



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Four - Issue Twelve

December 2014

A Non-Profit Community Publication

THE SAD OLD HOUSE



Could this be the end? - Photo by Dave Hutchinson

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Amidst the widespread havoc wreaked by the November 6th windstorm, one of the more symbolic events happened on Worthington Point (see photo). This historic property, pur-

chased by developers in 2008, has been transformed from thirteen acres of old-growth sanctuary into a desolate landscape of maximized waterfront density.

The old house, built in the 1890s, had become increas-

ingly decrepit and was attracting vandalism.

One of the developers did express the intention of fixing and keeping the structure, and a few haphazard repairs were in progress. A handful of token trees, including the

veteran fir to the southwest of the house, were spared the chainsaw.

The subdivision marketing includes phrases like “private waterfront estates full of pristine natural beauty”. This may come true for future

owners without past connections, but for those who remember how it was, there is an aura of melancholy.

*Said the sad old house
To the lonely old tree
It's time to go
Come along with me*

Storm Report

Compiled by Michelle Andruskievich
Dwight School Canada

Experiences of Sunny Xue and Johannes Bodendorfer, students of Dwight School Canada

“Maple trees were like sprinters in the air, running in one direction, striving to go faster.” As Grade 10 Chinese student Sunny Xue at Dwight School Canada watched, she imagined Quidditch at Hogwarts School in “Harry Potter” with a sense that life was predestined to become something unimaginable. When the wind started blowing, Johannes Bodendorfer was in his Physics 12 classroom arguing with classmates about the properties of a light ray

hitting a surface. They were distracted by some younger Grade 8 students outside, resisting the wind with their hair flying all about, which led to comments such as, “Can we panic now?”

As a school community, students have lived through a few power outages but the power always returned a short while later. This outage was different. Hopefulness for returning power continued after the school day and into the evening. Darkness settled in outside and inside and the generators kept essentials running. They came together to “turn lemons into lemonade,” as principal Ms. Spinner described it, making the best of the situation. Flashlights,

hoodies and blankets were found, the option of a candle light dinner discussed (not possible due to fire regulations) and students gathered in the dining hall.

Sunny decided to read, choosing a seat that faced the lake, yet though this was the loudest place to study, it was the warmest place in the school. Gradually, the sound mixture of movement and conversations became like background music when immersed in a book. Her mind wandered, imagining an old-fashioned school, that when the sun went down, students would stop doing everything, not even electronics at night. There would be activities such as sharing stories. But with

no electronics, what would they do? CARDS! Never having played cards before, Sunny was surprised to find it a mental challenge. Students played a game called “Sequence”, with elements of chess, thinking of strategies to win. She saw students cooperating with their partner, and started enjoying it. Because of the power outage, she had “an unexpected chance to feel another kind of life at night, to discover another valuable thing in the world!”

Spontaneously, at 6 am Friday morning, Sunny awoke. Maybe it was the cold. The thundery sound of the “power machine” did its continuous work. Kitchen staff, like bees, never stopped and gathered

‘honey’ to feed all the people at Dwight. About 7 am, Ms. Spinner appeared, to announce that all classes were canceled. Dorm students were going to go to Victoria to the movies. They hoped power would be on when they returned. By evening, staff took dorm students to the Ocean View Hotel in Cowichan Bay to enjoy a hot shower, a warm bed and a chance to recharge electronics and speak to family far away. Both Sunny and Johannes were grateful for staff efforts during the 2 days without power. Johannes noted, “our school has a spirit, which does not have to be showered 24/7 and can live a while without Wifi.” All was back to normal by Saturday evening.

Editorial - Letters to the Editor

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The Shawnigan Focus is an
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Shawnigan Focus endeavours
to inform; promote involve-
ment in the community; and
interest a broad cross-section
of the residents of Shawni-
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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.

Thank you for allow- ing me to express our opinion!

We are in real danger of
losing a wonderful camp-
ground, the only one in this
area, due to lots of fear and
misinformation.

I co-own and operate Sunny
Daze Campground located
9 km from West Shawnigan
Road on Renfrew and 4 km
past Burnt Bridge. To some
misinformed individuals, we
are «out of control»; host
raves (not true); orgies (not
true) and just plain drunken/
drug parties...Wow!! To the
informed, and participants
in festivals, Sunny Daze is
wonderful, beautiful, ex-
tremely well monitored and
they feel totally blessed to
have been here.

Sunny Daze is a lot to many,
many people. A home away
from home (backpackers), a
refuge for those with health
issues and a great place for
camping, weddings and fes-

tivals. Festivals are well run,
with security, and fire protec-
tion set in place, and music.

Twice, we have had the
Shawnigan Advisory Com-
mission (APC) visit, a group
we fully expected to be
unbiased. Not so. They had
their minds made up and
were looking for anything
that they could to shut us
down. Although we ad-
dressed, and are in the process
of rectifying their concerns,
they refuse to believe us and
still recommend that the
Director deny the re-zoning
application. They spent more
energy putting us down as ir-
responsible owners, which was
not their job, than listening to
what we had to say. This is
totally not true and had they
taken the time to investigate
further they would know that
our festivals, weddings and
camping guests are profes-
sional, responsible individuals
who just enjoy life, and would
never do anything to destroy
or damage our Campground.

We have individuals from
all over the world who have
extended their stay in this re-
gion to explore our beautiful
Cowichan Valley. Shawni-
gan Lake, Cowichan Bay
and Mill Bay merchants have
also benefited from these
campers, and not to mention
the local campers who love
this place. Is closing down
Sunny Daze really going to
benefit the community or
just gratify a few individuals
who are on their own selfish
agendas?

