

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Four - Issue Eight

August 2014

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Shawnigan Lake Set for 5th Annual Heritage Inspire!fest

Sunday, August 17th
11:00 am ~ 3:30 pm
Elsie Miles Park

What is Heritage Inspire!fest all about? It's a collaboration between the Shawnigan Museum and Inspire! Shawnigan and its focus is on community, blending the past with the present, and having fun. This is an old-fashioned picnic style and "slow" event which means we've kept everything local. We've also recycled, re-purposed and borrowed what we needed to bring you a lot of fun activities without spending a lot of money. From a 1908 kayaker to the 2014 stand-up paddleboarder, from vintage laundry to acrobatic yoga, we have an amazing blend of yesterday and today for you.

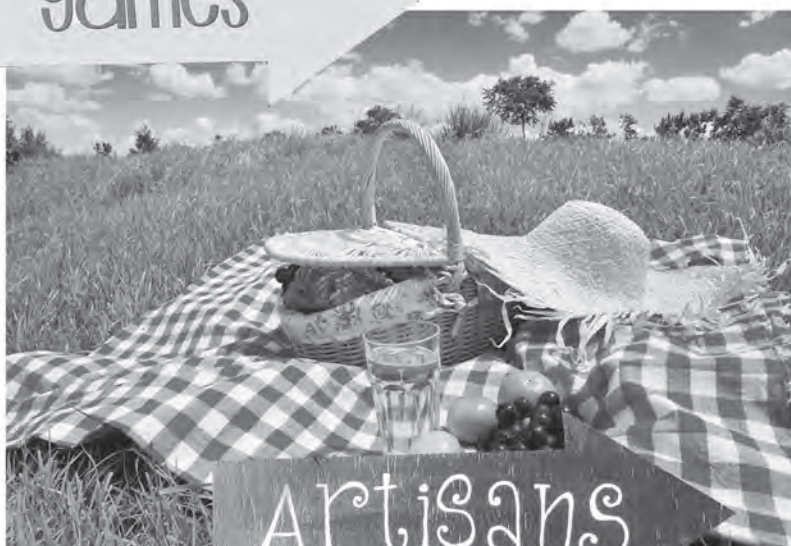
Pack a picnic or buy a lunch there. Bring a chair or blanket ~ it doesn't matter which, just don't miss it.

More information: www.inspireshawnigan.com

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AUGUST 2014

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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.

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Views expressed in articles and letters are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.
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WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...
EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

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accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published.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.

It's freakin' hot out there!

If you have to go out leave your dog at home so you don't have to leave it in your car when you run your errands. Within 10 minutes the temperature in your car will rise 10 degrees even with your window cracked open a bit. If you doubt that try sitting in your car for at least 10 minutes (the average time it takes to run an errand) and see if you can stand it. The excuse that your dog has water or is in the shade is lame and doesn't justify anything. If someone approaches you about it and you get defensive and come up with a litany of lame excuses it's because you KNOW you're lame and guilty of cruelty to your animal and everyone around knows it too. There is NO excuse for leaving your dog in a hot car EVER!

If you don't believe me do some research and educate yourself. If you leave your dog in your car, one day you may be paying the price (a sick or dead dog or a smashed in window and the police on your tail). Do yourself and your dog a favour and leave pooch at home.

Here are some links with information about what it's like for a dog left in a car:

<http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animal-issues/cruel-practices/dog-hot-car/>
<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/pet-care/health-safety/dogs-in-hot-cars.html>
<http://www.asPCA.org/blog/it-takes-only-minutes-please-dont-leave-pets-hot-cars>

~Lindsey Henderson

Greetings fellow boaters and lake residents.

The purpose of my message

is not to offend anyone but instead to hopefully raise awareness to the effects that huge wakes are having on our shoreline, docks and boats. Plowing with any boat, but especially with a deep hauled or heavily ballasted boat, is leaving destruction in their wakes. There are areas on Shawnigan Lake that are too narrow to allow the waves to dissipate prior to hitting docks and the shoreline. Please encourage friends and neighbors to keep these large wakes and consequent waves to open water. The West Arm, the South end and the shores along narrow water ways are getting trashed along with the property attached.

~N. Lounsbury

CVRD's annual wage bill has doubled in the past ten years

Nobody should be surprised that the CVRD board and staff want to carry on as usual with excessive salaries and increases, year after year with no consideration for the taxpayer's ability to pay. The Board's salary review committee never cared one whit about the reality of continually increasing our taxes to support grossly overpaid positions in the CVRD compared to local wages and costs of living where the average Cowichan incomes are less than \$40,000 per year. The CVRD never talked to any taxpayers and never met with anyone from the local private sector on this issue.

The CVRD's annual wage bill has doubled in the past ten years to \$15 million with 55 staff making more than \$75,000. Half of those collect more than \$100,000 and on top of that employees billed taxpayers on CVRD credit cards more than \$247,000 in extra expenses last year. The

CVRD committee only talked to insiders who have a vested interest to keep salaries increasing every year oblivious to the local economy. There are no positions unfilled in the CVRD because nobody wanted the job.

These insiders always promote the "comparator" model because it allows them to cherry-pick the highest paying jurisdictions to base their pay increase recommendations on and ignore our specific community interests and realities.

What is so shocking is that the CVRD politicians did such an amateur job in representing taxpayers on this committee! Do we really have to pay the guy running the money losing transit system or parks and trails or arena managers more than \$100,000 per year or the CAO more than \$200,000? We need some genuine public oversight on this whole salary mess in the CVRD!

Both the federal and provincial governments don't use this comparator relic because it is so damaging to taxpayers and ignores the very generous benefits and pensions we also pay for. The CVRD continues to use this old system because it works very well for the staff and nails the taxpayer who could only dream of such a compensation package.

