



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Four - Issue Nine

September 2014

A Non-Profit Community Publication

SO YOU WANT TO BE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR?

Reprise from Shawnigan Focus October 2011 (Updated)

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), established in 1967, is the governing body for a large area of southern Vancouver Island that includes nine unincorporated electoral areas (A through I), the District of North Cowichan, the City of Duncan, the Town of Lake Cowichan and the Town of Ladysmith. Although the CVRD manages local issues with a region-wide perspective, these local governments work together to provide and co-ordinate services for both urban and rural areas.

The CVRD Board of Directors is comprised of 15 members. CVRD Directors are the elected officials for each area who are responsible for administering the local functions in the unincorporated areas. Nine of the CVRD Directors are Electoral Area Directors who manage Electoral Areas A through I. Electoral Area directors are elected directly by rural area voters and serve four year terms. The remaining six CVRD directors are elected first to a municipal council and then are appointed by the council to the CVRD board.

Shawnigan Lake (Area B) has the largest population of all the electoral areas in the CVRD and covers 31,000 hectares (76,600 acres). The

population is bigger than the incorporated areas of Duncan, the Town of Ladysmith and the Town of Lake Cowichan. The population of Area B, based on the 2006, census was 7,560 people. The number after the 2011 census was 8100. Due to the fact that Area B - Shawnigan Lake has a large watershed, extensive forest coverage and is a recreation destination, the needs and interests of the area are numerous and diverse.

Job description for the position of the Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Director:

You must:

- ★ Be passionate about the community of Shawnigan Lake
- ★ Satisfy the voters of the largest unincorporated population in the province.
- ★ Attend several meetings a week.
- ★ Protect the watershed and the forests.
- ★ Organize public meetings, attend local events, support local groups and initiatives.
- ★ Liaise with the RCMP; the Volunteer Fire Department; the Parks and Recreation Commission; the Advisory Planning Commission; the Kerry Park Commission; the Shawnigan Lake Community Center

Commission, the Residents Association; the Community Association and specific task committees such as the South Sector Liquid Waste Management Advisory Committee. You can add to that various other local groups such as Inspire! (the Shawnigan Arts and Culture group), the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society, sports groups and other special interest groups.

- ★ Work closely with many levels of government including, but not exclusive to, the Ministry of Environment, The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, The Union of BC Municipalities, The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations, BC Parks and Transport Canada
- ★ Sit as a member of the CVRD Hospital Board.
- ★ Sit on committees for the Electoral Area Services, Regional Parks, Transit, Engineering and Environmental Services, Regional Services and the South Cowichan Water Study.
- ★ Act as a peacekeeper between residents and zealous developers.
- ★ Be prepared to work full

time hours (the pay is approximately \$23,000) to get the job done.

In your spare time, you can choose to sit on committees such as the Agriculture Commission, the Economic Development Commission, the Safety Committee or the Library Committee...

We appreciate the fact that anyone is willing to consider this enormous job! Area B is so large in population and size that it is a herculean task for a single person to act as our community representative to the governing bodies...and then to make any progress on the numerous issues that affect the area. Thank you to all the candidates who have thrown their hat in the ring for the November 2014 election.

And, just in case you are still interested in the job, we offer you some advice from a few former Regional Directors...

Bruce Fraser (2011-2014): "You will need a strong community team and a willing Alternate Director to serve such a large population and so many duties. Shawnigan is full of very capable and public-spirited citizens who are already engaged in making the community a fine place to live. Support them and call on them."

The following comments were collected in 2011...

Ken Cossey (2006-2011): "A Director is not the spokesperson for the community. The Director

must bring information on the larger issues back to the community for discussion. A Director must listen to all of the interests in the community, not just the loudest!"

Rick Spencer (2000-2005):

Bill Davies (1997-1999): "An individual should run for the position of Regional Director from a desire to service the community, not because of a particular political agenda. A Director is usually aware of everything that needs to be done in the community but the demands far exceed the amount of time available."

Janice Hayward (1991-1993): "Listen to the people, put forward new information and ask the tough questions at the CVRD board level. Don't be a rubber stamp for papers and ideas put forward by CVRD staff and hired consultants. Act for the good of your community."

David Towner (1984-1987 & 1994-1996): "Anybody going in to the job has to have a vision of what they want to accomplish, keeping in mind that an area director is only one of fifteen on the CVRD board. A Director needs to get his/her point across and then get down to work. A Director needs to be a good communicator and keep the public apprised of the progress that is being made. Also, a director should get the area residents involved by engaging talented volunteers. This will help to reduce the workload."

History of CVRD Directors for Area B (Shawnigan)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ★ 1967: F. Martin (appointed) | ★ 1980 to 1981: R. Stephenson | ★ 1994 to 1996: David Towner |
| ★ 1968 to 1974: David J. Laverock | ★ 1982 to 1983: W.G. Cools | ★ 1997 to 1999: Bill Davies |
| ★ 1975 to 1975: Edwin Donald | ★ 1984 to 1987: David Towner | ★ 2000 to 2005: Rick Spencer |
| ★ 1976 to 1977: R. Stephenson | ★ 1988 to 1990: Lloyd Hetherington | ★ 2006 to 2011: Ken Cossey |
| ★ 1978 to 1979: W.G. Cools | ★ 1991 to 1993: Janice Hayward | ★ 2011 to 2014: Bruce Fraser |

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

LAYOUT

Taryn Treloar

ADVERTISING

Kim Hennecker
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

FOCUS TEAM

Linda Nelson
Farrell Magnusson
Monica Foster
Sally Davies
Peter Nash
Bev McCooey
Marcy Green
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Janet Neilsen

ACCOUNTS

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Issue: OCTOBER 9
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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.