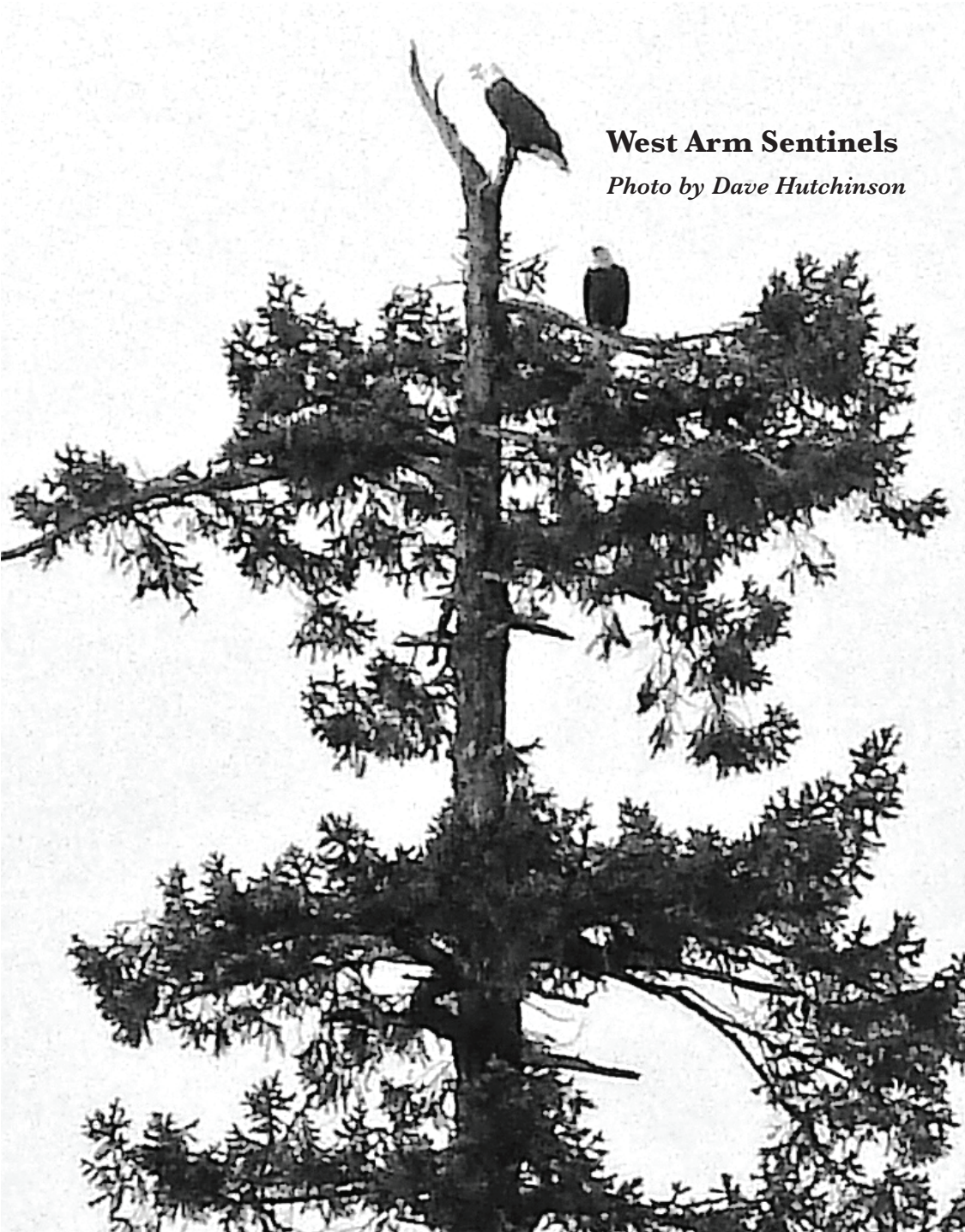
To the editors, thank you
for allowing me to express
our opinion. The unfair-
ness of this whole affair is
extremely depressing and if
it weren't for the wonderful
campers and friends we have
made through the years, I
would give up. I extend an
open invitation to the com-
munity to visit the site if
they are interested.

Sincerely,

~Fran von Alberich

West Arm Sentinels

Photo by Dave Hutchinson



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Storm creates community!

What is Community?

Frances Embury
Shawnigan Lake Resident

In all the decades I have spent on this earth, I never knew what community was as fully as I did on November 6, 2014. What I learned that day was my new understanding of the definition of community. I met people – complete strangers to me – on that day that stopped to help me however they could. I witnessed hydro and phone line works putting their own lives in danger to protect us and restore the services we think we cannot live without. I have to also acknowledge my own family, who is separated by continents and across the straits as part of my community. Without all these people in my life when the disaster struck I am not sure what the outcome would have been. I want to tell you my story to show you how community was completely described to me on that incredible day, and the days that followed.

Before I go further, my deepest gratitude goes to my new best friends Roger and Caroline who drove me as close as they could to my home. My next new friends were Paula and Mike who took a complete stranger into their home. Maybe the most profound act of kindness I have ever known. Dressed in yoga pants that were neither long enough to be long, nor short enough to be short, a muck streaked jacket and hair that looked more like a knotted ball of yarn atop my head, they never questioned my character - they took me home with them to spend the night while the service people worked through the night attempting to restore the power and phone lines to our homes. But there is one

guardian angel I don't know how to thank. I hope this essay will uncover that mystery. After the night at a home I have no idea where, Paula took me back to my place so I could assess the damage in daylight. Now I understand why people believe women have no idea of measurement. I looked through my kitchen window where once was a view of a granite rocky hill and all I saw was foliage and branches. I went to the door and discovered I could not even pass through the entry. A massive Douglas fir tree greeted me where once a roofed verandah stood.