What is particularly galling is this CVRD committee also crawled into the public trough itself to add generous benefits to their own Director's pay packet, which totalled \$433,000 last year, with expenses. I guess they figured that if they are continuing the gravy train for staff they should also hop on and make the taxpayer pick up their benefit costs too.

~W.E. (Bill) Dumont



Shawnigan Moments
~Neal McPherson with his big catch

Shawnigan Weather July 2014

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Average High	22.9	26.8	27.2	25.8	25.3	26.7	26.5	25.8	24.9
Average Low	11.7	13.1	12.7	12.7	11.5	13.7	13.0	13.3	12.5
Extreme High	37.2	34.1	33.3	34.6	32.3	35.8	32.8	33.5	31.5
Extreme Low	3.9	8.4	9.1	8.4	7.6	10.8	10.3	10.0	10.0
Precipitation	24.7	9.4	1.5	7.8	1.0	6.4	0.2	9.2	0.8
Days w precip	6	5	1	5	2	5	1	4	3
Precip since Oct 1 (mm)	1019.8	938.7	1449.1	837.2	1179.2	753.5	1163.4	820.9	1143.7
Since 1914: 4 th warmest, 25 th driest									
Lake Temperature: July 6 th : 20° July 13 th : 25° July 20 th : 23° July 27 th : 24°									

Economic progress versus safe water

Sonia Furstenau
Op-Ed

The morning of July 25th, which was an unseasonably cool start to a summer day, six residents of Shawnigan Lake stood on Fort Street holding a large banner that read “Save Our Shawnigan Water”. But what most attracted the attention of the people walking by, and of the media, was that the people holding the sign were wearing only their bathing suits.

This was an effective strategy to bring attention to an issue that has been occupying Shawnigan for over two years: the very serious and very real threat of the proposed contaminated soil site in our watershed.

July 25th and 26th were the final two days of the Environmental Appeal Board hearings of the appeal of the permit granted to South Island Aggregates (SIA) to bring five million tonnes of contaminated soil to their quarry site on Stebbings Road, at the location of the headwaters of Shawnigan Creek.

This threat to our drinking water has brought the community together in unprecedented ways. We have gathered for community meetings, protests, and fundraisers. We have written letters to the government, we have spoken up in the media, and we have had countless conversations with each other. One purpose unites us: protecting our drinking water.

Ultimately, this purpose connects us to many other communities who face the same threat.

Residents of Toledo, Ohio were told this week not to drink or even have contact with their tap water due to contamination from microcystin, a dangerous toxin that can cause liver damage, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, and dizziness. It also causes the water to burn skin on contact. The toxin is in the water because of an algae bloom in Lake Erie, caused by runoff from industrial agricultural lands that use excessive levels of fertilizers. The people of Toledo are being told to only drink bottled water.

Also this week, the residents of Likely BC now face the catastrophic and tragic event that we in Shawnigan most fear. A breach of the Pol-



ley Mines tailing pond has released 10 million cubic metres of toxic waste into the waterways that feed Quesnel Lake. The effluent contains mercury, arsenic, and lead. The people of Likely are being told to only drink bottled water.

Closer to home, the Cowichan River is experiencing an historic drought – without rain soon, parts of the river may dry up. The salmon are already dying, due to low water levels and high water temperatures. Residents are facing strict water restrictions, but it may be too little too late for the river.

There are water issues everywhere, and an increasing sense that for many people, there may indeed be not a drop to drink.

Just as we have fought back in Shawnigan, communities are coming together to try to protect their water – with mixed results.

In Christina Lake, BC, residents successfully fought off a petroleum-based industrial waste “recycling” proposed by the company Aquilini. The community’s united resistance resulted in the company withdrawing its proposal.

In Ristigouche, Quebec, the community passed a bylaw that prevents oil and gas companies from drilling within two kilometres of municipal water sources. They are now facing a \$1.5 million lawsuit launched by Gastem, an oil and gas development company. The 168 residents of the town

are crowdfunding in order to cover their legal costs.

Here in BC, the provincial government has been complicit in the threats to drinking water. It was the Ministry of Environment that issued the permit that would allow SIA to bring 5 million tonnes of contaminated soil into our watershed. We have been raising funds in our community to pay for the legal fight against SIA and the Ministry of Environment.

We have learned that in the Mount Polley case, the mining company has ignored government requests to address potential weaknesses in their tailings pond retaining system. In his August 5th article in the Vancouver Sun, Stephen Hume points the blame at government, not industry. The many toxic spills from mines that we have seen in BC are a result not just of industry negligence, but also of the increasingly lax and ramshackle regulatory culture of the BC government, particularly within the Ministries of Mines and Environment. We have seen evidence of this lax culture in the evidence presented at the EAB hearings, where we learned of several instances of SIA’s non-compliance with their Mines permit.

It seems that we can no longer rely on the BC government to take protection of drinking water seriously, particularly in light of their frenzied promotion of LNG as the prime mover of the economy. The extraction and the shipping of LNG threaten all of BC’s water – first

through fracking, which is a potent threat to groundwater, and second through tankers navigating the perilous coastal waters. The spokesman for the natural gas industry, Minister Rich Coleman, claims that BC has “never had contamination from a [gas or oil] drill”. This is patently untrue – ten percent of all active and suspended gas wells in BC now leak methane gas – and further indication of how this government paves the way for destructive practices of industry.

It is also important to note that the government is willing to threaten the land, water, and air of BC for the sake of the smallest sectors of the economy. According to a recent report by Conversations for Responsible Economic Development, the oil and gas sector of the BC economy accounts for less than 3% of GDP for the province, and fewer than 1% of jobs; the mining sector accounts for even less than this – below 2% of GDP. It is real estate, financial, service, trade, construction, technology, and manufacturing sectors that are the engines of the BC economy, all of which will be at risk due to the reckless policies of a government hell-bent on drilling and mining.