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS

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

Taking the plunge!

Georgia Collins of Shawnigan Lake has declared with refreshing vigor her intentions to enter the race for the NDP candidacy in the new riding of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. Many know Georgia from her appearances in the media over the years in support of her community's fight to save Shawnigan water. She took the plunge into that very water on Thursday morning, fully clothed in bright orange, and eased the suspense of all those who came out to hear her big surprise announcement.

Friends and family gathered in support of the momentous commitment being made, and Georgia explained why she wants to be the next Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. "We need to refresh our democracy. This means getting people engaged in the political process, educating voters, passing Michael Chong's Reform Act, abolishing the senate (an unelected body which will cost taxpayers 92.5 million dollars this year) and moving away from the first-past-the-post electoral system." Georgia goes on to say that "We need to redefine the government's relationship with First Nations, but before that can happen, we need to take the time to understand one another, acknowledge the



Photo Credit: Chris Clay

current situation, get to know one another's communities, and together move forward with a plan that truly works for everyone."

Georgia was raised by two teachers in the public system and feels strongly about valuing all people equally. "We need social equity. Seven years ago, my dad found out he had prostate cancer that had spread to his bones, and the prognosis was not good, six months at most. It was heartbreaking news, but with some testosterone inhibitors and an expensive and completely unaffordable experimental osteoporosis treatment, he is still alive today. This was only possible because of the health

care system that we have in Canada. We need to preserve the integrity of our universal health care." Champagne glasses clinked and the beginning of Georgia's dream for Canada kicked off with a splash. "With much trepidation I looked down at the water from the high point of the government wharf, and as I jumped I knew that this was it, the moment when you realize you're ready to make the difference you're committed to making in the world, and it was profoundly refreshing."

As she awaits official approval to vie for the NDP candidacy, Georgia will be out in the various communities spread across this new riding offering a refreshed look at politics.

Labour Day accident on the Shawnigan Cut-off

The sound of sirens penetrated the sound of summer fun on the last official holiday of the summer. Around noon, sirens screamed along the west side of the lake and then on the east side of the lake, soon to be followed by the air ambulance. It was obvious that something had gone horribly wrong.

Four young adults on their way to the lake for a swim were injured when their car rolled over an embankment on the Shawnigan Lake cut-off, near Sooke Road. The driver became distracted when her iced cappuccino spilled on herself. She tried to compensate, but lost control and rolled over an embankment. Fortunately for the passengers, the fall was stopped when the car was pinned by two trees.

The female driver and the two young men were conscious at the scene. The men



Photo Credit: Chris Clay

were transported to hospital by ambulance, with minor injuries. The driver and passenger were airlifted to Victoria General Hospital with serious injuries. The female passenger was unconscious and had to be freed from the car by the firefighters using a hydraulic rescue tool. She arrived in critical condition

at Victoria General Hospital with a severe concussion.

Local RCMP advised that all four passengers were wearing their seatbelts, which likely saved the life of the female passenger. This unfortunate incident is a great reminder to drivers that distractions – cell phones, food etc. - can be deadly.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

One of the Focus Editors, Brent Beach, has announced his candidacy for Area B Director in the November Election. The Shawnigan Focus endeavours to represent the community without bias. Therefore, Brent will take a full leave of absence from the Focus until election results are determined.

Wildness is a necessity

"I am losing precious days. I am degenerating into a machine for making money. I am learning nothing in this trivial world of men. I must break away and get out into the mountains to learn the news" ~ John Muir (1838-1914)

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.

CVRD directors - pawns of management

When the CVRD board of directors formed a special committee to investigate top CVRD salaries, it wasn't surprising that CVRD management was able to "justify" their outsized salaries. How else would they be able to attract such excellent people? If some of them have to be fired for incompetence - three so far this year, including the \$200,000-a-year chief executive - who knew? There is simply no choice but to continue paying outlandish amounts for "top quality" people.

What is surprising is that the elected directors go along with this nonsense.

The CVRD board's special "compensation committee" was formed after ongoing public outrage about the high salaries. The members of the Committee were directors Phil Kent, Rob Hutchins, Gerry Giles, Ian Morrison, Bruce Fraser and John Lefebure. After a number of meetings which consisted mostly of being spoon-fed information by the same CVRD staff

whose salaries were under review, the committee concluded, absurdly, that all was in order. The response of long-time director Gerry Giles was typical of directors on the committee. She spoke glowingly of "our wonderful staff", and dismissed the average 6% annual increases as insignificant in the overall budget.

Public records show that fifty-two CVRD employees were paid between \$75,000 and \$200,000 last year, plus generous expenses, benefits and pension. The growth at the top has been spectacular. Ten years earlier, only five employees earned over \$75,000, and the chief executive earned "only" \$110,000.

During the same period, CVRD residents saw their average income, about \$38,000, stagnate at less than the rate of inflation -- currently under 1% a year. For Shawnigan Lake, while population increased 15% in the past ten years, total property taxes for Shawnigan residents have ballooned from \$1.9 million to \$4.6 million. The single largest item in the CVRD budget: "Wages and Benefits".