I knew I had to begin a process of recovery but did not know where to begin. My phone was dead. I had no power. I have no car, so charging there was not an option. As it turned out; if I had a car, it would have been crushed under the tree anyway. I could not go down to the road via the front driveway. Douglas had blocked any exit, and taken the power line with him in the great fall. The power line appeared intact, but I was not certain. I took the back route, with car charger and dead phone in hand. I found my neighbours across the street also dazed with the outcome of the storm yesterday. More new friends. I thank Brian and Wendy, from the West Arm Grill, who were kind enough to worry about a new neighbour while they dealt with their own disasters with a massive tree across their parking lot. They had no source of energy for me. But they had the most amazing story to tell me. They were home when this event occurred. They saw my tree ripped out of the soil

and flung toward my house and then heard what they described as an explosion. They came running up to my place to see if I was safe. They could not get a response from me because I had left early in the morning for a shopping trip. What they described sounded more like a fable. They told me some man who professed to know my son climbed up onto the three-story roof and hammered a sheet of plywood across one of the skylight that had been blown out by the massive tree smashing into the house.

I asked them to describe him. They gave a description of someone I did not know. And that was that. It is a mystery. No one could drive on the road to the house – there were power poles and massive trees blocking it all along the way. Who shows up at a house with a sheet of plywood, a ladder and hammer out of nowhere? And why would they? How would they know to come to a house in a forest? Now in better light, I can see that the other skylight has been shattered too. We need another sheet of plywood, my new friend – whoever you are! I went back to the house and indeed, the skylight was covered. I had not even looked that high up because the tree I estimated was about 70 feet maximum, but turned out to be more like 200 feet was laying on the ground after taking out the front of the garage, the entire verandah, part of the top roof and the skylight. Looking up at that point had not been a consideration. Once again, whoever is reading this and might know who this brave man was who climbed up on the roof, please let me know.

While still on my quest to get my phone charged, I decided to wait at the bus stop and flag down a car to ask if they could charge it. I was in luck. A man in a truck took my phone and was charging my phone that was “red line dead”. It was taking forever and I could see he was getting anxious. He admitted he had a chest of ice melting and needed to get it home to save food in his freezer. Off he went with my phone and my address to return it. A couple of hours passed and I wondered if I had met someone who needed a phone and took mine. At that point, I really didn't care. As it was, the phone was useless anyway. I heard yelling through the mess, and went out to discover my other newest friend Paul with my phone partially charged. When he saw the disaster he told me he could clear the tree. He had another job that day, but could come the next day.

Now to start the recovery. With only 50% charge on my phone, I knew I could not make the calls needed. Jenn could help. I called my daughter in Vancouver and explained. She called the owner of the house – her brother who was in Asia. He could not recall the name of the insurer. I scoured the house and found nothing for insurance. But fortunately, with my age as it is, I still have an incredible memory. I recalled the name of the insurer and told her to call them with the crazy story of how she fits into the property claim she wanted to report. Another new best friend joined my list. They accepted the claim report and within 4 hours an adjuster crawled through the rubble to assess the damage. He advised me that this was the biggest claim

he had seen. While he was here, the unfortunate homeowner, my son, was digesting the devastation to his forest home in a phone call with me. He could not comprehend what I was telling him. I know how distraught I was here witnessing it all. I could not imagine being so far away and not being able to see what had happened. No power, no Internet, no communication means other than a cell phone with words describing the mess. I stubbornly have a phone plan without data. This event is demonstrating to me why I should.

On the second day after the event, while the massive Douglas was being chain sawed into giant firewood wafers, my Telus friend, who I spoke with while he was reconnecting communication wires, arrived. He was willing to help – to get my Internet reconnected – but unfortunately there are still boughs of tree debris enveloping the roof like a giant eiderdown. He could not get even close to the downed wire. So, whoever my Telus friend is, thank you as well.

Even days after this horrific event my new friends check in on me to be sure I am okay. Thank you to my friends who talked with me once I had power to feed my phone and tell my story. So why am I telling this story? Because I now really know what community is. We stretch across oceans, we stretch across cultures and lifestyles. But we are all joined together beautifully when we need each other. This, to me, is the magnificence of human beings and social consciousness. Thank you to my new community that I have become a member of - Shawnigan Lake.

A day to remember: November 6, 2014

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

The November 6th wind-storm took us by surprise and the result was community chaos. Some of our major through roads were cut off; children were stranded at school or on buses; parents couldn't reach their children; trees fell across houses and roads; power lines were across roads in many places and the power was off for up to 50 odd hours in places.

We survived, but we weren't prepared for an emergency of that calibre (see article on page 10). Most of us came away with some kind of wild storm story from that day.

There were many people, and groups, that worked together to help on that day and they deserve a big thank you! In particular, we truly appreciate the community spirit of the following:

The Shawnigan Lake Firefighters worked bravely through the

day to respond to danger and to prevent more chaos.

Shawnigan Lake School generously allowed traffic to flow through their back roads to reach areas that were completely cut off by downed lines.

BC Hydro responded quickly to the most severe problem areas, despite the ongoing weather conditions and massive outages.

Neighbours who helped neighbours.



"Maybe Christmas, he thought... doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps... means a little bit more!" ~ the Grinch (Dr. Seuss)

Shawnigan Watershed Research arrives at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, 7pm on Wednesday December 10, 2014

Bruce Fraser

Several lines of watershed research will converge at a public meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 in the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Sonia Furstenau, our newly elected Area Director and The Shawnigan Basin So-

ciety bring together:

Herb Hammond's report on the character and condition of the forested uplands of the watershed. Herb will provide us with maps and detailed information on the state of our forest showing areas of ecological sensitivity that

need conservation, restoration and careful attention to the hydrological contributions of a properly aged forest cover. Herb is a renowned forest ecologist who has studied community watershed throughout Canada and his research here is supported by the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

Dr. Linda Gregory's summary of a long list of water quality and watershed condition reports that have accumulated over the years. Linda will present the conclusions of the many reports, what they indicate about water and watershed health and the ecological complexities of our lake. Linda is a board member of the Shawnigan Basin Society and her work is a volunteer effort.

Information on the RES'EAU water quality research trailer now parked at Mason's Beach. The research unit, built in Quebec and supplied by a national university and industry consortium, will

be drawing water from the lake and applying an array of water treatment systems to see what is the most effective and cost-effective for Shawnigan Lake water. The work is supported by a national research grant.

