Objective revenue and expenditure information based on current taxes and service costs, and comparison with similar communities in our area.

If the informal process achieves wide participation and is widely supported, we can then approach the ministry to start the formal restructuring.

November 15, 2014
VOTE
Brent Beach
Director Area B - Shawnigan Lake

Paid for by the Brent Beach for Area B Director campaign 2014.

Robert Arndt - Area B Candidate



I would like to introduce myself to the community. I've lived in Shawnigan for approximately 18 years and my extended family have been here since the early 1900's. I've raised, and continue to raise, my children in this jewel of a community. My political involvement started at

an early age of 24 when the CRD wanted to make James Island the alternative dump site for Hartland site. I spoke at a large meeting to the council and engineers to the importance of the island and they even had the excuse of putting a membrane down to stop the effluent. I explained that the adjacent island of Sidney, a tourist sailing stop and Provincial Park, would look over at the garbage, and the impact that would bring. They had admitted at that time to the audience they had not thought of the visual impact to the tourist industry and shortly thereafter the island was released and sold for private resort.

My work and post-secondary education in engineering has led me to the opportunity of being a business rep of a very large labour organization on Vancouver Island. As a past representative I negotiated for private, provincial and municipal labour contracts, opposed government on HST, temporary foreign workers, delegate for dockyard trades and labor council, a federation of labour delegate, Vancouver Island Trade Council, Metal Trade Council, Vancouver Island Inland Railway development initiative, fund raising for United Way. I spoke to the NDP party at parliament office on labor secu-


rity against foreign workers. These gave me experience with parliament and municipal procedures. I've attended many local meetings against the pressures of park initiatives, recycling depot proposals, and the Baldy Mountain development.

I've been a member of the Mill Bay coast guard auxiliary and have contributed to the community by donating 1/2 acre of land in the Shawnigan Hills to the parks for the children of the community for a tot park. I've also released my property interest to the Shawnigan private school phase B of the Shawnigan Hills develop-

ment to secure their autonomy from the public housing developments. I've shown generosity for the betterment of this community and know the issues this community has today. I personally had VIHA removed from land development inspections in the province for their negligence in data, inspections and issuing permits incompetence's through the Ministry of Highways. This is now done through engineers, and qualified contractors and inspectors.

The use of tape measures and shovels is a thing of the past and scientific data is imperative for today.

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Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household).

Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision?

My vision for the growth of the community and development of forestry land reserves: I feel that smart growth is positive for a community to grow and the question is in what direction. I think our

skyline is important to maintain and the aquifer region to be kept mostly undeveloped. I've flown over our region many times and we have vast amounts of forestry on the island and our community.

2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource.

What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit?

The watersheds we have are under a lot of pressures. With the CRD buying up our lands around our watercourses of Shawnigan Lake, Grant Lake, the Koksilah River and Aquifer, and the latest of SIA disposal dump is not in the best interest for the community. I believe they should do a public impact study and that parliament and engineers and biologists should be aware of the streams and underground water tables in the mine site, along with the wildlife that will enter the site, and track the containments to the watersheds. I hope they realize that birds are hard to fence out and they land not only in Shawnigan Lake but Sooke Lake as well. The excuse of tolerable levels of contain-

ments is not acceptable.

3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle.

What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future?

My vision for Shawnigan is a harmonious balance of nature and the community and to keep smart developmental views and also to keep business growing in the zoned commercial areas.

The CVRD will eventually be 4. restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities.

Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger "South Cowichan" entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan?

Finally, of our ever-looming thoughts of incorporation - I'm not opposed to being independent and welcome it with only one basic factor. That being the taxes the average household will have to burden and our businesses. I believe we pay too many taxes today for the services we obtain.

Ben Kotler, MA
REGISTERED
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR



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Brent Beach - Area B Candidate



We Must Incorporate Shawnigan Lake

A recent rezoning of forestry land to residential illustrates many of the problems we face because we are an area within a regional district, rather than an incorporated municipality.

Our Official Community Plan (OCP) denies rezoning forestry land to residential, particularly if that land is

outside the Village Containment Boundary. Provincial law requires that all bylaws “be consistent with our OCP. Yet, the rezoning passed the CVRD Board. How could the CVRD Board pass a bylaw that is inconsistent with our OCP?

They did the rezoning in two steps. First step, they changed the OCP designation of the land from forestry to residential. Second step, they changed the zoning bylaw, giving the land a new subdivision zoning.

The first step was underhanded. An OCP designation is an indication of the future use of the land at the time when the OCP was passed. To change an OCP designation is to rewrite history. Changing

an OCP designation without changing the OCP vision, objectives and policies is unprincipled.

If we must rezone land contrary to the OCP, the ethical way is to change the OCP vision, objectives and policies. Only then should the re-designation be considered.

In this case, the argument put forth by CVRD staff was that although the OCP does not allow the rezoning, the developer offered enough bribes (referred to as amenities in the rezoning documents) to cause the planner to set aside our OCP. The list of bribes has been included in Staff Reports since at least April 2014. Only 2 of the 9 bribes satisfy our OCP. One of the bribes is a \$50,000 cash

grant to Director Fraser’s Shawnigan Basin Society.

That the planning staff do not know what types of bribes the OCP allows, is bad enough. That they included a cash bribe to the Area Director’s society is outrageous.

The two rezoning bylaws were passed by the CVRD board in less than 1 minute. A non-compliant rezoning, supported by non-compliant bribes and not a word was said.

What have we learned?

First, a single area director cannot be trusted to enforce the will of the residents as expressed in the OCP. Second, the regional district board is not providing the due diligence expected of it.

An incorporated Municipality of Shawnigan Lake with a new OCP can be different.

Residents can hold municipal councillors accountable: Are those councillors standing up for the will of the people, as expressed by the OCP, or not?

Having 4 or 5 municipal councillors will reduce the likelihood of errors like this slipping through.

A municipality founded on principles of open government will have the wide public participation necessary to ensure OCP compliance.

We can incorporate the Municipality of Shawnigan Lake. We can take control of our future. But it must be your first priority.

Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household).

Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision?

- ★ There are currently 1,100 residential zones lots within the village containment boundary - see current OCP. No crisis.
- ★ No growth is not an option. Slow growth is. Growth as specified by the OCP is manageable.
- ★ As long as the OCP prohibits rezoning of forestry to residential, it should not happen.

2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource.

What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit?