One obvious suggestion ig-

nored by the directors would be to limit CVRD management wage increases to inflation. Another answer would be to link increases to the average increase experienced by residents of the region, who, after all, pay for it all. In either case, all salaries over \$100,000 should be frozen for a significant period, after ten years of 6% a year average increases for the top group.

CVRD management, understandably, doesn't want any change to the current method of using other jurisdictions as "comparators", which leads to endless lucrative leapfrogging for the fortunate few at the top. And the directors are either too confused or too intimidated to go against staff recommendations.

The fact that directors staunchly uphold "business as usual" raises a question. Do the directors work for the top CVRD staff, as it seems? Or do they work for the people that elected them?

~Blaise Salmon

Bag stolen from mother in Mill Bay!!

My mom just moved to Mill Bay from Abbotsford.

It took me 10 years to talk to her into moving here and her first outing to the beach in Mill Bay with my daughter resulted in someone stealing her bag, which was white and mint green striped, with her keys and my daughters brand new bounty hunter junior metal detector as soon as their backs were turned.

I really don't care about the metal detector or the bag but keys, as everyone knows, are expensive to replace. Please leave the keys anywhere where they can be turned into the police and show them this is a better place than Abbotsford

Thank you,

~April Bower

My perennial 'beef' since the 'shooting down' of a South End ECO facility.



The picture depicts "what is left over!!" from curbside pick-up yesterday. These folks only just

moved in and obviously have put out flattened packing/moving material that was NOT picked up...the Bin was....welcome to Shawnigan (the whole South End)!!! - bin content only.

Return the Containers to Shawnigan and Kerry Park (at least). Sure, some people will abuse it BUT it is time to cater to the majority.

The Shawnigan Container Bins...now gone. When in place, for lack of a better name, "scavengers" (two in particular), who salvaged "salvageable material" in the form of cans, liquor bottles, some metals etc. etc. were told to "vacate the area" because someone complained they were a nuisance...instead, they should have been paid a modest fee for their daily attention to the area and advice (by the book) that they gave some folks dropping "stuff" off.

Better yet...FIND a place for ECO South - roadside garbage is mounting up. Property owners pay/will pay for it...so let's just do it with all the T's and I's crossed and dotted.

~Reg Blackmore

Why Teachers must say no to E80!

Michelle King
Teacher in BC

Instead of being in the classroom teaching their new students, teachers are about to begin a third week of picketing. Why? E80. To help understand more about E80; let's back up a bit and take a look at how BC teachers ended up here.

In the 1990s, BC teachers negotiated for improvements in class size and composition. Language was added into the collective agreement in lieu of wage increases. Unfortunately, in 2002, then Education Minister, Christy Clark, imposed Bills 27 and 28, which ultimately tore up the collective agreement with BC teachers. These bills struck many working and learning conditions from the agreement, including class size and class composition language. In 2010, the BC Teachers Federation went before the BC Supreme Court arguing that the Liberal Government illegally stripped the language from their collective agreement. In 2011, Bill 28 was ruled unconstitutional. The courts

found the government guilty and gave them one year to correct the situation.

However, rather than sit down and engage in meaningful conversations with BC teachers, the government squandered the year and at the end of the year they imposed Bill 22 (Education Improvement Act). This new bill ignored the BC Supreme Court ruling, and again language was introduced that stripped class size and composition. Learning and working conditions were worsened as Bill 22 implemented no limits on the number of special needs students in a classroom, along with no limits of students in Grades 4 to 12. Bill 22 did not address the court ruling. It repealed Bills 27 and 28, only to legislate them back again under Bill 22.

The court ruling in 2011 stated that teachers had the right to bargain class size and composition; however, the creation of Bill 22 negated this court ruling. Teachers' rights were stripped and courts decision was ignored. Since the court ruling was ignored,

the BCTF went back to court with the government in 2012. In 2014, teachers won again. The BC Supreme Court ruled that the government not only bargained in bad faith, but that the legislation implemented was unconstitutional as it limited teachers' bargaining rights.

Rather than restore class size and class composition, the government has appealed the latest court decision. They have

been found guilty twice, and yet the government wishes to spend more of taxpayers' money in the courts for a third time. The appeal will be before the courts this October.

This brings us to where we are now in the current dispute between the BCTF and the government. The BCTF is trying to negotiate temporary class size and composition while the matter is before the courts;

however, the government has created E80. This clause would eliminate all past and future court rulings around class size and composition, even before the current court case occurs. Teachers cannot agree to E80 as their bargaining rights have been violated.

E80 is a non-starter. The government needs to let the court process occur without trying to find an escape clause.



Photo Credit: Georgette Walker

A path forward for Shawnigan: Cooperative community economic development

Sonia Furstenau

One of the most mind-boggling aspects of our community's fight against the contaminated soil dump in our watershed is that we are fighting the Ministry of Environment. The people Shawnigan Lake and the Cowichan Valley have been consistently and overwhelmingly opposed to this proposal, and yet the provincial government has insisted on ignoring the will of our community at every step.

The scenario is replicated at the federal level as well. Despite a clear majority of British Columbians being opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline, the federal government has insisted on ignoring the will of the people of BC at every step.