Information on the ongoing watershed research being conducted by Dr. Asit Mazumder of the University of Victoria and his graduate students. Their work is looking at the complex conditions of climate change, land use and the flow of contaminants to the lake. Water sampling is supported by the South Cowichan Water Study function of the CVRD that is a tax function paid into by the four southern CVRD Areas.

Brief reports on other CVRD water initiatives: The South Cowichan Water Study, the South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan and the Regional Water Governance Project.

Report on the water quality sampling program of the Min-

istry of Environment conducted over the last year with the support of many local volunteers. The report is in draft form now but will be ready soon for publication. Funding for the work was assembled from the MOE, CVRD and the Shawnigan Basin Society

Report on the Foreshore restoration project recently conducted with the cooperation of Grant Price of the SRA, The Basin Society, students from Shawnigan Lake School and Dwight International and young members of the Malahat First Nation. The project was supported by a grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation

These lines of research will be added to the basin mapping and three-dimensional model provided by Couverdon already on display in the Watershed Planning Office in the Village. The assembled research will support the public Watershed Master Planning efforts of the Shawnigan Basin Authority that will begin in early 2015.



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Research trailer receives a windy welcome!

Dave Hutchison,
Shawnigan Focus

This wasn't supposed to be a storm story.

Many people are wondering what the trailer at Mason's Beach is all about. Focus readers may recall an August article by Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi of the CVRD's Water Management department. She explained that this mobile research laboratory would be installed in order to carry out a Water Treatment Pilot Project. Originally intended for September, after some delay, it was finally in place by late October, just in time for the windstorm!

The research unit, built in Quebec, and reportedly worth over \$2.1M, is being supplied by a national university and industry consortium. Scientists will be using it to draw water from the lake and apply an array of water treatment systems including ion-exchange and membrane filtration. Analysis will result in recommendations for cost effective water treatment systems to ensure the contin-



ued delivery of safe drinking water in the face of evolving standards and changes in raw water quality. The work is supported by a National Research Grant; no local tax dollars are involved.

What a welcome to Shawnigan for the researchers, some who were in the trailer when the windstorm suddenly arose.

Gusts from the southwest, well in excess of 100 KPH, toppled several nearby trees, including a sizable shore-pine, which just missed the trailer!

The CVRD and Shawnigan Basin Society will be liaising with the project team over the next six to eight months. Signage about the project will be coming soon.

Director's Report - Area B

Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

As I reflect on the campaign and my wonderfully good fortune to be elected Area Director for Shawnigan Lake, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for my family, friends, campaign team, supporters, and of course, for the voters of Shawnigan. I can't help but think of two people who were pivotal in this success, but who are not here to share in it.

My father, Peter Furstenau, was born in eastern Germany in 1939. He had a number of harrowing experiences in his childhood, including having his father taken away to a Russian POW camp and his mother nearly dying from Typhoid fever. At five, he and his playmates found a discarded gun – it went off, and the bullet went right through my dad's knee. (He recovered fully and later became a track star and soccer player.)

In the 1950s, his mother realized that the access to West Berlin was becoming increasingly limited, and so she sewed the few valuables she had into her clothing, packed a picnic basket, and with a prepared story about visiting relatives for the day,

took her two young children across the border into the west. They spent a number of months in a refugee camp until they were flown into West Germany to start a new life. Dad earned a scholarship to a school in Lake Constance, then was sponsored by his older brother – who had settled in Sidney BC – to come to Canada. At 15, by himself and with very limited English, he sailed across the Atlantic then took the train across Canada, where anti-German sentiment was still palpable.

Dad taught himself English by reading the newspaper with the help of an English-German dictionary. He graduated from high school in Sidney in 1959 and went on to be in the first graduating class of the University of Victoria in 1963. He eventually earned a PhD in psychology and pursued a career as a professor in Edmonton, until he moved back to the coast to teach at Malaspina in 1998.

When I was growing up, dad convinced me that if I put my mind to something, I could accomplish or achieve anything. He was living

proof of this. He ensured that I would not accept limitations imposed on me by others. "You can do or be anything," he would always say to me. "Just decide."

When I wanted to start French immersion in grade three, the principal tried to tell my parents and me that it was too late, and it would be impossible for me to catch up. "You don't know me," I explained, "I can do it." My own conviction was enough to convince the principal.

My entire life has been moments of deciding that I will do something, then working steadfastly towards the goal that I have set for myself. I owe this trait to my father's unwavering support and unconditional love.

Dad died in October, 2001.

My aunt, Noel Richardson, was born in 1937 and grew up in Comox, where her father was principal of the high school and her mother was a teacher in the elementary school. Noel also rejected externally imposed limitations. She earned a degree in English Literature and History from UBC in 1959 – a rare feat for a woman



at the time. She went on to earn a teaching degree from University of Calgary, and worked as a school librarian. She met her life's love, and together they followed their passion, buying a farm in Saanich and transforming it into Ravenhill Herb Farm.

Growing up, I spent my summers there, gathering herbs on Fridays to deliver to restaurants in Victoria, and spending my days and evenings in the company of bright, thoughtful, political, and community-minded people. Aunt Noel was brilliant, vibrant, funny, and blunt; when I was 20, she said to me, "When are you going to stop pickling your brain and start using it?" I applied

to UVic the next day, and launched an academic career that continued off and on for nearly two decades.

I learned from Noel the importance of following my passions, of revelling in the pleasures of good company, delicious food, wonderful books, and gatherings with friends and family. I basked in her support and love.

Noel died in May, 2011.

It is the absence of these two people that brings some bitter-sweetness to this election for me. However, what they taught me about myself, about life, about persistence, and about pursuing my passions will be ever-present, and for this, I am truly grateful.

Meet Sonia

My best quality: I like people. A lot.