What do we do in the face of government that will not protect the real interests of the people of BC? As we have seen in Shawnigan, a community’s vigilance and activism is essential for its long-term survival. Com-

municating with each other, gathering together, and developing a positive vision of our future as a community are essential elements of our capacity to thrive, especially in an environment where the provincial government cannot be relied on to act in our best interests.

Sources:

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Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, dreams are forever - Walt Disney

Waterfront Road-Ends

Lois Morrow
SRA Director

Anyone who enjoys boating or swimming in Shawnigan Lake, picnicking along the shores, or simply admiring a sunset from the beach received some good news at the July 22 Electoral Area Services meeting of the CVRD. At that meeting directors voted to proceed with obtaining three permits to construct Beach Access Parks at the Verlon Road, Trenant Road, and Millicent Road road ends, and to proceed with a feasibility study for Bellendean Road.

The road end at Verlon Road is slated for construction of three to four vehicle parking stalls, plus a safe trail with stairs leading to the lake. The road end at Trenant Road will

have a path developed, with stairs to provide access down the slope to the lake. The road end at Millicent Road will have a pedestrian path leading to a suitable location for swimming at the end of the right of way. All funding will come from the Area B Parks Commission budget.

This all seems fairly straightforward but it is not, for several reasons. First, because Shawnigan Lake is an electoral area and not a municipality, jurisdiction over all roads and road ends belongs to the Ministry of Transportation. Any construction of these Access Parks must take place in conjunction with, and after obtaining the agreement of, this provincial department. Five road ends, the four previ-

ously mentioned as well as Butler Roadside, were recently released for local development after being identified by the Area B Parks Commission. (Butler Roadside was assessed as having no development opportunities, primarily because of multiple privately built encumbrances which would require a sorting out of jurisdiction).

Second, the Shawnigan Improvement District is a separate government entity which must be included in any decision making regarding road ends. The District is responsible for providing two service functions: street lighting and firefighting, and obviously they require access through the road ends for their vehicles as well as to be

able to pump lake water for firefighting purposes. Sixteen road ends are currently designated as access points for Shawnigan's Fire Department.

Finally the Area B Parks Commission, made up of residents appointed by the Area Director and chaired by Margaret Symon, has been attempting for many years to take over management of all seventy-four road ends around our lake. Residents of Shawnigan will be familiar with two long standing road end developments at Recreation Road and the Village Boat Launch, and slowly (very slowly) others are being transferred to local management.

The Shawnigan Residents Association was formed

almost twenty years ago as a group of lakefront property owners, and although our association has evolved to represent the interests of all residents of Area B, we recognize that Shawnigan Lake itself will always be the jewel within our community. Careful development around the lake and within the watershed will always be a priority for the Association, as it is for all community members.

Not every road end can, nor should, be made accessible to the public. These three new access points were identified as priorities by the Area B Parks Commission. The Shawnigan Residents Association supports their efforts to press for local control of the road ends around our lake.

The new W-4 Zone

During the May 14, 2014 CVRD board meeting, the CVRD adopted a new zone that covers the water off the end of many of the undeveloped road-ends around Shawnigan Lake.

Most of these road-ends were surveyed as part of the early subdivision of the land, back in the 1920s. They are, on average, about every 1,000 hundred feet around the lake. Some are as little as 300 feet apart. The Ministry of Highways owns the land

itself - the lake bottom off the end of the road-end is owned by Timberwest (left over from the original E&N railway land grant). (See also the article in this issue by Lois Morrow - Waterfront Road-Ends.)

People have put docks and other permanent structures on some road-ends. These permanent structures have been the subject of several articles in the Shawnigan Focus over the years. (See June 2011, October 2011, April 2012). Road-ends have also been a

hot topic with the Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission for years. (Search for Shawnigan Lake road-ends to satisfy your curiosity. This search should find both Parks Commission minutes and Focus articles.)

As of May 14, almost all of these docks are illegal. A total of 59 road-ends have been rezoned to W-4. There are over 70 road-ends, so a few escaped the W-4 rezoning.

The zone does not affect the land. It only affects the water, for 30 metres from the shore

(high water, low water?).


The new zoning defines Permitted and Prohibited uses. Permitted uses include "Passive recreation". Prohibited uses - this is the big deal - include all "privately owned floats, piles, docks, wharves and similar moorage structures".

Many people have put docks and even boat shelters on these road-ends. The bylaw that rezoned all of this water does not mention grandfathering any of these existing

docks, so all will have to be removed.

The CVRD appears to be prepared to enforce this bylaw. It is taking one resident who has a dock and boat shelter on a road-end to court. It must be mentioned that the person they have decided to sue is a member of the Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission and a long-time advocate for bylaw enforcement relating to both docks on road ends and docks and boat shelters elsewhere in the lake (off private land).

This boat was abandoned at the Recreation Rd. boat launch about 3 weeks ago. Serial # dcl1 13536. This is the 2nd boat removed from a CVRD park. The approximate cost to parks to date for removal of abandoned boats and docks this year - \$2800 (your tax dollars at work)