Even locally, despite a growing sense of disenchantment and disbelief at the exorbitant salaries going to top staff at the CVRD, it appears that it will be business as usual – ie, the high salaries, ranging up to \$200,000 a year, are here to stay.

Scenarios like these – which seem to be increasingly common – create a sense of alienation from our governments. Democracy seems not to be functioning in the ways that we have come to expect. This lack of responsiveness of governments to the will

of the people can create a growing sense of disengagement, cynicism, or even despair. Hence, the steadily decreasing voter turnout and the contempt people feel towards government.

So what can we do?

We can think locally, and act locally. This is how we create a resilient community.

While we might feel powerless to affect change when faced with unresponsive governments, when we work together in our communities, we can in fact harness a great deal of energy and actually have a significant influence on the future.

We have seen this with the efforts, spear-headed by the Shawnigan Residents Association, to battle back against the misguided decisions of the Ministry of Environment. We can see it with the efforts of One Cowichan to organize groups of people who will collect signatures to demand a referendum on the Northern Gateway pipeline. Local citizens have also kept up the pressure on the CVRD, calling for more transparency in the budget process and accountability for their decisions.

How can we become proactive rather than reactive in our community efforts? Rather than responding to threats, how can we move forward so that we are deciding what

our future looks like, rather than fending off other people's agendas for our community?

We need to dream big, Shawnigan.

We know from the contaminated soil fight that there are many people in our community who care deeply about Shawnigan, and about its long-term viability. Let's continue to harness that commitment, and develop a long-term vision for Shawnigan.

There are inspiring examples from many other communities that have faced serious threats.

Sangudo, a small town in rural Alberta, was dying the slow death typical of many prairie towns. When the local school district threatened to close the town's high school, the people of Sangudo responded to the threat by getting together and getting organized. They knew that if the high school went, the community of just over 400 people would not survive much longer.

In the article, What is it about Sangudo?, Dan Ohler writes, "The crisis encouraged us to start thinking where we did want to go. A vision for a community of genuine well-being emerged: a safe, vibrant, comfortable, and desirable place to live, raise a family, work, and play." To achieve this, in addition to seeking grants and gathering together as a community to work on community projects,

a small group of people formed the Sangudo Opportunity Development Co-operative (SODC). This investment co-op not only provided the people of Sangudo the opportunity to invest their money in their own community, but it also allowed the community to have control over where that money would go. They call it a 'business incubator' – "a vehicle to invite, encourage, and support entrepreneurs to run their own businesses in Sangudo, live and raise families here, and employ their neighbours and other residents."

The 29 investors in SODC have thus far supported two local businesses – an abattoir and a coffee shop. These businesses have created 20 jobs in the community, and provided investors with a 6.3% return on their investments.

This is an example of a community facing a dire threat and responding with long-term visionary thinking. This is a resilient community.

In the community of Christina Lake, BC, we can see examples of long-term ecological planning as well as long-term economic planning.

After fighting off a proposal to have an industrial waste site in their watershed, the people of Christina Lake have created the Christina Lake Stewardship Society and the Community Stewardship Resource Centre. The resource centre offers educational programmes, collects data on the watershed system, coordinates habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection, and promotes community engagement. The centre also works with landowners, volunteers, organizations, businesses,

and government. Its mandate is to promote "stewardship of water/water quality, biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources."

Christina Lake also has its own Community Venture Capital Program. Like the Sangudo fund, the Christina Lake fund will be choosy about businesses that it invests in, ensuring that the businesses will bring long-term benefits to the community.

Christina Lake, in response to a serious threat to its survival, has chosen to develop long-term strategies to ensure environmental stewardship and economic development. By design, these strategies build community through active engagement and financial investment.

In our own collective response to the serious threat posed by SIA's contaminated soil proposal, we have come to discover that the people of Shawnigan Lake feel a great love for this place, and a great commitment to its future.

It is time to dream big, Shawnigan.

The foundations for long-term watershed management are coming together. Let's continue to improve our stewardship of this precious lake and community.

Let's carry on building community by gathering together, working together, collaborating, and cooperating.

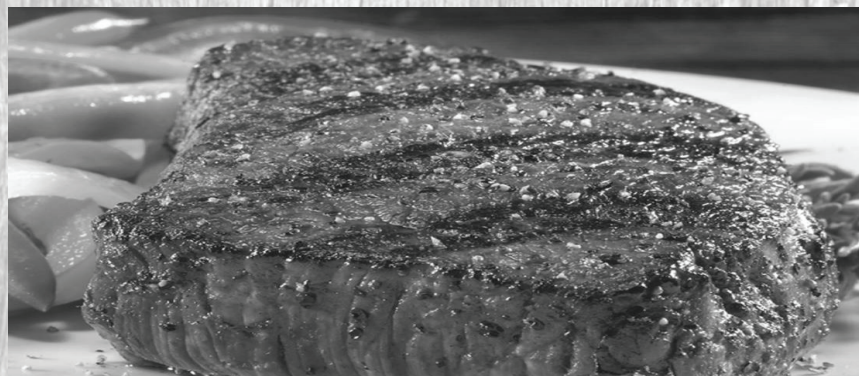
Let's be open to new economic ideas that offer us the chance to invest in – and shape – our community.

Let's create a resilient community and guarantee a bright future for Shawnigan Lake.