My idea of happiness is: Waking up in the morning with a sense of purpose, and going to bed with a sense of accomplishment. (Also very hot bubble baths, cuddling with my children, and short getaways with Blaise.)

If you get a chance, read: *Unless*, by Carol Shields. *Flight*

Behaviour, by Barbara Kingsolver. *The MaddAddam Trilogy* by Margaret Atwood.

At least once, everyone should: Fall in love with the wrong person. (And if possible, discover that he or she is actually the right person.)

My proudest moment: Three of them – each time I first held my newborn baby.

What I appreciate the

most in my friends: They are always there when I need them most, they make me laugh, and they drink wine.

If I had one wish... Good health for the people I love.

My favourite quote: "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead.

CVRD

DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL ELECTION / REFERENDA RESULTS
2014 General Local Election

Electoral Area B Shawnigan Lake Director/Referendum	Ballots Collected At			Total Votes
	Mail Voting	Advance Voting	Shawnigan Lake Community Centre	
ARNDT, Robert	0	2	37	39
BEACH, Brent	0	8	84	92
FURSTENAU, Sonia	1	93	680	774
JORGINSON, Larry	0	4	88	92
MORROW, Lois	0	50	281	331
SAVAGE, Bill	0	3	31	34
Chesterfield Sports Society Referendum - YES	1	84	538	623
Chesterfield Sports Society Referendum - NO	0	64	589	653

Electoral Area B

VOTER TURNOUT 1993-2014

1993 VOTERS	%	1996 VOTERS	%	1999 VOTERS	%	2002 VOTERS	%	2005 VOTERS	%	2008 VOTERS	%	2011 VOTERS	%	2014 VOTERS	%
834	25	808	22	1011	25	1198	28	1593	29	acclamation w/referendum 405	7	1770	31 w/referendum	1373	23 w/referendum

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NOVEMBER ~ SHAWNIGAN FOCUS 15



Some of the many volunteers – photo by Ian Caesar

Shawnigan Water quality testing – A presentation of preliminary results

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

A Ministry of Environment (MoE) presentation of preliminary results for water samples gathered over the last several years in the Shawnigan watershed was held on Monday, November 17th, at the old Elsie Miles School. This follows from a remarkable volunteer and institutional effort that resulted in valuable data being collected and partially analysed. A full report is expected

to follow, but could take some time depending on MoE resourcing and priorities.

Notes:

- ★ A combination of data from previous years combined with a water sampling program coordinated over the last two years.
- ★ An example of exceptional collaboration: CVRD, MoE, Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS),
- Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA), Shawnigan Lake School (SLS), and other volunteer groups and individuals.
- ★ An outstanding volunteer effort was acknowledged with presented certificates.
- ★ This was a fairly technical presentation of preliminary results for only a part of the sampled data.
- ★ MoE appears to be understaffed and funded for initiatives of this sort;

this analysis was contracted out and funded with the help of the SBS and CVRD.

- ★ There was some inconsistent analysis, for example, a concern that the lake has a long water retention period; other studies state that water quality would be significantly worse if the lake did not flush itself about once per year; who is right?
- ★ There were some inconclusive results and technical waffling along with the claim that “more study is necessary.”
- ★ The community looks forward to receiving the full report with well stated conclusions and recommendations.
- ★ This work only benefits the watershed (and water quality) if it is followed up with appropriate policy, regulation & enforcement.



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Focus Fun!

From Patty at the Village Chippery

Marshmallows – easy, fun, yummy and messy!

Have 1 to 1 & 1/2 cups of fine crushed plain chocolate cookie wafers or toasted coconut to roll the marshmallows in. Place enough of them in an 8” x 8” cake pan. You will need this at the end.

- ★ Step 1: In a large metal or glass bowl put 2 tbsp gelatin and 1/3 cup of cold water.
- ★ Step 2: In a saucepan put 1 & 1/2 cups of sugar and 1/2 cup of boiling water.
- ★ Step 3: Put the saucepan on the stove, heat and stir until the sugar just dissolves.
- ★ Step 4: Put a little of the saucepan syrup over the gelatin mixture and stir well, then add the rest of the saucepan syrup.
- ★ Step 5: Using a hand mixer beat until very thick approx. 6 - 8 minutes. When nearly thick enough to hold its shape add 1/2 tsp of vanilla (or you can use peppermint, maple or cherry extract). Beat again, another minute or two. When it holds its shape, turn out into the prepared cake pan. Cut it into cubes, and coat the sides with some more of the cookie or coconut mixture.

For more fun, experiment with other flavourings and coatings.

Welcoming **Vanessa** to

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Vanessa grew up in the Shawnigan area,
...trained at the Aveda Institute in Victoria,
...now we are thrilled to have her join us!

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HOURS - Tuesday thru Saturday - by appointment
XMAS XTRAS - Monday, December 22 & Monday, December 29
December 24 - CLOSED

CHRISTMAS IN SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE - for the whole family! Sunday, December 7 - from 5pm



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lois@estheticsbylois.ca www.estheticsbylois.ca
In Shawnigan Village @ 1755 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

Malahat Legion Branch 134

Comrade Win Teague
Malahat Legion

Remembrance Day Nov 11, 2014 was a very special day for all members of the Malahat Legion Branch 134. Due to recent events in eastern Canada, we were almost guaranteed to have a huge turnout at the cenotaph in Cobble Hill.

The church service in the Cobble Hill hall was bursting at the seams with people young and old. It was a very good service with the theme of remembering. I find this to be a very important theme as a large number of young to middle age people and, subsequently, their children must

be reminded of the cost to all of us to have freedom in this great country.

The weather on this day was spectacular with the exception of a little wind, which kept blowing the wreaths from the base of the Cenotaph. The wind had a bit of a bite but it was otherwise quite comfortable.

After the service was over, all the kids who took part in the service retired to the Cobble Hill hall for hot chocolate and cookies.