- ★ In spite of concerns, water quality continues to be excellent. Even with average forest age around 20 years, water quality is holding. The current situation is sustainable provided growth is sensible. That is, in the village containment boundary, away from the lakefront and fully meeting existing standards.
- ★ The current BC Supreme

Court case based on zoning has the potential to end the threat. A new court challenge of the mining permit is an option. Failing that, asking that the CVRD join the Shawnigan Residents Association in asking for a judicial review of the EAB ruling.

3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle.

What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future?

- ★ Shawnigan is a rural community in a forested setting. Many of us live in the forest. We have a small village in a rural forested setting. A couple more commercial services - a full service grocery store - would be nice.
- ★ On the future, I have been influenced by a number of books I have read lately, including The Once and Future World by J. B. Mackinnon. We can stress environmental values over economic values, where we live. We can look forward to improving environmental values in Shawnigan.

4. The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities. Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger “South Cowichan” entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an

Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan?

- ★ After 3 years on the OCP steering committee, which included groups from Cobble Hill and Mill Bay, it is clear to me that the three areas have very different values and visions. Mill Bay sees itself as a commercial hub. Cobble Hill as an agricultural hub. We have examples of small municipalities nearby that run at a fraction of the cost we have in Area B in the CVRD. Once Cobble Hill and Mill Bay see the projected costs of an incorporation of Area B, they will start their own incorporation studies.
- ★ For Area B, no more than 4 years. For the others, depending on the Area Director elected, could be the same time frame.
- ★ One thing worse than staying in the CVRD as it is now would be to stay in the CVRD with a satellite office in Shawnigan. Staff there would be junior. We would always be getting answers second hand - through them from the people in Duncan. Adding this unnecessary step would add delay and increase errors from miscommunication. Since it would increase costs and decrease service, it makes no sense at all.
- ★ The bylaw enforcement issue is only partly a lack of staff. It is mostly a failure to enforce bylaws when staff know they are being broken. It is a failure of political will. Adding a person here when there is no political will to enforce bylaws makes no sense.



Brent Beach
bFAB.ca
BrentForAreaB.ca

Community

In order to increase community involvement there has to be something for the people to be involved in!

By having the community create informal versions of the two founding documents - the Municipal Restructure Study and the Official Community Plan - we both offer an opportunity for meaningful involvement, and we demonstrate to the community as a whole that there are people in the community who can be the councillors in an incorporated Shawnigan Lake.

The people who work on the OCP will understand the community vision and will defend that vision. The people who work on the restructure study will understand the community finances. The revenues, the services, the expenditures.

By stressing open government and community involvement in the run up to an incorporation referendum, we build a community that expects open government and expects community involvement.

A community that won't settle for anything less.

November 15, 2014
VOTE
Brent Beach
Director Area B - Shawnigan Lake

Paid for by the Brent Beach for Area B Director campaign 2014.

Sonia Furstenau - Area B Candidate



Twelve years ago, I began to spend my summer holidays at Shawnigan Lake. I'd fallen in love with a man whose family history on the lake goes back to the 1940s, and I'd soon fallen in love with the lake as well. Our children have learned to swim in the Shawnigan, often splashing amongst swarms of their cousins.

One of the biggest turn-

ing points for our family was when I was offered a job to teach at Dwight School – looking out at the lake from what was to be our kitchen balcony, I phoned Blaise and said, “I’m standing in our new home.”

We dove into our new lives, embracing the beauty of this place and getting to know the people in our community. We were captivated, and we knew very quickly that Shawnigan was to be our home. As we settled in, we became increasingly aware of a potential threat. Two years later, when SIA's draft permit was released by the Ministry of Environment, I realized that my skills and experiences – gained through years of volunteer

work and activism – would help me be an effective advocate for Shawnigan in our fight to protect our watershed.

As an advocate, I have educated my school community and organized letter-writing events that generated hundreds of heart-felt letters to the Premier and Minister of Environment. I have spoken out in the media, written articles, attended rallies, and sat through countless hours of the Environmental Appeal Board hearings, after which I would strategize with others on what our most effective next steps should be. When the Times-Colonist would not tell the contaminated soil story from the Shawnigan point of view, I phoned the editor to ask him why. He told me

to write our story, and then he published it. In every interview I have given and all of the articles I have written, I reiterate one absolute truth: the people of Shawnigan will not give up on this fight.

As Area Director, I will continue to advocate for Shawnigan's future. I will work towards long-term protection of the watershed. I will work to create localized economic development that benefits our community. I will work to ensure that our government is open, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the people of Shawnigan. And I will work above all to build a strong, forward-thinking community that brings out the best in all of us, and moves us towards

a very bright and exciting future for Shawnigan.

Since deciding to run for Area Director, I have spent my days talking to as many people in Shawnigan as I can, and as a result, I feel incredibly optimistic for our future. Shawnigan is bursting with vibrant, hard-working, enthusiastic, wonderful people who are committed to creating the best possible future for our community. I am also committed to this, and I promise to put my energy into creating tangible and long-lasting results.

When Blaise and I have grandchildren, I very much look forward to seeing the fifth generation of Salmons swimming in Shawnigan Lake.

Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household).

Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision?

My priority is to preserve and protect Shawnigan's watershed lands. When we consider the future of Shawnigan, we need to recognize that the well-being and health of the community is dependent on the watershed and its capacity to provide drinking water. This consideration must be at the forefront of any discussion around growth.

The Official Community Plan (OCP) calls for thoughtful planning and development that protects the watershed while contributing to the quality of life in the Shawnigan community. Any growth that occurs in Shawnigan has to take into account the capacities and limitations of both the natural environment and the existing infrastructure. A no-growth policy may need to apply when any one of the following basic prerequisites for density cannot be satisfied:

- ★ Watershed protection
- ★ Septic or local sewer service
- ★ Water supply
- ★ Fire protection
- ★ Road capacity

We need to plan backwards from a future that we want to

achieve for Shawnigan. If we continue to allow exceptions to the OCP and rezone forestry land to allow for residential subdivisions, the watershed may deteriorate past a point of no return.

The realities of population growth and pressures on the capacity of our natural systems force us to recognize that uncontained sprawl is unsustainable, and that we must adjust our thinking to accommodate increased density in some areas of Shawnigan, rather than increased encroachment on watershed lands.

With the “North Shawnigan Station” development in the lower part of the village expected to begin construction imminently, we will be moving towards a reality of a village core that will be pedestrian-friendly, with a longer-term potential for multiple family housing, if sewage infrastructure is put in place. This is an example of growth that fits within the capacities of our community and natural limitations, while at the same time contributing to a vibrant village core and a higher quality of life.