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South Cowichan Community Policing: Shawnigan Lake Watch Program

Oriana Parker
South Cowichan Community Policing

Shawnigan Lake has been a recreational playground for Victorians and other tourists for well over a century. Its scenic and winding lake trails, beaches, regional forests and boating opportunities beckon both water enthusiasts and naturalists alike causing the population to practically double during the long hot summer months. With this increase in activity comes concern for safety and conservation of the lake for future generations. Many of the local residents are passionate about preserving the pristine environmental beauty of the area and work very hard to this end.

South Cowichan Community Policing, in conjunction with the RCMP, have put together a Lake Watch program, whereby volunteers gather information from lake users and residents alike. The spectrum of views will be analyzed and used as an educational tool to promote safe boating, as well as, to help change behavioural attitudes.

It would seem that concerns fall into the following categories:

Disregard for, or lack of knowledge of the Boating Laws, Rules and Regulations as posted by

- ★ the CVRD and Transport Canada.
- ★ Reckless boating, speeding, including not wearing life jackets.

- ★ Alcohol use.
- ★ Noise from boats, including noisy engines (mufflers).
- ★ Loud music coming from cottages.
- ★ Boats coming in too close to shore and endangering swimmers, fishermen and other lake users.
- ★ Wake damage to docks and property.

During July and August, Shawnigan Lake Detachment along with the South Island Marine Unit were on patrol on the lake every weekend. Many boaters were spoken to and their equipment was checked. This was done mostly for education purposes, not enforcement and resulted in

several violation tickets issued. Safety is optimum if enjoyment is to follow. Recreational lake users should remember that the lake provides enjoyment in so many ways, for example, the quietness and serenity found in the early morning hours, the sounds and sights of nature, the smell of the fresh air. Everyone should be entitled to enjoy the lake in the manner that gives them most joy. It would be appropriate that everyone be respectful of this. In order to make this program a success, community involvement is necessary. Please contact the South Cowichan Policing Office at 250-929-7222 if you wish to volunteer or drop into our office which is located in the Mill Bay Centre.

Watching brief

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

A number of significant developments in our area bear a close watch.

Within the month there will be three major watershed studies completed. Linda Gregory of the Shawnigan Basin Society will deliver her summary of the many watershed research papers that have been written about Shawnigan Lake water quality over the years, most of which have languished on dusty shelves without public scrutiny. Herb Hammond of the Silva Forest Foundation will deliver his ecological analysis of the watershed, pointing out the areas that need intensive conservation or restoration and areas that can sustain development. The Ministry of Environment will deliver a summary report of the recent water quality studies that sampled Shawnigan Lake and its inflow and outflow creeks. Each of these will be made public through the Basin Society website – shawniganwater.org - as they arrive.

In early October the CVRD, in consultation with a broadly representative advisory team, will complete its review of water governance needs in the Regional District. The report will then be presented for consideration by the CVRD Board. The

objective is to propose a water governance model to government that will provide a much stronger measure of local control over management of the public water supplies and source watersheds of the region.

In the meantime, development pressures continue on the Shawnigan landscape. A proposal to turn a block of Renfrew Road forestland, sold off years ago by Island Timberlands, into a subdivision will go to public hearing at 7pm on September 17th at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. [Documentation at goo.gl/0iwUq6]

A proposal to turn a gravel pit along the Sooke Lake Road into a subdivision will go to the Advisory Planning Commission at 7pm on October 2nd, at the Watershed Planning Office in the Village. [Documentation at goo.gl/vdSvps]

A rezoning application proposing to legitimize the operations of Sunny Daze campground on the banks of the Koksilah River will also go before the APC at its October 2nd meeting. [Documentation at goo.gl/5Lfm47]

For the two subdivision applications the key criterion that will be applied is that they must demonstrate a net positive result for the watershed before they are suitable

for consideration. The Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission, the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission and the Village Development Council will be meeting on September 18th at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre to consider the master plan ideas for the development of the Elsie Miles site as a central gathering place. The meeting will also consider the long-standing issue of the management of the 72 public road ends that provide public access to the lake.

The residential areas of Area B lying west of the Koksilah River with their natural community centre in Cowichan Station will be included in the OCP revision now starting up in Area E. This will begin the process of examining the feasibility of re-drawing the area boundaries to recognize the integrity of the Cowichan Station community.

Finally, the entire community is waiting for the contaminated soil shoe to drop. The Environmental Appeal Board is deliberating on the results of the recent hearing and is expected to deliver its decision in the near future. Whatever the result, the CVRD, the SRA, and their respective legal teams are poised to react on behalf of the community.



Copley Field on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road Closed to the public

After decades of community baseball on this site, the owners (members of the Copley family) have closed the field to consider other options. This is a big loss to the current group who have used the field for at least twenty five years.

Sonia Furstenau



Sonia Furstenau is launching her campaign to be Shawnigan Lake's next Area Director.

Learn about Sonia and her vision for Shawnigan at soniafurstenau.ca

Please join Sonia and friends to celebrate her campaign launch.

Sunday, September 21st
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Through the eyes of a teacher new to the community

Amanda MacLean
Dwight School

It is a very exciting time at Dwight School in Shawnigan Lake. As a new faculty member with a fresh perspective, I have been impressed by the high level of cooperative team work, positive enthusiasm, and energy of our faculty and staff as we prepare for an exciting school year.