The veterans and their friends retired to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 134 for sandwiches and refresh-

ments. While sitting there, with my wife and other folks, I noticed a gentleman come in with an array of medals from WW II. All I was able to find out was that he was in the Air Force and that he flew 30 missions over Germany.

Photo: Flight Lieutenant Leonard Stewart, DFC He joined the RCAF and was seconded to the RAF Pathfinder Force. He completed two tours (50 sorties) in Lancasters, an almost unheard of feat. He passed away peacefully November 11, 2014 at the age of 93. It was the first Remembrance Day that he ever missed, so it is ultimately fitting that he passed on a day that was very special to him.



Young Seniors Action Group Society

Ed Wiebe
Y.S.A.G.S.

Activities to stimulate the mind!

Last month we featured physical activities offered by YSAGS. This month we will talk about activities that challenge the brain or allow us to show our artistic talents.

Monday:

We are seniors and we ease into the week's activities slowly. No other activities than walking at present for Mondays. That, however, can change! Any member that has a hidden talent and is willing to lead a group can step forward and get it organized. We at one time did have a Genealogy group and I'm thinking that would be great for a Monday winter afternoon.

Tuesday:

In the morning from 10:30 to 12:30 we alternate weeks with a Computer and a Photography session. Canasta is offered in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00.

Wednesday:

Chess is offered from 1:00 to 4:00.

Thursday:

In the morning, we offer Folk Art from 10:00 to 12:00. If you are a budding artist, here is where you can show your talent. In the afternoon, a very active Quilting group meets from 1:00 to 4:00.

Friday:

A very busy Crafts and Knitting group meets from 1:00 to 4:00. Many of the knitted and sewn items have been donated

to local and international charity organizations.

We had a very successful Harvest Dinner and Dance with over 60 members and guests participating. Our Annual General Meeting was held on October 21 where a new Executive and Directors were voted in for the 2014/15 year.

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. We also can be reached by email: ysagssl@gmail.com

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

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9th Annual Christmas in the Village



Sunday, December 7, 2014 • 4 - 6:30

3:00 PM Arts Tour starting at Inspire! Shawnigan

5:00 Santa arrives on the Village Chipperry Patio ~

- Photos for Kids and Pets
- Hockey Rink behind Inspire!
- Entertainment throughout the Village
- Bring non perishable food items to support the Food Bank.
- Enjoy a hot beverage & snacks provided by the merchants of the Shawnigan Lake Business Association
- Crafts, cookie decorating, games all from the SLBA

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www.shawniganlakeonline.com





Frances Oldham Kelsey

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

Oldham Road is a cul-de-sac off Silvermine Road. The road is not far from the property where Lieutenant Colonel Frank Trevor Oldham and his new wife, Katherine, settled around 1911. Soon after their wedding, the couple moved to thirty acres on the Old Victoria Road, Shawnigan Lake (in the vicinity of Plumtree Road). The motivation to move here was a need to find a place where they could live cheaply on Oldham's pension. He had recently retired from the British Army after service in China and more than twenty years in India. Once here, they cleared just enough land to build their house, Balgonie, plant a garden, and keep a cow.

Other than his absence for service in the Great War (WWI), Oldham lived on this property until late in his life. He died in 1960 at 90. Frank and Katherine raised four

children, two sons born before the war and two daughters born after the war.

The Oldhams became very involved in the community. Over the years, Frank was Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Boy Scout Association at Mill Bay, President of the Shawnigan Farmer's Institute on more than one occasion, President of the Malahat Branch of the Canadian Legion and was very involved in veteran's affairs. He was a strong supporter of the Red Cross and instrumental in forming a local unit in 1939. In addition, The Spring Flower Show at Shawnigan Lake, which for many years was under the auspices of the Farmers' Institute, was largely arranged by a committee under Oldham's Chairmanship. Both Oldhams were very involved with the local Anglican Community.


It is hard to imagine that Frank Oldham had any spare time, but he is credited with

introducing the game of badminton to Shawnigan in the old SLAA hall. He had played the game in India. He was also renowned for his garden produce, which always collected prizes at the Cobble Hill Fair.


Frank's eldest daughter Frances, who was educated in the area as a child, went on to become an eminent Doctor. While she was working in Chicago, the US Federal Drug Administration hired her. During this time, she discovered the horrific effects of Thalidomide, a drug given to pregnant women to ward off morning sickness symptoms, and she fought hard to stop the approval of the drug. Due to her diligence, Thalidomide was not approved. Although many children were born with serious birth defects due to Thalidomide, Frances Oldham Kelsey was given credit, and multiple honours, for diverting a much larger tragedy.

Frances Kelsey Secondary School is named in her honour.

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THANK YOU SHAWNIGAN
Yes, a big Thank You to all of you who attended the Open Meetings and answered your doors so that I could speak to you about our issues.
The next 4 years will be filled with aspirations for our community and I honestly believe with determination and your participation we can achieve even more with our newly elected Director.
Larry Jorginson
Authorized by Larry Jorginson Financial Agent - 250-818-5950


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Digging Up The Past

Mark Woloszczak
Shawnigan Focus

Deciding what kind of bottle to collect is an individual preference. Collectors might choose colours, shapes, medicinal, foods, pottery, or perhaps milk bottles because they grew up on a dairy farm.

The colours of some old bottles are appealing and usually catch the eye more than your standard clear glass. Blue glass seems to be a favourite, sticking out boldly from the rest and looking great on a window sill with the sun shining. Amethyst is a great collectible colour, having a purple hue to it. This colour change happens to certain bottles when exposed to sunlight for a period of time. It is because the bottle maker used manganese to create clear

glass. Without manganese, the glass is a greenish blue colour (which is caused by the iron in the sand) and has been the norm forever. I have heard of people wrapping tin foil reflectors around a bottle and leaving it out in the back yard to considerably speed up the process of this colour change.

Certain colours were used for certain uses, such as brown for poisons, or chemicals, and blue for medicinal purpose.