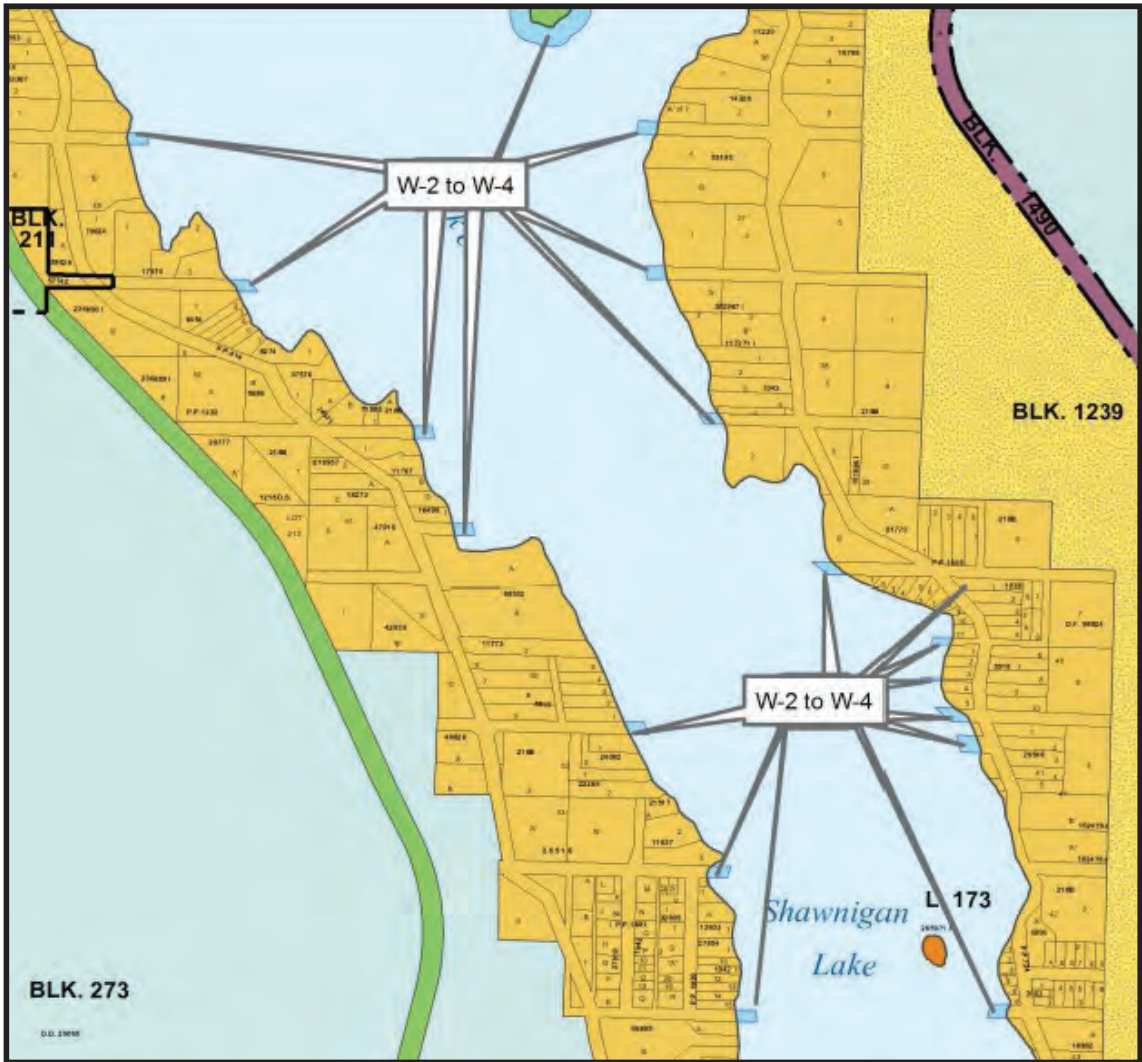
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South End road-ends. See BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com for 4 zoning maps.

Is Mt Polley a lesson for Shawnigan?

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

Collapse of the Mt. Polley Mine tailings pond containment dam is the most recent example of failure of an engineered structure. Explanations now appearing in print are suggesting that while once adequate, the tailings pond was being regularly filled beyond the permitted capacity, thus weakening its earth filled dam. Repeated and apparently ignored warnings from the Ministry of Environment, a warning report from a consultant and concern of the local First Nation did nothing to change the level of risk that was being created. A number of self-reporting requirements were apparently not met as expected from the mine's permit.

Watching the aerial footage of the results taken from a helicopter chartered by the Cariboo Regional District makes clear both the extent of the toxic discharge and the devastation of its track down Hazeltine Creek to Quesnel Lake. Witnesses are exclaim-

ing how fortunate it is that no-one appears to have been hurt directly by the release, but the village of Likely is talking about becoming a ghost town. Ironically this is not just about the contamination of the water supply but is also about the loss of mine employment, damage to tourism businesses and the spectre of falling land and house values. Further downstream in the Quesnel and Caribou Rivers, leading to the Fraser River, concerns are occurring about water quality both for people and the annual salmon run.

The "surprised" mining company president says, euphemistically, that the now empty holding pond has "stabilized" and anyway only contained water that meets "near" drinking water standards and that he would be happy to drink it. (we get to choose the sample, he gets to drink it) After all, he says, the mercury, arsenic and heavy metals were only contained in the silt, not the water. The aerial footage shows that many tons of silt were also discharged

in the slurry that went downstream. He also suggested that the company would clean up the spill where it left the tailings pond. The aerial view would suggest that the damage is more likely to be irremediable. To cap the sense of avoided responsibility, our Minister of Mines suggests "this should never have happened". Indeed!

The damage extends to the wildland economy of First Nations, the economic security of communities, the safety of drinking water supplies and the survival of commercial fishery stocks. Contamination of the creek channel and the downstream lake and river systems is much more than these immediately obvious results. It is an assault on every living thing in its path, on whole ecosystems, not just people and their infrastructure. Contamination, even that which appears to be there in small amounts in human terms, can accumulate over time in food chains and spread throughout the flora and fauna of the area.

Is this an instructive parallel story to our Shawnigan battle with the contaminated waste permit for the Stebbings Road Quarry? The quarry lies immediately upstream from a public water supply. Its containment is dependent on an engineered system expected to last for over 50 years without a failure and then long after the operations cease and the company disappears. The operating company will be expected never to overload the pit with contaminated material, however lucrative, or to scrimp on costly safety measures. The operating company will self-monitor and self-report on environmental risks. The Ministry of Environment will be depended upon to ensure compliance with permit conditions. A failure would have devastating impacts on a community water supply, a fishery, tourism, recreation and property values. Contamination of an aquifer is essentially irremediable. Local people will be left holding the bag.