Finally, for us to make informed development decisions in Shawnigan, we need to create a criteria-based decision making tool that sets clear community benchmarks for watershed benefits. I am committed to working with the community to develop such a tool so that the objectives and expectations of the community are clear for the protection of the watershed lands.

2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource.

What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit?

The protection of Shawnigan Lake is clearly a priority for the people of this community, as it is for me. I intend to continue to be a champion for the long-term health of the lake.

The SIA permit represents a very real risk to Shawnigan that we must continue to fight using all legal means available to us. A judicial review is likely to follow the Environmental Appeal Board ruling, regardless of the outcome.

I will persist in being an active participant in this fight. I will continue to work with the community, speak out in the media, and organize events and rallies that provide a forum for community members to express their concerns and outrage. We will need to maintain intense political pressure on the provincial government in order to achieve the only acceptable outcome: the complete revocation of the permit.

Contaminated soil sites are not the only threat to Shawnigan Lake. Logging, development in the watershed, improper septic system operation, and irresponsible boating practices that can lead to erosion of the shoreline all contribute to accumulated stress of the lake.

Water quality testing needs to continue so that we can monitor for occurrences of identified

risks to our drinking water. I will work to ensure that proper water testing continues and that the findings are available to the public.

To address improper septic system operation, I will work to develop and implement a program for property owner septic maintenance that will allow the CVRD to improve septic operation and identify problems for remediation. The program will use existing contractors and property owner incentives without a big investment in a new CVRD service – this program may be self-funded and not require a new cost to taxpayers.

As a community, we need to continue to develop a culture of stewardship; we all need to take responsibility for the protection of the lake. I will work with community groups to take concrete steps that will educate and engage residents and visitors in order to promote responsible and sustainable use of the lake.

3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle.

What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future?

The essence of Shawnigan is what we experience when we come together as a community. The many groups that work hard to offer events each month of the year help to create community strength and vitality, and give us opportunities to celebrate together. The Shiver Swim, Family Day, the Gathering, Easter, the Village Festival and Triathlon, Shawnigan Adventure, Canada Day, Inspire! Fest, the Scarecrow Trail, Halloween and Christmas in the Village are the threads that run through the seasons and knit

us together as a community.

The essence of Shawnigan includes its past, which is worth not only preserving, but celebrating – this vibrant community has produced incredible innovators, artists, and educators. This history is kept alive by the work of the Shawnigan Lake Museum, which helps us to weave our past into our current identity as a community.

The essence of Shawnigan is what happens in our local businesses, where owners greet customers by name, where tables are shared and stories are swapped, where trust, hope, and compassion are created.

The essence of Shawnigan is a long, warm evening on the lake, with young and old swimming in the warm water and enjoying the incredible natural beauty of this place.

Shawnigan's future is exciting and ripe with opportunities. With conscientious and community-driven planning of the Elsie Miles property and the village core, we will begin to transform our village into a vibrant and inviting heart of our community.

Shawnigan's future will have walking and cycling paths that make it easier and safer for us to meet up and draw together. Our future will see a strengthened local economy as we capitalize on the return of the rail service, increased tourism, and a growing number of small, local businesses that highlight the abundance of products, services, and talents that our community has to offer.

There will be a time in our future when we look back at our fight to protect our watershed as a turning point. We will see it as the moment when we realized that working together makes us stronger as a community than we had ever imagined we could be.

Follow us on Twitter

Larry Jorginson - Area B Candidate



Over the past several years I have taken a keen interest in our local and regional affairs and, like many of you, have attended various board meetings, public open houses and Director meetings.

All of these have been informative and at the same time often frustrating. So many of us have expressed similar

comments on various topics, only to have our concerns and suggestions seemingly ignored or forgotten. This endemic culture must change and I feel that I can contribute significantly to foster this change. It is, for this reason that I am asking for your vote.

As your Director, my main responsibility will be to represent your best interests in an open and forthright manner. As an example I want to assure you that I will not support or invoke any Alternate Approval Process (AAP) during my term as Director. This is literally a confiscation of your money without public discussion and is a reprehensible practice repeatedly used

by our elected officials.

With general oversight and participation in improving the community comes the responsibility of ensuring the proper and most cost effective use of our tax expenditures. It would appear that, over the years, there has been a practice of simply adding on to existing budgets and neglecting to actually review each cost centre to see if it is still relevant, and whether it can be improved, or should be supported any longer. I have reviewed a number of the budgets and, where available, some of the charitable organizations that receive our tax money. When one starts analyzing the various documents it certainly

raises a number of questions as to why some expenses are being incurred, the reasons for even maintaining some CVRD functions, and the level of support being afforded them. I will certainly be encouraging the new CVRD Administrator to effectively review the entire organizational department structure and will, for instance, be suggesting he engage with other retired business managers for their expertise. I am quite confident that there are numerous retired executives in the region that would be willing to volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of all of us.

To sum up, over the years many residents from the

entire Cowichan region have expressed concern about the practices, expenditures and administration of the CVRD organization. I agree with these residents; they are, quite simply, correct. The CVRD was conceived as an economical and professional solution to the problems of the small communities in the Cowichan Valley. It has now evolved into being the problem. We have a new Administrator; we will have a relatively new Board of Directors; this is an ideal time to effect change and improve the organization to everyone's benefit.

To achieve this I will need your help – by you voting for me on November 15th. Thank you.

Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household).

Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision?

It would appear that the growth of nearly 2% as indicated in your question is high – it is more likely 1-1 1/2% (25% variance) but, regardless which figure is correct, there apparently is enough buildable property to accommodate this estimated influx for the 12 year projection within the Village Containment Boundary. Should there be indications that the population of the Shawnigan area is beginning to exceed the projected annual rate then we can start looking at multiple housing instead of single dwellings to compensate for any accelerated growth. It should be noted that there are many properties that have been neglected over the years for one reason or another that have rather large lots. These properties could easily be redeveloped to, say, duplexes or fourplexes. As we all well know this type of infilling is typical in the larger centres and can certainly slow the consumption of land compared to our present practice. Rezoning marginal land within the ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve) could also be explored. The last resort, as far as I am concerned, is the rezoning of the F1 Forestry land for residential needs and I do not foresee any need to consume any more forestland during my tenure as Director. Any developer that

contemplates purchasing F1 land within Area B for residential development should plan on a very, very long wait – probably a generation wait! And, should there already be plans for F1 redevelopment presently in various application stages severe scrutiny will certainly be on the horizon! Having said all of the above, and to address part of your question, zero growth is not plausible.

2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource.