I see so much that we have to be grateful for here at Dwight School. Among new and returning students, I see excitement and curiosity; smiles exchanged among strangers developing into friendships; and laughter and cheering of new team members forming bonds. I see a comfort level growing each day as students embrace their welcoming community.

I see maintenance and construction staff working diligently to ensure that we have a clean physical environment with beautifully renovated dorms and

buildings. Their dedication creates a positive space for living and learning through inviting classrooms with views of our peaceful environment.

I see dedicated kitchen staff preparing delicious, high quality meals and caring for the dietary needs of all students and staff. They are committed to providing us all with the fuel we need to be at our best.

I see enthusiasm from teachers and staff as we build community together. I see admiration amongst faculty and staff for the contributions made by all. I see a school that is comprised of a faculty and staff whose focus is on contributing and helping students succeed. The high level of organization and professionalism of this smoothly run ship, has exceeded my expectations. I see dedicated teachers getting soaked in the pouring rain, without complaining, as they help with swim test supervision. In their eyes, I see kindness and a motivated desire to help.

I see our Head of School and our Principal leading and inspiring our school community by genuinely demonstrating that it is their heart that leads them in their daily actions and decisions.

I see a school community comprised of both local and international students, all of whom make valuable cultural, academic, and personal contributions to our school family. I see a thriving school, adapting to new variables and growing in response to the needs of our students and community. I see students developing a global perspective, respect for other cultures, problem solving skills, and a thorough understanding of world issues through our International Baccalaureate program.

I feel grateful to be a member of this team, as I experience the momentum taking place through shared growth experiences and continuous development, and a commitment to creating an encouraging yet challenging learning environment in which students believe in themselves as we believe in them.



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SLBA update

The Shawnigan Lake Business Association is pleased to announce the launch of the new ShawniganLakeOnline.com website.

Rebuilt from the ground up by local web design firm Clay & Co., the new site features a modernized, responsive design optimized for mobile devices. The site is also much more streamlined, disposing of the lesser-used features from the old site to focus on connecting Shawnigan Lake residents with local businesses. There is also a new blog to highlight SLBA initiatives.

The SLBA hopes the new website will provide a valuable tool to Shawnigan residents seeking local products and services. It can be reached at www.shawniganlakeonline.com.

Brought to you by the Shawnigan Lake Business Association

Shawnigan Lake Online

HOME BUSINESS DIRECTORY AREA INFO THINGS TO DO BLOG SLBA


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Latest Blog Posts

New SLBA Website Launches

2014-09-09




The Shawnigan Lake Business Association is pleased to announce the launch of the new ShawniganLakeOnline.com...

[More](#)

SLBA Hockey Rink

2014-09-07




The SLBA hockey rink was part of the 2014 Canada Day celebration in Shawnigan. As part of its mission to both...

[More](#)

New SLBA 2014-2015 Board of ...

2014-09-05



SLBA Chair Trina Burns at the 2014 AGM The 2014 Shawnigan Lake Business Association AGM took place on July 15...

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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

We’ve driven by it a thousand times and, in the fall, even smelled it from the highway. Perhaps we’ve even stopped to see the salmon in the stream. BUT, have you ever gone to see ‘Niagara Falls, said to be almost the same height as its namesake? And how about the trestle... and, the gold mine?

On the hottest day of the year in August, I found myself at Goldstream Park with full intention to hike Mount Finlayson... However, the intense heat curbed our enthusiasm so we took to the trestle instead.

From the parking area we enjoyed the tour trail toward the Nature House and then ducked into the tunnel under the highway. Following the creek bed will take you to the falls.

After the falls, we then went

to the trail crossing above the tunnel, along the highway and onto Goldmine Trail. The trail takes you up and across a little bridge and up some more until you reach a fork marked by little blue arrows on an orange background. This can be misleading, mind you, but right will take you to the amazing trestle – left will continue on Goldmine Trail bringing you down, down and around to two mineshafts from the 1860’s. One shaft is barricaded facing the sky and the other is a dark opening that you can actually walk into for a short stretch. Watch for those cave crickets... those little spidery looking guys gave me the willies!

Either way, you can either go back the way you came OR you can follow the trail to the end and onto the TCH. From there, you can walk along the highway back to the tunnel. The other option that some take is to chance racing



across the TCH. We chose the safe route.

In addition to a fun filled day we also searched out a few geocaches. One was found... the others were a no go, but it was still fun to look. Salal berries were abundant, yum yum.

We enjoyed a few and had the purple tongue to prove it.

It is a wonderful trail, tagged as moderate level. We recommend good footwear for all the inclines you will endure. For those leery of heights the trestle can be unsettling

but nothing says you have to cross it! It’s an amazing scene to witness!

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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Lots of recent bear sightings at Shawnigan

A Note from WildSafe BC on Being Bear Aware

September has arrived. The berries are almost finished for the year and bears begin to look for other food sources. Apples and other fruit bearing trees begin to ripen, and can potentially become a food choice for hungry bears if not managed correctly. Such fruit can attract bears to our backyards which can increase the potential for bear habituation and human-bear conflicts. Attracting bears to your yard can also result in bears obtaining other human foods such as garbage, pet food, compost, or bird seed.

The responsibility to manage fruit trees and wildlife sustainably falls to us. We plant fruit trees primarily for the beauty of the blossoms in the spring and to eat the sweet fruit in the fall, but we need to manage these trees responsibly.