Trust us. This should never happen. Sound familiar?

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The Malahat Nation's Kwunew Kwasun Cultural Centre

Ashley Harry
Shawnigan Basin Society Intern

"Kwunew Kwasun" means "To Catch a Start"

The Malahat Nation held their first fundraiser for the Cultural Centre last November at Brentwood College where they held a silent and live auction. Our guest speaker was a famous Native American actor, Adam Beach. The Malahat Nation had some youth from the Nation volunteer for the event, and they coordinated with Brentwood College and their students. There were many companies and guests who attended this event and helped with the fundraiser. Their efforts will always be recognised and appreciated by the Malahat Nation.

This year the Malahat Nation will be holding their second annual fundraiser at Brentwood College to contribute to the Endowment Fund. It will also be a celebration for those who attended and donated at the first fundraiser. There will be live and silent auctions, as well as local culture and culinary arts with food dishes, including a three course dinner.

This year's special guests will be Dr. Robert Thirsk, a renowned Canadian astronaut, and Crystal Shawanda, from an Ontario reservation, who will contribute an acoustical performance. Both special guests believe in guiding young people to become accomplished and successful!

The Malahat Nation will use the Kwunnew Kwasun Cultural Center to strengthen the cultural and educational value in the community. The Cultural Center will bring opportunities like helping bring literacy development, and will also be used for pre-school programming. The grand opening was on August 6th.

The tickets for spots at this annual event are limited and can be purchased at the Malahat band office. Early bird tickets are two-hundred dollars, late bird tickets are two hundred fifty. The event will take place November 1st 2014.

Shawnigan Lake water levels

You may have heard about the water shortage in the Cowichan Lake Watershed. In short, there is insufficient water stored in Cowichan Lake to maintain the needed flow of water down the Cowichan River.

Shawnigan Lake is in a very different situation. First, in order to have sufficient water behind the weir in Lake Cowichan to meet their dry season needs, they must have quite a bit of snow in the hills around the lake on May 1. Usually this snow melts in May and continues to fill the lake. They had a

much reduced snow pack this year.

Summer water management in Shawnigan Lake is not dependent on snow pack at all. Which is a good thing, since we have had so little snow over the last few years.

Second, Cowichan Lake has very high demands on water flowing out of the lake and down the river all summer long. In Shawnigan Lake, we release a very small volume of water into Shawnigan Creek, but far, far less than Cowichan River. The water release is so small that parts of Shawnigan

Creek go dry some years.

There are other differences that make our situation very different from Lake Cowichan, all of which suggest we are much less likely to get into a water crisis.

Water levels in Shawnigan Lake are normal for this time of year. We are at Stage 2 water use restrictions, but this is normal not a crisis.

If everyone behaves as they have in the past, all should be well. If everyone tries a little harder to be a little nicer to the watershed, all would be great!

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Shawnigan National Water Research Project

Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi
CVRD Water Management

Shawnigan Lake is quickly becoming a hub for water quality research and stewardship initiatives. In the past 5 years, researchers and students from across Canada have been attracted to study its history and management as a prominent drinking water source and summertime recreational destination.

Among these researchers are Dr. Madjid Mohseni, UBC professor and scientific director for the RES'EAUWaterNET(a national research network based at UBC), and his colleagues Dr. Benoit Barbeau of Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Dr. Asit Mazumder of University of Victoria and their associated Masters and PhD students. This team of scientists, along with engineers from Veolia Water, are studying the quality of water in Shawnigan Lake, factors changing water quality and how to best protect and/or treat this water so it continues to be a safe source for drinking.

Climate is changing; more people are visiting and moving to Shawnigan Lake for its natural beauty, vibrancy



and location. Activities like forestry and agriculture leave their mark as well. The many small (and big) activities that take place in the watershed and on the lake accumulate to create a much bigger impact. These impacts are amplified by the effects of climate change. The lake may seem big, but it is not big enough to negate these impacts and keep the water pristine.

Consequently, Shawnigan Lake's water (like all surface water sources) should be

treated in order to ensure drinking water safety¹. Community treatment systems are expensive, however, and an even bigger burden to bear when costs are shared amongst a smaller group (as is the case with Shawnigan's community water systems).

What technology should be used will be the focus of research by Dr. Mohseni, Dr. Barbeau and Veolia Water, who are working together under RES'EAUWaterNET. Small water systems face unique challenges and this

team will be developing recommendations to advise on the most effective way (both in terms of cost and water quality) to ensure the continued delivery of safe drinking water in the face of evolving drinking water standards and changes in raw water quality. Additional, ongoing research on the impacts of climate change and sources of pollution is being led by Dr. Mazumder, with funding from the CVRD's South Cowichan Water Study, in order to inform how to best

address pollution and protect the lake.

A small troupe of inquisitive scientists and a large trailer housing a pilot scale, mobile water treatment plant will be arriving at Mason's Beach Park by late September 2014. The pilot will sample water directly from the lake throughout different weather and seasonal conditions and test the performance of different technologies that are geared towards meeting local needs. Both trailer and scientists will be in the community for 6 – 8 months. After field testing, findings and recommendations will be shared with the CVRD and the community. Questions are welcome and those curious can contact Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi at the CVRD Water Management Division at edy@cvrld.bc.ca or 250-746-2530. The CVRD is proud to have the endorsement of the Shawnigan Residents Association, and the Shawnigan Basin Society for this project. For more information on RES'EAU-WaterNET, visit www.reseauwaternet.ca.

(Endnotes)

¹ <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/pdf/how-safe-is-your-water.pdf>

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RES'EAU team members L-R: Dr. Mohseni (UBC), Dr. Barbeau (Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal), Edith LaFlamme (Veolia Water), Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi (CVRD Water Management), Lisa Rodgers (MSc student under Dr. Mazumder), Todd Etherington (CVRD Water Management)



How did the chickens cross the Lake?