What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit?

I feel that we are doing pretty well everything that we possibly can as residents. We have so many associations, groups, committees and government departments and agencies involved in the entire Cowichan region that I honestly can't keep track of everyone's involvement. In other words, this entire water and watershed has become so fragmented with vested interests that we simply must step back and decide who should be representing the views of Shawnigan Lake and what specific actions that we should be taking on a continuing basis. It truly is an enigma to me that our own Area Director has formed and taxed us for his own pretend Basin Authority or whatever it is called and yet has approved forestland conversion to residential development to the detriment of the residents in general. As far as I'm concerned the Cowichan Water Board should have two or three divisions, each repre-

sending a distinct area reporting to the larger board who, in turn report to the CVRD. Insofar as the SIA permit is concerned we can only hope that the Appeal Board rules in our favour. It truly is a sad situation that we must fight the very government whose mandate is to protect their citizens and ensure their welfare from exploitation. To add our very own Director and local CVRD government body appearing to have misled us simply compounds the injustice. Should the SIA appeal be lost then I hold little hope that anything further can be done. Legal costs will simply be beyond our ability to pay.

3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle.

What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future?

Your statement sums it up. We will continue to be this mixture of a quasi-rural suburban area with small pockets of commercial development for the foreseeable future. Over the years our children and grandchildren will be the ones to determine which specific direction our area will take. Our most important responsibility will be to manage our lake and land as wisely as we can so that they will have the opportunity to make those decisions for themselves and not be restricted to few or no choices. My vision is irrelevant – the future is for our children.

4. The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities.

Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger "South Cowichan" entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan?

I don't see any tangible benefit

to incorporating Shawnigan Lake on its own nor do I see any particular advantage to the larger South Cowichan entity other than what we/they are now. Anyone who espouses visions of a self-determining municipality with the present population is, quite simply, day-dreaming. We simply do not have the population nor taxation base to support such a transition. Perhaps in 10-20 years this may be plausible but to think that this is anywhere near fiscally achievable at present is not realistic. Insofar as having a satellite office for the staffing mentioned this too is just another layer of unnecessary expense. One of the original concepts of the CVRD was to centralize with professional staff that would be available to the benefit of all the small communities on a shared basis. This thought of having a satellite office for some of these professionals would simply increase our taxes and defeat the purpose of obtaining professional advice and work at an advantageous cost and, probably, lead to unnecessary duplication of efforts.

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Lois Morrow - Area B Candidate



The journey to becoming a candidate for Shawnigan Lake Area Director began simply enough. Our family had moved to the area in 2005, and I had become involved in the community as president of the Burnum Park Residents Committee and as a member of a local Parish Council, but was not yet active in local politics. However, for many years

I had been driving by an open field where deer often grazed, and I enjoyed the smell of the hay being cut there two or three times a year. So in 2010, when the Cowichan Valley Regional District announced plans to place an EcoDepot on this portion of land, I was propelled into activism. On an island with a limited farmland base, it made no sense to me to take any amount out of production for industrial use. I became a member of the Citizens Together group, and eventually we won a court decision on zoning and achieved a “No” on a referendum vote.

In the following months Citizens Together made two presentations to the CVRD board, the first on improving

their practices on the Alternate Approval Process and the second on their policies regarding grants-in-aid. I prepared the research on both presentations, and have closely followed these issues since then. For the past three years, I have attended the Area Director’s monthly meetings, as well as CVRD board and committee meetings, and am familiar with the topics, procedures, and laws relating to our regional government.

When it was announced that the Ministry of Environment was considering a permit granting permission to build a contaminated soil facility in our watershed, I was again propelled into activism. Because I hold a degree in Vol-

untary Sector Management and 30 years of experience in the field, I believed that the best way I could contribute to the fight was to join the Shawnigan Residents Association, who were appealing the permit to the Environmental Appeal Board. As a member of the board, later Vice President, I focused on governance tasks such as policy development, insurance renewal, and bylaw review in order to ensure that the organization retained strength and viability through the appeal process. If elected, I will continue to work diligently to protect our watershed and our basic human right to clean water.

I have been married to Lee Morrow for 38 years. We

lived for 21 years of those years in rural northeastern Alberta, where he owned a small business as a tradesman and I homeschooled and worked with a variety of non-profit groups. I grew up on a farm in Manitoba and am currently a member of the Koksilah Farmers Institute. My rural roots are deep, which is why I also believe in the basic human right to food security, and am committed to protecting farmland and supporting initiatives that enable self-sufficiency in food.

I would consider it a privilege to serve the citizens of Shawnigan Lake as Area Director, and respectfully ask for your vote.

Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household).

Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision?

Having no growth is not an option because stagnation is not an option. Unless we wish to build a moat around the boundary of Area B and not allow anyone else in from now on, we will have to plan and manage the growth of Shawnigan Lake.

The existing Official Community Plan is the starting point, keeping in mind that there is statutory provision to amend it from time to time when proposals are brought forward which make sense to our citizens.

The Area Planning Commission is the filter for development proposals. The first criteria for approval comes courtesy of the current Director, who has solidified this as the benchmark: “Does this proposal provide a net environmental benefit to our area?” To this I would add: “Is this consistent with the character of our community?” and, “Does this give us more units of affordable housing, or make provision for food security initiatives?”

The ideal is to maintain ecological and sustainable forestry practices, and each proposal that comes forward to rezone Forestry land for residential subdivision must be treated on an individual basis. Some

proponents will work with the APC and the community to comply with the criteria set out above; it is they who will provide the housing needed for a growing population. Many will not work with the APC and will be rejected.

2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource.

What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit?

If the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the permit to build a contaminated soil

facility at the south end of our lake, the first action I would take will probably involve saying some words that my mother would not approve of, and ranting to whomever is close by about the stupidity of a community having to fight its own provincial government for the right to clean water. Then I would contact my former colleagues on the board of the Shawnigan Residents Association, whose lawyers carried the weight of all our hopes for overturning the permit, and work with them and their lawyers in determining the next legal steps. If it becomes necessary, I am confident that the residents of Shawnigan Lake will once again open their wallets to fund an appeal. Allowing the facility is simply not an option for us.

Public pressure on the members of the provincial legislature and especially on cabinet ministers has been on-going since the beginning of this fight.

Although we have to proceed through the appropriate legal steps, many members of our community, including myself, believe that a final decision on the permit is likely to be made at the cabinet level. So I will do my best to encourage letter writing, protests, picketing, and personal lobbying, as these are also necessary to demonstrate our community’s resolve.