Aside from colours, the age and methods of making bottles 100+ years ago are things collectors keep their eyes open for. The earliest bottles were hand blown and have no seam. This method was used up to the 1860's. After that, molds, made from blocks of wood, clay or steel, were used to create the bottle shapes.

Bottles blown into molds are apparent by the seam, which stops before the top of the lip. Usually the farther down from the lip that the seam stops, the older the bottle. Machine made have the seam running right up over the lip (1920's on).

Other ways of dating a bottle is simply the abundance of bubbles in the glass, blemishes, crude application of the lip, and the bottom of bottles, which generally tells you the method used.

Whichever you pick, there is a wide variety out there. In a lifetime, I don't think you could find every bottle to fill your collection to the fullest. That's what keeps the quest alive. It takes just one more find to come along and that's enough to spark your drive all over again!



Check out our website: Shawniganfocus.ca

Take a Hike! - Chemainus Lake

Robin Massey,
Shawnigan Focus

With this fabulous Fall weather we've been having our gathering of hiker types decided to widen our normal radius and extend out to visit the Chemainus Lake loop for our October field trip.

As we were making plans for that blissful day we discovered there are some people that knew of this hidden jewel and also quite a few that have not even heard of it. By its name you may think that the access and the lake itself would be located somewhere near the townsite of Chemainus, when actually, the lake and trail

are a quick little jaunt off the Trans Canada Highway.

For those that are of the 'do not know of it' group, Chemainus Lake is primarily known for its fabulous fishing and pier. However, in our case, it was the 2.4 km loop around the lake that beckoned. With the gorgeous rolling trails, big beautiful trees, little creeks, the gorgeous contrasts of red and green of the fall and the views of the lake that we found, this little loop is a sweet and scenic place to hang out on a Sunday morning.

On the loop, there are several spots to stop and picnic to

enjoy the quiet solitude provided by this off the highway ramble. Please note though, that during the winter months this area can be on the wet and muddy side, but still very doable with decent footwear choices. It is a trail that can accommodate all levels of hiker/walker as it is fairly easy and manageable.

And for those geocachers out there you'll be happy to know there are four potential smileys waiting for you. But, if you're not sure what geocaching is or have been thinking about getting involved in it, be sure to check out www.geocaching.com for plenty of finds all over our lovely Co-

wichan Valley. Oh, the places you'll go!

To get to the Chemainus Lake trail, head North on the Trans-Canada Highway, then turn left onto River Road and follow it down for about 2 minutes and watch for a parking area on the right. No worries about bringing a trail map with you as there is a big one right there at the beginning of the trail within steps of a

porta potty.

Have a hike to share, or want to know more about any of the ones that have been shared here in the Shawnigan Focus? Feel free to email Robin directly at any time – or better yet come on out with us!

Robin hangs out in the wilderness on a weekly basis with her group, the Iron Butts – find them at www.theomtree.com and join in the fun.



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VOTE JAN 25!
Sign up by Dec. 25

Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Christmas in the Village is coming soon!

Sponsored by The Shawnigan Lake Business Association

Sunday December 7th
Arts tour starts at 3
Christmas in the Village 5-7
Santa arrives at 5:30

Reminder to our members: this is an excellent opportunity to come out, get involved and showcase your business. Whether you would like to have a table or host an activity/game, we would love to have you join us! It's our time to celebrate the season and thank Shawnigan residents for their continued support.

If you are not already a member, NOW is an excellent time to join!

CONTACT: Trina Burns – SLBA Chair
#4-2740 Dundas (Trina Burns Insurance office)
250-929-2675 or trina@slba.ca

Is someone going to have to die for people to understand the danger?

Keith Shields,
Fire Chief, SLVFD

It started at 10:55 on Nov. 6, the first of 16 calls for the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department that day. The strongest winds we have had in recent memory toppled trees and tore down power lines around the lake. Enter the fire department. The first call reported that power lines have come down on a vehicle and people are trapped. Enroute, we are informed that there is no entrapment but we continue on to check it out. On the way we come across more lines down and, to my absolute shock, I see people walking among the downed power lines! We pull over and I advise these people that might have been the last thing they ever did. They had assumed that because they didn't have power at their place that the lines on the road were dead. **WRONG!!!** Power can be fed from any direction as well as from a homeowner with a generator without the appropriate safety measures in place (transfer switch).

We spent a good portion of the day into the evening going around putting up barrier tape and traffic cones only to return and find the tape torn down and cones pushed off to the side. I saw people walking their dogs among downed lines, a guy about to cut a tree with a chainsaw with 3 phase lines entangled among them, another member saw a guy grab ahold of a 14,000 volt line and tie it off to a pole, and a report from a concerned resident about people grabbing the lines and moving them off to



the side of the road so they could drive by.

I heard all sorts of excuses from people that day and not one of them was worth risking your life for. I have a doctor's appointment, I have to pick up my children from school, I have been to hundreds of these, I am a trained arborist, I just live up the road and so on. I admit I was not polite when I saw some of the risks these people were taking, not only are they putting themselves at risk, but also the people coming to their rescue. I don't want to expose any of your firefighters to that senseless risk or have them experience an electrocution, they are not pretty.

We don't go around and arbitrarily put up barrier

tape, we are trying to do our job and reduce the risk to the public. Every year we dedicate one of our practices to a review of downed power line protocol. It just happened that our review was the evening before the major wind event! I strongly believe that because of the extreme danger this is a topic that should be taught and reviewed in school on a regular basis.

Just a review of some of the dangers:

- ★ Any line can be energized; you can't see or hear electricity.
- ★ It doesn't have to be down to be a danger; anything that touches a live line could be energized and radiate out.
- ★ The high voltage line

could come off the insulator on the pole and energize the pole.

- ★ A high voltage line could contact the lower lines on the pole and energize them.
- ★ In BC, Hydro has a reset option where if a branch or something contacts a high voltage line it will "kick it out" then try to reset a couple more times before shutting down completely if the problem persists.