Strange, but true - at least 3 roosters and a hen were abandoned on Memory Island.

A rooster chorus serenaded residents in the area for days, but it is now quiet. Hopefully, the flock found a happy home.

Dwight School Canada buzzing, even during the summer months

Michelle Andruskievicz
Dwight International School

While most staff and students are away with family and friends during this summer break, many other students have come to enjoy summer programs at Dwight. This year there were several summer offerings. Two Dwight Global Leadership Academy camps attracted 46 and 20 students respectively, representing 19 different nations across the two camps includ-

ing New Zealand, Romania, Peru, Uruguay, USA, Canada, Ghana, Russia, Japan, China, Korea, and England. Participants spent meaningful time at Our Ecovillage, Woodwynn Farms, and enjoyed powerful presentations by Tim Cormode (Power to Be), among others. This is the 5th year of the leadership program where students develop important leadership skills including how to identify and plan their own service project which many will execute

upon return to their home communities. Some students stayed on to experience Canadian culture in the English as a Second Language program.

In August, a group of 22 Chinese students from Xi'an China began a 2 week tour in Toronto with a stop in Vancouver to finish at Dwight where they were introduced to the IB diploma programme and post-secondary opportunities in Canada. There are also 17 students studying high school courses to

either fill gaps or get ahead in meeting their graduating requirements.

With the approaching school year, Andrea Spinner, Principal, is making plans for new courses in computer programs and accelerated math labs. Her hopes for the coming school year are to continue supporting Dwight students with creating links between their academic studies and the community, and to continue to support students explore ways to contribute to the larger community.

Happy 100th, Frances Oldham Kelsey

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Lake Museum

It seems that there is some confusion over where Frances Kelsey grew up. A recent editorial in the Cowichan Valley Citizen says that Frances Oldham was born in Shawnigan Lake or Cobble Hill or Duncan or Chemainus. In fact, she was born on a large property in the vicinity of Plumtree Road and Shawnigan Lake Road which technically is, and was then, part of Shawnigan Lake. The Oldham's are listed in early Shawnigan Lake Directories. The misunderstanding starts

with the fact that the telephone book, even now, lists everyone in Shawnigan under "Cobble Hill" because the original telephone exchange for the area was in Cobble Hill. In addition, the Oldham's picked up their mail at the Cobble Hill post office. Many Shawnigan residents still get their mail from the Cobble Hill post office.

Frances Oldham was born July 24, 1914 at the family home, "Balognie". Her parents settled there in 1911. Her father was a retired Colonel from the British Army who had been in service for 20 years in India. Frances

went to Leinster Preparatory School in Shawnigan Lake from 1922-1925 until the school closed. She moved to St. George's School in Victoria until it closed in 1928. She then attended St. Margaret's School in Victoria until 1931, From 1931- 32 she attended Victoria College before going to McGill.

Kelsey went to work with the US Food and Drug Administration in 1960 and was assigned to the Thalidomide application. She was responsible for preventing the marketing of the drug in the US and received the President's

Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1962. Over the years, she has received many more honours and awards, including an honorary Doctorate from Vancouver Island University; a school that bears her name in the Cowichan Valley; an annual award that the FDA named after her; and her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

On July 24, 2014, Frances Kelsey Oldham turned 100. She continues to live in the US but we are honoured that this remarkable woman was born and raised in our own backyard.

SRA Report

Al Brunet
Shawnigan Residents Association

Municipal Status:

The difficulties experienced by the residents of Shawnigan Lake in the recent past have prompted many to ask if a different form of local government might better serve and protect the residents.

To that end, the SRA has offered to sponsor an independent committee to look into all aspects of attaining municipal status for Shawnigan. The committee is charged with investigating all the pros and cons, including sensible borders, taxes, revenue & expenses, policing, road maintenance, and the myriad of other items that make up Municipal Government. If, after the committee work is done, it appears that municipal status would be advantageous, the SRA would recommend it to the people and push the Province for a referendum.

The committee will hold its first meeting in September and will choose its own executive. It is hoped that people with expertise in law, civic and provincial government, research, planning, management, and citizens at large will volunteer their time and/or opinions to this group.

Contact Al Brunet at 250-686-2904 to be included, or for more information.


Membership:

It has always been important to be a member of the SRA but now, with the possibility of a major political change in Shawnigan, and its effect on home ownership and all connected to it, your membership will ensure that you get your say. You can sign up on the SRA website, with your credit card, at: www.thesra.ca. The "take action" tab at the top of the page will take you to membership. Call on your neighbours and invite them to also join.

Contaminated Soil Hearings:

The contaminated soil/Environmental Appeal Board hearings have come to an end and now we wait for a verdict. The Association is very proud of how its lawyers represented our wishes. Our next move will depend on the verdict but it should not be a surprise that, if we lose the decision, we will be ready to jump back into the ring.


This has been a very costly battle for our community and there are still huge amounts of money to raise in order to pay the bills. The SRA, along with the legal team, fought a long and difficult battle for Shawnigan Lake citizens. Now that we have proven that we would not let you down, we need you to help fund the balance. Remember, nobody funds the SRA but its members and supporters. There are no government contributions. Please dig in! Again, you can donate on the website with your credit card.



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Ed Wiebe
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Summer is for Relaxing

After a very busy June, many of our activities closed down for July and

August or went into a relaxed and informal mode. A group of us packed a picnic lunch and carpooled to Beacon Hill Park. The computer group still meets every other week even though many members are off

visiting relatives on the mainland or out of province. The photography people are taking advantage of the great weather and are going on field trips with cameras to practice photography skills.

The walking groups are still stretching their legs every Monday even when the temperature goes into the mid-twenties. The men recently walked behind Shawnigan Beach Estates to the Kinsol Trestle and back. Our GPS tracker showed just under 13 km.