The Area Director from Shawnigan Lake can work at the regional board table as well. The CVRD made an application some months ago to the BC Supreme Court asking for clarification on whose jurisdiction prevails: regional district bylaws relating to the movement and storage of contaminated soil, or provincial government regulations. Whatever the outcome, I believe that the Area B Director needs to strongly urge the CVRD to revise and strengthen their bylaws. What good are they if they are not, or cannot be, enforced in the face of a potential permitted contaminated soil site? These bylaws also need to be applied to the numerous illegal contaminated soil dumping sites within our watersheds.

Over the past few years, our region has experienced a growing awareness and sense of urgency around the issue of water sustainability, and an acknowledgement that we need to think in terms of watershed boundaries, not political boundaries. Work has proceeded on developing a Regional Watershed Management Commission based upon a full partnership between the First Nations of the Cowichan Valley and the Cowichan Valley Regional District, and including the existing Cowichan Watershed Board and Shawnigan Basin

Authority. Other stakeholders have been involved: among them TimberWest, Catalyst, the Shawnigan Residents Association and numerous technical advisers. The goal is to develop a legitimate, integrated governance model which will be able to draw down authority from the provincial government in the regulatory development process surrounding the new Water Sustainability Act.

Although existing research and practical initiatives must continue, and existing powers must be exercised to their fullest, I support the development of this long term Commission. It will take some time to enable, but I believe the Cowichan Region must obtain real authority and autonomy over our watersheds, thus ensuring our own water sustainability.

3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle.

What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future?

When I think of Shawnigan Lake, I think primarily of the people who have chosen to make this community their home. We’re a diverse population: residents who have family roots going back generations, artists, loggers and forestry workers, 650 military and civilian personnel who commute to work at the Esquimalt naval base, lake front property owners, activists, business owners, retirees, Shawnigan Lake School students and staff, farmers. Each individual has their own aspirations for themselves, their family, and their community, but amidst all this diversity there is some common ground that I think an Area Director

can legitimately have influence upon:

First, we all share a love for the natural beauty that surrounds us; I believe that environmental assets should be counted among the capital assets of our region, and that a regional district board should be safeguarding those assets in such a way as to preserve them for our children.

Second, I believe that all of our residents have a basic human right to water and food security, and that our regional district has a responsibility to protect our supply of clean water and to promote policies that will lead to greater self-sufficiency in food.

Third, all of us want a safe, stable community in which to raise our families; I believe that an area director should work hard to ensure recreation facilities that meet the needs of our residents, a transit system that operates sensibly, a tax rate that does not become a burden to households and businesses, and a responsive bureaucracy that treats input from every citizen with respect.

Shawnigan Lake is a very desirable location. There will undoubtedly be growth in coming years, but I would like to see us remain a predominantly rural area, fiercely defending our watershed and seeing our village develop into a vibrant community gathering place. I believe that voters choose a director to represent them at the regional board table and to be diligent and skillful in managing the public affairs of the area, but not to implement any top down grand visions. Plans to make our community a better place belong to all of the people who make their homes here; a public servant should encourage and support their grassroots efforts.

Bill Savage - Area B Candidate



I found Shawnigan Lake 16 years ago while taking a drive with my dog Ed. A left turn at the highway and a few kilometers in, I found Paradise. I haven't left. Since my arrival to this extremely beautiful and tranquil place, everything

has worked out well for me. I have met some wonderful people and am fortunate to call many of them friends. I am so proud of this community for coming together to fight the proposed contaminated waste site on Stebbings Road, and am confident we will prevail. Hopefully the E.A.B. Tribunal will realize the many faults with this permit and do the right thing. This battle was unnecessary and many of us are exhausted. However, the powers that be must realize this community will not tolerate threats to our lake and our water supply.

A good friend of mine, a Canadian soldier and peacekeeper for 30 years stated, "You just don't mess with people's water. Wars are fought over water and people die." Hopefully our war is over regarding this threat. I don't think much of the gentlemen who have put this community through this and have elevated money over the health and safety of the good people who live here. For the last 10 years my work has allowed me to be on the lake regularly and, as a result, I have witnessed occurrences not seen by many others. I have seen shorelines being

ripped up and replaced with concrete retaining walls, raw sewage being dumped just a few feet from the lake, large buildings constructed on the surface of the water, etc. By-law enforcement has not been adequate and if elected, I will assist them in addressing these issues. I have been a member of the Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission for nine years and currently sit as vice chair. I am a founding member of the Watershed Roundtable and have participated in many site visits and educational tours which the

Roundtable has offered to the community. Thanks to Director Fraser's efforts to enhance communication between the many organizations and commissions that represent us, I have been able to liaise on behalf of the Parks Commission to promote our goals and address our concerns. I have also been working with the Village Council Group to explore and develop ways to improve our Village core. I look forward and am excited to see what lies ahead of us over the next four years.


Questions from the Focus Editors:

1. BC Stats cites the 2011 population of Shawnigan at about 8,600 and projects an annual growth rate of almost 2% resulting in approximately 11,350 people by 2026. These extra 2,750 people will require an additional 1,100 dwelling units (2.5 people per household). Is this growth desirable and what policies would you propose to manage it? Should no growth be an option? What is your position on rezoning Forestry land for residential subdivision? People realize that we cannot stop growth in our community. Shawnigan Lake is a very desirable place to live; however, as families move to this area, two very important issues must be addressed. First, can the existing infrastructure handle the increased volume of traffic? And second, can our lake and watershed support the increase in our population. I believe that we must proceed slowly and

cautiously in order to protect the quality of life that we currently enjoy. A closer look should be taken at rezoning within the watershed and at the present time I am not in favour of massive development. 2. Shawnigan Lake and the surrounding watershed provide the water supply for thousands of residents. Compared with the Victoria watershed around Sooke Lake there are very few constraints on activities that adversely affect this vital resource. What short and long term measures are required to protect the lake? What actions will you take if the Environmental Appeal Board upholds the South Island Aggregates permit? In order to protect Shawnigan Lake and its watershed I believe there are a number of long term, as well as short term solutions available to us. The most beneficial long term

solution would be to become a municipality. This would allow us as a community, to make our own decisions regarding our lake rather than having a misinformed non-resident influence on important decisions regarding our lake and population. For instance, we would have the ability to restrict or eliminate certain current activities that are disruptive and harmful to the lake. We would be able to bring in measures to improve outdated and failing septic systems and we would be able to eliminate all construction in riparian areas. I feel our biggest hurdle is the lack of bylaw enforcement the C.V.R.D. and other jurisdictions provide. The tools are in place to protect our lake. We have to start using them. My position on the proposed contaminated waste disposal site has and always will be the same, "DONT MESS WITH