Phone calls to the Conservation Officer Service regarding conflicts with bears are on the rise in BC. Taking a proactive approach to attractant management is a critical step to sharing our landscapes with wildlife safely and sustainably.

Experts agree that the careful management of bear attractants is the first and most important step in controlling 'bear problems'. In fact, the term should be 'people problems', not 'bear problems', as bears are motivated by hunger, not malice. The problem is ours.

Many of us remain sceptical as to our responsibility in attracting bears. Even after

we have seen the bear in the yard or had the trash raided, we often continue to deny our personal responsibility. By the time we recognize our mistakes, it is often too late for the bear.

The following bear attractants should be managed to ensure bears don't move into your neighbourhood. Use this checklist to ensure that bears do not become human food conditioned and/or habituated due to your carelessness. This will help reduce safety concerns surrounding bear encounters and the unnecessary destruction of bears.

Garbage

- ★ Store garbage in a secure building until collection day or consider purchasing a bear-resistant household container.

Ensure bins are tightly closed.

- ★ Regularly wash all recycling items and clean the bins that contain garbage or recycling.
- ★ Do not leave garbage in the back of a truck, even if it has a canopy.
- ★ If you cannot store garbage securely, freeze smelly items and add to the bin only on the morning of collection.

Fruit Trees

- ★ Pick fruit and allow it to ripen indoors or pick daily as it ripens. Do not allow windfall to accumulate on the ground.
- ★ If you do not want the fruit, prune the tree vigorously to prevent blossoms or spray spring



Photo Credit: Taryn Treloar

- blossoms with a garden hose to knock them off.
- ★ If you would like to make the fruit available to others, contact a local fruit exchange program or food bank.
- ★ Consider using electric fencing to protect your fruit trees.
- ★ If you no longer want to manage your tree, consider replacement with a native, non-fruit bearing variety.

Berry Bushes

- ★ Berries should be picked as they ripen.
- ★ Consider replacing your bushes with native, non-fruiting varieties if you do not want the fruit.
- ★ Consider using electric fencing to protect your fruit trees.

Livestock and Feed

- ★ Keep feed secured.
- ★ Keep chickens in at night.
- ★ Use electric fencing to protect livestock.
- ★ Keep young animals close to the home and protected

- with electric fencing.
 - ★ Don't bury carcasses in areas where you wish to exclude bears.
- Bird Feeders**
- ★ Use bird feeders only in the winter when bears are hibernating and natural bird food is limited.
 - ★ Use bird baths or native plants to attract birds without attracting bears.

Compost

- ★ The key to a healthy compost is ensuring equal amounts of brown and green materials.
- ★ Layer your greens, such as kitchen scraps and fresh grass clippings with no more than 10 cm of browns, such as dried leaves, grasses, shredded newspaper and cardboard.
- ★ Do not add fish, meat, fat, oils, un-rinsed eggshells or any cooked food .
- ★ Add oxygen by turning regularly.
- ★ Avoid overloading the compost in fruit season -

- freeze material and add gradually.
- ★ Avoid adding cereals or grains.

Pet Food

- ★ Feed pets indoors.
- ★ If pets are fed outside, ensure all food is cleaned up.
- ★ Store pet food in a secure location or in a bear-resistant bin.

Barbeques

- ★ Clean barbeques after use by burning off the grill entirely.
- ★ Remove and clean the grease trap after every use.
- ★ Cover and/or store indoors (do not take propane tank indoors).

For more information please contact:
Debbie Read
Email: capitalregionaldistrict@wildsafebc.com
Website: www.wildsafebc.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wild-SafeBC-Capital-Regional-District/481287361939169>

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In Shawnigan Village, where friends meet . . . at the purple building !

Shawnigan Weather August 2014
Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network
~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Average High	23.1	26.8	24.8	25.7	23.8	26.9	24.9	25.7	24.0
Average Low	11.9	13.1	13.4	13.3	12.7	14.0	13.6	13.9	13.2
Extreme High	36.1	32.3	32.4	32.7	29.9	33.8	31.6	32.5	30.0
Extreme Low	3.3	10.6	9.9	9.2	8.8	11.3	9.7	11.5	9.5
Precipitation	29.3	15.5	43.1	20.0	33.1	11.3	36.1	13.6	38.3
Days w precip	6	4	8	5	8	5	9	5	11
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	681.9	765.2	715.0	702.9	527.4	620.4	548.5	686.6	538.6
Since 1914: tied for warmest, 39 th driest									
Lake Temperature: August 3 rd : 25° August 10 th : 25° August 17 th : 23° August 24 th : 24° August 31 st : 22°									

A brief sojourn

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Lake Museum

As the curator of the Shawnigan Lake Museum, I am always curious about the early settlers in our area. Why did they come here? What did they do?

Very early in the story of Shawnigan, a sawmill was built on the lake. William Lossee, who worked for the E&N Railway, recognized the economic value of the massive timber in the area as he travelled up and down the island. He bought a piece of lakefront property for his mill and obtained a lease to cut down all the trees around the lake. Once cut, the logs were dragged from a number of booming areas on the lake, by steamboat, back to the mill and processed there. The lumber was taken to market on the E & N Railway. The Shawnigan mill operated from 1890 until the mid 1940s. Hundreds, if not thousands, of men came here to work, in the woods and/or in the sawmill. The Shawnigan Lumber Company provided economic stability for the community for over 50 years.