When you read this article around the 15th of this month, we will be busy planning activities for the coming season starting in the beginning of September. Here is a partial list of our groups or activities: Walking, Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Zumba, Computers, Photography, Canasta, Chess, Crafts, Quilting, Fun Art, besides our regular meetings and sit-down Dinners.

One new program we will be offering starting September 10 is Beginning Computing. This will be a series of sessions designed with the senior in mind who wants to learn enough about computing to keep in touch with family members, do emails and learn how to use the internet in a safe manner. We will provide laptop computers or you can bring your own. Enrollment will be offered to our YSAGS members and also non-members for the first three sessions. Mike is the group leader for this activity. For more information, you can contact him at: 250 743 8892.

We have a Blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> where you can see and read about some of our activities or phone Ed: 250 743 8344 for more information.

YSAGS dues are \$20 a year and that allows you to participate in all of the above mentioned activities.

Take a Hike!

Robyn Massey
Shawnigan Focus

If you live in or around Arbutus Ridge, you may be familiar with a place named after one of the first farmers who used what was called “practical agriculture”. This area near Cowichan Bay was known as Harrisville in 1863. I’ve been scouring the internet to find out what exactly is meant by “practical agriculture”. Although a precise definition was not found, I

gather that William Manley Sr. was a great advocate for rural farming to grow sustainable foods that contribute to sustainable families and communities, rather than relying on big agricultural companies to provide.

According to information on the CVRD’s website, the 200 acre waterfront farm that Manley called home was named Springvale. In 1991 the CVRD completed work on the 5 acres that we now

know as Manley Creek Park after being granted authorization to develop a park and trails with beach access.

Manley Creek is a wonderful trail hidden in a quaint enchanted forest at the end of Ratcliffe Road past the Arbutus Ridge community. The trails weave in and out along Manley Creek which has gorgeous waterfalls and pooling areas. All the trails funnel to a set of steep, but manageable, stairs down to the expansive

rocky beach down below.

The park links the trails together with the most adorable bridges that allow for pause while you take in the magnificent vegetation and photo opportunities of nature. Offside the trail, in very special areas, are a few picnic spots with tables perched perfectly having a spectacular ocean view in mind when constructed.

The grade of the trail can be quite steep in some places with some pretty decent inclines and/or declines - we do recommend good sturdy footwear to keep you upright and safe.

There are a couple of ways to get to Manley Creek Park

and its trails. As mentioned above, you may access the park from the end of Ratcliffe Road past Arbutus Ridge Golf course and the Arbutus Ridge Community. Another way is to access it from the end of Aros Road through Granfield Way which connect the two.

It is a great place for everyone, including dogs and little ones. Enjoy this one, I know I do!

Robin is part of the ‘Iron Butt’s’ which is a Sunday group of hikers of all ages, stages and levels. Find them www.theomtree.com to get out in to our backyard and see what’s there for you!



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Victoria-Aqua-Ski-Club Novice Tournament



Young Dallon Foreman makes an impressive leap during the jumping event for the annual Victoria-Aqua-Ski-Club Novice Tournament, held at Shawnigan Lake on the weekend of August 10-11. ~ Photo by Dave Hutchinson

How being a father can help us get to know ourselves

Ben Kotler
Local Counsellor

I've had the chance this summer to really immerse myself into the experience of parenting my almost-two year old daughter. To be honest, being a father has been one of the most joyful experiences of my life, and I feel blessed to have my daughter in my life. It also feels like an ongoing ride of surfing the emotional waves of my daughter's developing personhood. And as there are fewer and fewer moments to stop and indulge myself in my own wants and needs, it has been an interesting exercise in watching the aspects of my own character and personality that are triggered by the way parenting stretches my physical and mental boundaries.

As a psychotherapist, I often talk to men who are fathers that love their children, but are also forced to look at their own thoughts, feelings, and behavior that are stirred up when they are confronted with the beautiful chaos that children bring into our lives. Children, of course, make demands based on their basic needs. And these needs are constantly changing as they develop. As parents, it can be difficult for us to adapt to the everchanging patterns that

children go through. Combined this with fatigue and the ordinary stresses of life that we face when we have a family, we can sometimes get triggered and feel frustration and anger rise up inside.

Being triggered by interactions with our children can elicit feelings of guilt or remorse. And while it's important to minimize the impact of our frustration on our children, if we take the time to evaluate the spectrum of feelings that happen during these moments we can make them into opportunities to gain insight into some of the forces at play in our own minds. We can ask ourselves questions like these:

- ★ Am I overly stressed or overwhelmed in my life right now?
- ★ Do I feel a need to control my child?
- ★ Are there other things I am angry about, and is this spark just igniting some festering feelings?
- ★ Is there something about this situation that reminds me of an event or events in my own childhood?

When we get disturbed by interactions in any relationship we have a tendency to blame the person we are relat-

ing with. This can be especially true with children, as they can communicate with us in a way that is raw and uncensored. But besides being the gift of joy and love that children are, they also have

the ability to probe our emotional vulnerabilities. And for those men who are prepared to take up the challenge, understanding our reactions to children can help us reflect on the emotional forces that are

at play underneath the surface of our lives.

Ben Kotler is a Registered Clinical Counsellor with a counselling practice in Shawnigan Lake.



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Shawnigan Mud Mulisha Mud Run



Mud Run Participants - From Left: Scott Cadwallader, Will Ashworth and Tyson Airaksinen - Photos by Taryn Treloar

Getting muddy and loving every second!