OUR WATER!" 3. Shawnigan can be defined in several ways. Examples include: Area B of the CVRD, a component of South Cowichan, a watershed, a bedroom community of Victoria, a summer holiday destination, or a historic community with distinct values and lifestyle. What is the essence of Shawnigan to you? What is your vision for its future? I would agree with all the definitions expressed in the question and they all apply in one form or another. However, the definition I hold in my heart is, "My Home" - a beautiful, tranquil, relaxing, rural community that I would work hard to keep for generations to come. 4. The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities. Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger "South Cowichan" entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan? I feel that our regional government is our largest weakness. For decades the C.V.R.D. has failed and neglected our community. I firmly believe that incorporation is our only hope. Shawnigan Lake should not be thrown into a cluster with other areas. We have a strong tax base in this area and I am confident that we have the ability to go forward independently. I realize that taxes will increase if we incorporate, but the reality is taxes have doubled over the past ten years and C.V.R.D. employee wages have doubled over the past 10 years and will continue to increase each year, with little improvement to services in our community.



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**"Any fool can criticize, condemn
and complain - and most fools do."
- Benjamin Franklin**

Sonia Furstenau answer to Editor Question #4

4. The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities.

Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger "South Cowichan" entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan?

Incorporation of any area with South Cowichan – whether Shawnigan alone or some combination of Areas A, B, and C – is a long-term effort that requires the agreement of the province and the CVRD to complete. Incorporation of Shawnigan Lake on its own offers us increased control over some areas of governance, but there would still remain potential conflicts in governance of forestry and rural resource lands. The SIA site, for example, is located in land that is managed by the provincial government, regardless of whether it falls within an incorporated or unincorporated area.

The boundaries for incorporation are not a simple issue to solve, and they would have significant impacts for service delivery responsibility and cost. Within the CVRD, Shawnigan Lake is a very large area, with a significant portion of rural or undeveloped land. The boundary of the watershed surrounds

both rural and high-density areas. If we consider incorporating Shawnigan Lake on its own, the boundary for the municipality would not necessarily match the current Area B boundary. What areas to include or exclude, and the implications of these decisions, would need to be analyzed and addressed.

We also need to consider governance, service delivery, and taxation implications. We need a process that has community participation and support, and will produce the evidence that incorporation will be beneficial to us as a community.

I am committed to supporting steps towards incorporation as community interest and engagement increases. I am also committed to working tirelessly on developing a positive future for Shawnigan regardless of our municipal status – we can work together now to achieve many tangible goals.

We may be able to have dedicated CVRD staff located in a satellite office in Shawnigan, although this plan would need analysis by and approval from the CVRD. Any CVRD staff assigned to Shawnigan would need to share our local vision, and to help our community take concrete steps towards that vision.

Regardless of our municipal status, I believe that if we work collaboratively, and build upon the many strengths that we already have in our community, we have the potential to create an extraordinary future for Shawnigan.

Lia Morrow answer to Editor Question #4

4. The CVRD will eventually be restructured as a result of some areas incorporating into municipalities.

Should Shawnigan attempt to incorporate on its own, or as part of a larger "South Cowichan" entity? When do you think this might occur? What about remaining as Area B but having a satellite CVRD office in the village with a small staff (Planner, By-law Enforcement Officer and an Administrative Assistant) dedicated to Shawnigan?

We are the largest unincorporated area in British Columbia; I think that incorporation is inevitable at some point. I support in principle a stand-alone Shawnigan Lake municipality because I believe in the principle of subsidiarity, which holds that authority should not be exercised by a large, complex, and distant organization when a smaller, simpler, and local organization can do the job just as well.

However, I do not sign blank cheques. I cannot give unconditional approval to either incorporation or to the interim idea of a satellite CVRD office in Shawnigan Lake until I and our residents have a complete and accurate breakdown of what the costs will be to taxpayers. Part of the process of incorporation is a study of the additional financial responsibilities that go along with the rights gained, and part of organizing a satellite office will be calculating the additional costs for our area while still maintaining our commitments to the regional district. Residents' concerns about rising taxes are legitimate. In 2014 the tax base for Area B consisted of 88% residential, with only 12% consisting of business, commercial, crown land, and forestry, so the tax load will fall disproportionately upon individuals and families.

We need to remember that municipalities are a creation of the provincial government, and that there is a process set out in legislation which will bring us to a referendum on incorporation. Adding a satellite office will also require approval of the voters for a new service. I am willing to explore both the full and the interim options, but ultimately it will be up to residents to decide whether the political autonomy gained is worth the costs. Through the decision-making process, I will strive to listen and enable the people I am serving.



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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus



If you read last month’s article you learned that my adventures took me up to the amazing views of the Goldstream Trestle even though the original plan was Mount Finlayson. I am a bit stubborn by nature and just HAD to go back to tackle that mountain! And boy I’m glad I did.

Many of you have heard rumors about the climbing, scrambling and the heart racing experiences of the front side of Mt. Fin I’m sure, and for those wary of heights and haven’t done it - yes it is kind of true! However, if you have done the tour then you know first-hand that it can be a bit sketchy at times depending on the factors at play, such as weather, footwear and the hiking company you keep.

I myself am not so much afraid of heights but my hiking party included my

special friend, a 13-year-old white shepherd who wasn’t so much into that kind of adventure. Alas, there is an option! When the main trail splits off either up to the left to the rock face or to the right behind the giant boulder you will find yourself on a beautiful rolling path around the backside.

My belief is that it’s a newer trail and it moseys alongside the Bear Mountain golf course but yet in a nature filled kind of way – fabulous thick foliage, majestic trees and a well-created trail. The up route is a fast and hard kinda hike, but this back trail is easier, but longer – it took approximately an hour to reach the peak views.

Either choice, the view is truly remarkable and you can see for miles and miles. When overlooking the Bear Mountain development

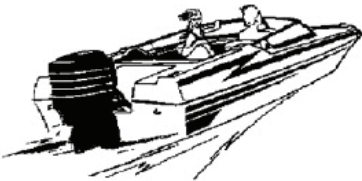
it can slightly diffuse the warm and fuzzy feelings of nature...but just imagine yourself in the Alps peeking over a hidden alpine resort, breathe in the air and relish the other far reaching views from this vantage point.