This is by no means an extensive list but some of the more common ones.

WE NEED THE COMMUNITY TO GET EDUCATED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ELECTRICITY. NO ONE NEEDS TO DIE!

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan
Lake, BC V0R 2W0

Phone: (250)743-2096

Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-emergency Phone:
(250)812-8030

Email:
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

*Department Members At-
tended 18 Calls in October*



- ★ Wednesday, October 1 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Friday, October 3 – 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Friday, October 10 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, October 10 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd @ Northgate Rd
- ★ Friday, October 10 – Burn Pile off Filgate Rd
- ★ Sunday, October 12 – MVI on Rebecca Rd
- ★ Monday, October 13 – Assist BCAS at W Shawnigan Provincial Park
- ★ Thursday, October 16 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, October 18 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd @ Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, October 18 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, October 19 – 1st Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Monday, October 20 – Hydro Lines Down on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wednesday, October 22 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, October 25 – Hydro Lines Down in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Sunday, October 26 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, October 28 – MVI on Wilmot Ave @ Jersey Rd
- ★ Thursday, October 30 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Thursday, October 30 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd



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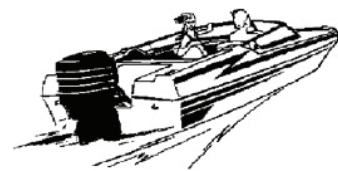
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
To be determined by new Area B Director, Sonia Furstenau
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
1st Thursday in January 2015. 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)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **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. **Annual closure:** December 22nd - January 30th www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **Sing Along Messiah** at Shawnigan School Chapel - Sun. Dec. 14 at 2:30.
Tickets and info at www.vpchoir.ca
- ★ **2nd Annual Shawnigan Shiver** - January 1, 2015. More info: editor@shawniganfocus.ca (see page 12)

**SHAWNIGAN MILL BAY
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**Mill Bay's
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1st Shawnigan Lake Scouts

Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday, December 13 &
Sunday, December 14, 2014
8:00 AM - Shawnigan Lake Village



It starts with Scouts.

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



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for October was Jen Dewar who was the first of many people who correctly identified the lovely wooden table outside Shawnigan House. The table and benches were handcrafted by Bill Savage and provide a pleasant place to enjoy a coffee and watch the world go by.



FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

To make this Shawnigan local,
Georgia Collins your next MP?

Sign up to the NDP BEFORE Christmas Day

1-DEC 25

Show up to vote at the Nomination Meeting

2-JAN 25

Authorized by Alison Eustace, Financial Agent



Ben  Kotler, MA
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SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



DEPARTMENT GUIDE TO OUTDOOR BURNING REGULATIONS

Effective October 1, 2014 to June 15, 2015 burning of yard and garden refuse is permitted in the Shawnigan Improvement District. This includes piles one metre in size, burn barrels and campfires.

No permit is required. The refuse is to be clean and dry, and in a condition that provides for safe and proper combustion.

**BURNING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE,
DEMOLITION MATERIAL
AND RUBBER OR PLASTIC IS NOT PERMITTED.**

The venting index can be viewed at: www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/venting.html

Join us for the 2nd Annual Shawnigan Shiver



January 1st at Government Wharf Park

- Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. - if possible, fill out the form below and bring it January 1st - a waiver is included.
- Take the 'plunge' at noon.
- \$5 Entry fee - Hat, hot drink, cookie and fun included
- Annual 'Shiver' button for swimmers that get wet to waist
- Sponsored by the Shawnigan Focus and Friends

2015

More info: email.editor@shawniganfocus.ca



2ND ANNUAL SHAWNIGAN SHIVER JANUARY 1, 2015

ENTRY FORM & LIABILITY WAIVER

NAME: _____ ENTRY NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ AGE: _____

RULES/GUIDELINES

- ANYONE WITH HEART PROBLEMS - JUST WATCH PLEASE!!
- FOOTWEAR IS REQUIRED due to safety concerns and the fact that numb feet may not feel objects in the water.
- SWIMMERS 7 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times.
- SWIM WITHIN DESIGNATED BOUNDARIES. NO JUMPING OFF DOCK.
- NO WET SUITS.
- DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL - it accelerates hypothermia.
- DON'T STAY IN THE WATER LONGER THAN 15 MINUTES. Body heat is lost 25 times faster in water than in air.
- DON'T REMOVE YOUR OUTER CLOTHING UNTIL SWIM TIME.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND INDEMNITY:

In consideration of the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization accepting this entry, I hereby acknowledge the inherent risk, hazards and dangers involved in participating in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim, including loss of consciousness, hypothermia, heart attacks and other life-threatening conditions due to large and sudden changes in environmental temperature. I hereby assume and accept any and all risk of my injury, paralysis or death and agree to abide by all Shawnigan Shiver Swim rules, regulations and guidelines. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors and administrators, hereby waive and release, indemnify and hold harmless the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization, their sponsors and any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits, expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care and negligence of any kind or nature, whether foreseen or unforeseen, arising directly or indirectly out of any damage, loss, injury paralysis or death to me or my property arising out of my participation in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN BELOW:

In consideration of the above minor being permitted to participate in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim, I, the undersigned parent and/or guardian of the above minor, or himself/herself and on behalf of said minor, hereby join in the foregoing release, waiver, assumption of risks and indemnity, and hereby agree to save and hold harmless and indemnify the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization, their sponsors and any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits, expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care and negligence made or brought by said minor or by anyone on behalf of said minor, as a result of said minor's participation of the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

Name of Guardian: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby confirm that I am in good physical condition and do not suffer from any disabilities or physical conditions that places me at risk or otherwise should prohibit my participation in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

I hereby affirm that I fully understand the preceding paragraphs and volunteer to participate at my own risk.

Participant: _____ Signature: _____

Witness: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____