- ★ *"I'm a guy that really enjoys activities such as running, biking, hiking, circuit training and lifting weights and I do them regularly, but when I stumbled across this event "Mud Mulisha" I had no idea what to expect. It was my first time experiencing anything like this. While filled with adrenaline and testosterone, I also felt like a kid again, playing in the mud and getting dirty - I loved it!! I was on a team of 5 and we all worked as a team to make sure everyone completed all the challenges -23 in total. I would also like to say that the event was really well organized and all the volunteers, organizers, sponsors and everyone competing were completely amazing, Mud Mulisha was a great experience and I will be returning."*
- **Tyson Airaksinen**
- ★ *"AWESOME!!! I want the season's pass to this place, I could run this everyday!!!"* - **Scott Cadwallander**



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Department Members Attended 17 Calls in July

- ★ Friday, July 4 – 1st Responder in Arbutus Mountain Estates
- ★ Tuesday, July 8 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, July 8 – MVI on Thain Road
- ★ Friday, July 11 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Friday, July 11 – Lift Assist on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 12 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 12 – Mutual Aid with Malahat Fire- Bush Fire
- ★ Tuesday, July 15 – Bush Fire on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 16 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 19 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 21 – 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Monday, July 21 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, July 21 – Assistance - Sylvester Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 23 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Thursday, July 24 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 28 – 1st Responder on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 29 – Mutual Aid with Mill Bay Fire for a Lift Assist



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Shawnigan Focus

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
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www.fraserforshawnigan.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
- ★ **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 Tuesday each month 7pm at the Village Chipperry
- ★ **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)**
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- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
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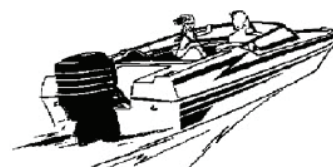
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Contaminated Waste Permit Status - Aug 2014

Brent Beach Shawnigan Focus

The Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) hearings into the appeal of the permit allowing South Island Aggregates (SIA) to bring contaminated waste into the Shawnigan Community Watershed have ended. Oral arguments were presented on July 24 by the appellants - Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA), CVRD, John Hayes, Richard Sanders. On July 25 by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and SIA.

We now await the decision of the EAB. In looking through EAB decisions for the last few years, I find none that are comparable or treat any related matters. Most are conducted entirely through written submissions and argue only points of law. I did not find any that consider the Professional Reliance Model now used by the MoE. Or any that included expert scientific evidence. The past cannot be used to predict how long the EAB will take to make a decision.

Peer Review

The scientific method is based on peer review. People conduct experiments, describe their methods in detail, describe their results in detail. The peer reviewer (one with suitable qualifications and knowledge of the area) has all the information needed to make an assessment of the published results.

The Handbook for Statutory Decision Makers requires that the science be peer reviewable. We know from the hearing that the evidence was not peer reviewable. In fact, the SIA engineers often said that peer reviews were wrong because the reviewer had no access to site specific data they had used but not published. In other cases, experts for the appellants stated on the stand that parts of the design were not peer reviewable.

So, what was the argument advanced by the MoE lawyers on peer reviewability? "The Director's position is that AEE's work was peer reviewable."

No explanation of why, just the word of the director.

A Learning Process

The process is superficially attractive. Step 1 - get the best

science, including peer review. Step 2 - monitor operation, detection any deviation from the specification. Step 3 - modify the process to correct those deviations. The process is attractive because this is how people learn.

However, as carried out in the case of this Contaminated Waste Permit, the process is failing.

Step 1 failed: the Director was indifferent to the quality of the science being put forward, both before the permit was issued and during the hearing. The Director appears to be relying on steps 2 and 3 to correct deficiencies in the science.

Step 2 failed: every monitoring system put in place to date has been incorrectly installed. The only way the failures were detected was through the intervention of the experts hired by the residents. Experts hired by the residents repeatedly stated that the monitoring systems in place are not sufficient to detect failures.

Step 3 is bound to fail: it assumes that SIA will comply with direction from the Ministry. SIA has not complied with a removal order from the Contaminated Sites Remediation branch for over 3 years. It continues to deny it has contaminated fill on the neighbouring property. It continues to deny it has violated the property line with the CVRD land to the west of its property. It continues to deny that its settling pond violates the 5 metre buffer of undisturbed land at the property line. It continues to be in violation of the requirement on slope of land at the property line.

The National Energy Board has put real teeth into the compliance requirements for the Northern Gateway pipeline. The company must put up enough cash - not a letter of credit - to pay for cleanup of any failure. The NEB will do the cleanup using that money if the company does not react quickly enough. We need similar powers here.

MoE has been sitting on the Mount Polley tailings pond problem since 2009. It has warned the company, but did not demand compliance, or simply fix the problem with company money. We can ex-

pect no better compliance in the Shawnigan Community Watershed.

A Learning Failure

During oral arguments by the SRA lawyers, the MoE lawyers said they had no transcripts of the hearings. Those transcripts would be valuable tools in an overhaul of the Permit process. Those transcripts point out the many failures of those involved - MoE, SIA. A learning opportunity lost.

During the hearing, the Director who signed the permit said that he had not been following the expert testimony during the hearings. This is exactly the type of feedback any process that expects to learn from its mistakes must pay close attention to, and the Director ignored it. A learning opportunity lost.

Neither the MoE lawyers or staff are making any attempt to improve on what is clearly a failed Permit process.

A Denial of Learning

The fact that the MoE lawyers continue to defend the Director in his slipshod work on this permit is troubling. The fact that the MoE lawyers do not side with the appellants on the many flaws in science and process is troubling.

For the Permitting process to be a learning process it must admit its failures. It must look for alternatives to improve in the future. By denying failure, the MoE is denying itself an opportunity to learn. To improve the process.

The Environmental Appeal Board has the opportunity to put LEARNING back into the Permit process. The EAB has the opportunity to set standards for Peer review that must be followed by the Statutory Decision Maker. The EAB has the opportunity to require that the peer review extend to the monitoring systems which must detect failure. The EAB has the opportunity to put real teeth into the compliance requirements.

We need Contaminated Waste Storage sites in BC and we need an effective process to permit those sites. We are getting the first before the second.

The Ministry of Environment is failing the people of BC.

Ben Kotler, MA
REGISTERED
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR



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