In conclusion, I absolutely loved this hike and it will be a welcome addition to the Iron Butt’s adventures indeed. On a side note, we did take the rock face down and ... I really do not recommend it for height aversionists, or old cranky dogs! But to those that have been afraid to visit Mount Finlayson, do not let the tales scare you away - it IS accessible in a much less daunting way.

...and don’t forget your map kids! <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/goldstream/>

Check out pictures from this hike and more on our facebook page at [The OM Tree Studio Inc.](#)

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OCP
Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan sets out the vision the community has for the area and defines the tools it thinks will achieve that vision. The OCP is amended periodically, when the vision changes or the tools are not achieving the vision.

An OCP is a powerful tool, backed up by provincial law. Bylaws inconsistent with the OCP are unlawful.

Our current OCP is very clear - F-1 land outside the village containment boundary is not to be rezoned residential. The CVRD planning department said that the bribes (amenities) offered by the developer were sufficiently generous to override the OCP.

If I am elected, I will respect the OCP. No bribes. No ya buts.

The Municipal Restructure Study complements the OCP. The OCP includes the vision and the policies. The MRS objectively describes the taxes and services that both satisfy the policies and achieve the vision.

There is a formal process for writing a new OCP. As with the MRS, the citizens can go through an informal version of the formal process, building community engagement through wide consultation and involvement.

Once an informal OCP is done, we can approach the ministry to begin a formal OCP revision.

November 15, 2014

VOTE
Brent Beach
Director Area B - Shawnigan Lake

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Shawnigan Weather August 2014

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Treloar

	September Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Average High	20.2	22.7	20.9	7.3	20.3	7.6	21.3	7.6	20.4
Average Low	9.2	10.4	11.6	1.3	10.5	1.9	11.5	1.8	11.1
Extreme High	33.5	29.8	33.7	10.8	33.1	10.3	35.0	11.0	32.0
Extreme Low	-3.9	5.4	5.6	-2.6	4.2	-1.3	6.1	-2.0	5.5
Precipitation	37.6	78.7	154.5	63.8	140.2	50.7	142.2	54.6	159.4
Days w precip	9	8	16	11	19	11	20	11	17
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	720.8	366.3	869.5	309.7	667.6	270.2	690.7	311.8	698.0
Since 1914: 5 th warmest, 38 th wettest									
Lake Temperature: Sept 7 th : 21° Sept 13 th : 20° Sept 20 th : 20° Sept 27 th : 19°									



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Shawnigan resident vying for School Trustee



My name is Amy Matamba, running for School Trustee in Cowichan Valley District 79. I am passionate about Education and want to be a voice for students, families and communities in the Cowichan Valley. Some may know me as the Music Teacher at Discovery Elementary where I brought the community together yearly for school concerts and developed a fabulous Ukulele and Marimba Program. I also have 4 children who have grown up in our community and public school system.

Some may know me as a performing musician, sharing the music and culture of Zimbabwe, Africa. Performing 9 years with Malaika Marimba and 2 years still running with Mbira Spirit. We have supported numerous community events, fundraisers and festivals all over the Cowichan Valley. This has allowed me to interact with our diverse community and see how powerful it is when we work together. By drawing on our strengths

and experiences we can be more productive in a positive and inclusive way.

With 21 years teaching experience, I have seen many changes in education and our community. I want to be School Trustee to ensure that we are working together and making decisions that consider everyone involved in education. I believe in Inclusive Leadership where we embrace the diversity of others and see the value in everyone's voice being heard. On November 15th the public will vote for 7 School Trustees and I want to be one voice on this team. I am positive, open, hard working, courageous and believe in building relationships with trust and respect. I bring this everywhere I go.

My eco-friendly campaign will not use signs for advertising. Please share and encourage others to vote. Visit "Vote Amy Matamba for School Trustee", on Facebook, like, share the information. Email mbiraspirit@gmail.com for an e-poster to share.

VOTE LOIS MORROW



Director Area B Shawnigan Lake

"I would consider it a privilege to represent you as Shawnigan Lake Area Director.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director’s meetings**
TBA after the November 15th election
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday of each month - No November meeting
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday each month 7pm www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
1st & 3rd Monday, each month - 7pm at the Village Chippery
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**
Meeting times TBA. Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
See website for details: www.shawniganwater.org
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
Gathering Space hours: Mon-Sat 1-4 www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is IT?



First correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca wins two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The winner for September was Judy Dupuis who was precisely right when she wrote, "It's a tire swing at the Victoria Aqua Ski Club on Shawnigan Lake and it's for swinging and climbing fun!" We only received three answers for this one which we thought should have been a cinch!



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Taxes

Some people worry that Municipal Incorporation of Area B will increase our taxes.

Lets look at our taxes right now.

Total Property Taxes collected	
from Residents of Area B:	10,883,253
Less Taxes to Schools and Hospitals:	4,288,939
Equals Taxes for an Incorporated Area B:	6,594,314

There are other revenue sources that do not come from property taxes that would add to this total.

How much would it cost to run a Municipality of Shawnigan Lake?

Metchosin is a rural municipality with 5,000 people. We are bigger, so some services, policing for example, would cost more. But just as a starting estimate, how much does Metchosin spend each year?

Total Expenditures 2014:	5,124,379
Less Transfers to Statutory Reserves:	1,055,168
Less Capital Projects:	976,000
Equals Total for all Services:	3,093,211

We are currently spending \$6,594,314 while Metchosin is spending \$3,093,211.

**Perhaps we can Incorporate
without raising taxes!**

November 15, 2014

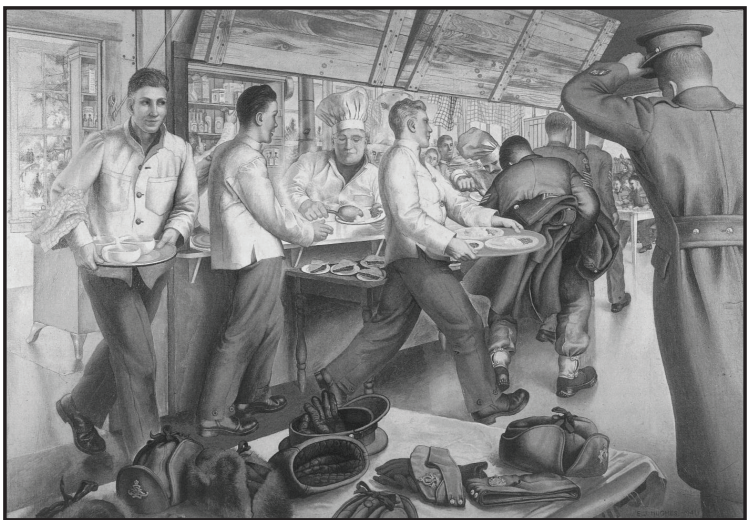
VOTE

Brent Beach

Director Area B - Shawnigan Lake

Paid for by the Brent Beach for Area B Director campaign 2014.

E.J. Hughes - War Artist



Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Lake Museum

Hughes met his wife, Fern, in 1938 and enlisted in 1939 as a means to support her and their future family. He had been a cadet in school and enjoyed military discipline. He was offered positions by three regiments - he chose to be a gunner for the Royal Canadian Artillery.

During WWI, the Canadian War Memorials programme produced a visual history of the war through the eyes of painters. Many of these painters were from Britain, but there were several leading Canadian artists as well,

including Hughes's old teacher, Frederick Varley.

Likely inspired by Varley, Hughes was determined to become a war artist during WWII and he applied directly to the Minister of National Defence, rather than through his commanding officer. After a reprimand, his commander suggested that Hughes apply through proper channels. Hughes sent a letter and applied for himself and his friends Orville Fisher and Paul Goranson. Hughes had teamed up with these two artists, in 1935, as the Western Brotherhood in an enterprise to do commercial art and paint murals.

Hughes was chosen for an unofficial appointment in 1940. The official war artist program did not start until later in 1941. The emphasis of the Canadian War Records (CWR) program was to capture what the camera cannot interpret. He was given the rank of acting sergeant and sent to Camp Petawawa in Ontario.

During his time at Petawawa, he started on what would become perhaps the most remarkable collection from any of the official war artists. His time, prior to being dispatched overseas, was a luxury for Hughes. He was supplied with art materials, given time to paint and was provided with food and shelter.

In 1942, Hughes went to England as one of the first official war artists with a new rank of Second Lieutenant. He soon found that he had to adapt his style of production. In the end, he acquired the method of gathering sufficient field notes that would allow him to develop them into paintings later in a studio setting. This became the approach for all of his future works.

From England, he was posted to Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands (Alaska) in 1943 with the rank of Lieutenant. In 1944, he was promoted to captain, and posted to Ottawa. Here he was able to develop finished paintings from his field studies.

For six years during WWII, Mr. Hughes worked as an official war artist. Although this job sounds like an easy assignment compared to the duties of a soldier on the front line, Hughes took it very seriously. He felt privileged to be a war artist, but he also felt a sense of deep responsibility. In a 1979 interview, Hughes recalled his war service as an official artist: "I was working day and night. In fact sometimes I was working so hard I was wishing that I was a combat soldier. They at least had a lot of time off to rest. I had no time to rest. As soon as I woke up in the morning, I had to be looking for subject matter

continuously, until dark."

The subjects of his war paintings are representative of soldiers going about their daily business. His work was done far from the front line and does not show the "suffering and horror" of war. He wanted to show that the soldiers did get to enjoy life a little bit behind the lines.

By the end of the war, he had produced an amazing collection of works that represented the war effort at home and abroad - more than one thousand drawings, numerous watercolours, a number of oil sketches, and thirty complete paintings. Most of this work belongs to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

E.J. Hughes, seeking a tranquil place to live and paint, settled at Shawnigan Lake a few years after his discharge from the military in 1946.

Malahat Legion Branch 134

2014 was a good year for Royal Canadian Legion Branch 134. The Branch celebrated its 80th anniversary with a number of functions this summer. This Branch has survived where others have closed. The Executive and some very dedicated members have found ways and means to keep this Branch alive

and kicking.

The first 80 years were primarily dedicated to Veterans and their families, celebrating all the good things and remembering the events that took place during those same years. World War II, Korea, Cyprus, Sinai, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Persian Gulf, and on-going

service in the Middle East. Another set of veterans and now very diverse in their ages. Veterans and active servicemen ranging in age from their early 20's up to 90 years of age. All are welcome in Legion Branches across the country including Malahat Branch 134.

This summer, at the National Convention, a decision was made to allow civilians to become members of the Royal Canadian Legion. This opens the doors of all Royal Canadian Legions to all Canadians. With the variety of programs that the Royal Canadian Legions run in their Branches, this gives lots of opportunities for new members.

The Legion has lots of requirements for volunteers for all of the various activities. Game nights, meat draws, dances etc. and days where we celebrate like Canada Day and, of course, Remembrance Day. These are significant days for all Legion Members. Poppy sales bring in significant funds that can be used for a number of our programs. We also donate money to various charities and organizations within our immediate area - money raised by our members and volunteers.

Come in and check us out. We think that you will like what you see.

The Poppy

Win Teague
Comrade

The poppy you wear in the days prior to and on Remembrance Day - how many of us know where or why this tradition started? I know that until this last week, I did not. I am also sure that there are many others out there do not know as well.

The poppy became widespread in Europe after soils in France and Belgium became rich in lime from debris and rubble from the fighting during the First World War. These little red flowers flourished around the gravesites of the war dead.

In 1915, John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Artillery, made note of this phenomenon in his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*.

On November 9, 1918, two days before the Armistice, Moina Michael was on duty in the reading room of the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries headquarters in New York - a place where U.S. servicemen would often gather with friends and family to say their goodbyes before they went overseas. After reading McCrae's poem, Moina made a personal pledge to always wear the red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance and for "keeping the faith with all who died."

In 1920, Anne Guerin - the French Poppy Lady - attended the national American Legion conven-

tion as a representative of France's YMCA Secretariat. She was inspired by Moina Michael's idea of a poppy as a memorial flower and felt the scope of the Memorial Poppy could be expanded to help the needy. She suggested that artificial poppies could be made and sold as a way to raising money for the benefit of orphaned children and others who had suffered greatly as a result of the war.

In 1921, Madame Guerin visited Canada and convinced the Great War Veterans Association of Canada (predecessor to the Royal Canadian Legion) to adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in aid of fundraising; which it did on July 5th of that year.

Today, the Poppy Campaign is one of the Royal Canadian Legion's most important programs. The money raised with donations provides direct assistance for Veterans in financial distress, as well as funding for medical equipment, medical research, home services, long term care facilities and many other purposes.

So between the last Friday in October and the 11th of November, when you see the cadet, Legion volunteer or any other volunteer helping your local Legion with their Poppy Campaign, please give generously and, of course, REMEMBER.

All Legions thank you for your generous contributions during this period.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

*Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae
May 3, 1915
2nd Battle of Ypres, Belgium*

We encourage people to wear a poppy and remember - as do we.

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