In 1926, R.B. McLean built a similar sawmill, not far from the town of Port Alberni. The mill was family owned and operated until 1965 when it was sold to MacMillan Bloedel. MacMillan Bloedel eventually donated the land back to the community, and over time the site was restored. The McLean mill is typical of

many coastal lumber camps and sawmills from the last century and was named a National Historic Site (1989) to commemorate the history of logging and saw milling in British Columbia. The McLean Sawmill is the only commercial steam-operated sawmill left in Canada.

To understand our Shawnigan mill, a field trip to the McLean mill was a must. You can drive directly to the mill, but the option to go there by steam train was an easy choice. We arrived at the restored 1912 CPR Railway station in downtown Port Alberni at 9:30, in time for the 10 o'clock train. Yes, there really is a train that runs on Island rails! The Alberni Pacific Railway operates on the former Port Sub of the CPR line (last train – 2001). The station building is a beautiful reminder of a bygone era. Not far from the building is a massive water tower that was used in the past to service the steam trains. Shawnigan Lake once had a proper station and a water tower for the trains.

Soon after our arrival, the 1929 Baldwin steam engine (an ex-logging engine) arrived in all its glory, with several passenger cars in tow. Two conductors in full uniform ushered the passengers onto the almost full train in preparation for the 40 minute trip to the mill. After the nostalgic call of “All Aboard”, we were on our way.

Between the bells and



whistles of the train, I was struck by the notion that the trains of the past truly connected communities. As we lumbered along, crossing many level crossings, people inside the train smiled and chattered, and even though residents of Port Alberni see this train hundreds of times over the year, they still waved happily at the passing train as they waited for it to cross the roadways. People along the route came out of their houses to wave flags, they waited at intersections to take photos and generally added to the sense of community.

The McLean mill site is wonderful with its steam powered saw mill and many of the original ‘camp’ buildings (most in the process of

being restored). A lively guide provided historical notes for the buildings and explained each part of the sawmill machinery and the process of turning logs into lumber. As I watched the labour-intensive process of dragging a large log into the mill; moving it to the log carriage; and then guiding it through the saw, I imagined myself watching this same process in our own mill at Shawnigan.

Tough men with little, or no, visible safety equipment making lumber through a dazzling series of blades, belts, wheels, pulleys and chains, all driven by a steam engine, just as they would have in the early days. We watched as two massive circular blades – one from above and one from below -

cut this large log. It took many cuts to create a pile of lumber. There were many other parts to this process of reducing a log to the point of saleable lumber, but sadly it would take too many words.

Too soon, we were called back to the train for the return trip. Next time, and there will be a next time, I will plan to go on a Saturday when they demonstrate falling a tree the old fashioned way, and power up the steam donkey. It would be easy to stay on this site longer and catch the last train. There is a lot to see and do.

A visit to the McLean Mill provides visitors with an opportunity to journey back in time...in the fast paced world of today, who can resist?

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Alice and Amber

Bruce Fraser
Area Director

In the fading hours of August 2014, Alice and Amber, two girls from Saltspring Island, nickered their way into our lives. Alice is a full sized Nubian and Amber is a petite Dwarf Nigerian, both goats of course. Sarah and I had gone on a scouting expedition to a farm in Fulford Harbour, just to get a sense of things - not to purchase an advertised goat, but just to size up the farm requirements. You laugh!

Amber, the yearling, however, was just too engaging to leave to some other family. She is a uniform butterscotch colour with blue eyes, a sweet disposition and is quite probably pregnant, having spent some recent weeks co-habiting with a vigorously randy Nigerian buck. What this likely

means is kids, long before we had anticipated having to deal with the perils of kidding and on the eve of winter. Alice on the other hand, at five months, is a spectacularly beautiful black and white with a great roman nose, brown eyebrows and speckled ears, those floppy Nubian ears that hang down like ringlets. She looks too regal to be other than haughty, but nibbles the hand like an old friend. These two are going to cause us to complete the fencing of a pasture, hasten the raising of the barn, find a veterinarian, locate appropriate feed, wonder how to introduce them to the dogs and generally come to grips with the demanding care of livestock.

All of this started out with perusal of a web site on miniature sheep. Miniature Southdown "Baby Doll" sheep had seemed like

a good idea just as the gas lawnmower was cooling off for the nth time this summer. "What about getting live lawnmowers?" we asked. They could quietly mow the lawn, trim the orchard and provide compost and fleece into the bargain. We could breed them and sell lambs to make Riverpool Farm viable". As you might suspect, counting sheep dulls the senses. Then we visited a farm in Vernon that had Baby Dolls to sell. But, along with the miniature sheep, Black Sheep Farm had Dwarf Nigerian goats who nudged and nibbled at us while the sheep just kept on munching.

It took the trip home and some time, but it finally dawned on us that the goats had a sense of humour, were full of mischief and might be more interesting than fuzz covered single-

minded lawnmowers.

Thus began the goat research. As ever, U tube provided us with a legion of stories of miniature goat raising. Goat milk and cheese were extolled, barns were illustrated, feed was discussed and kids were born while goat husbandry became the breakfast and supper conversation. Why, sure enough, if we spent a small fortune on fencing, barn building, play structures, nutrition, hoof trimmers and medicines, we could anticipate an absorbing life of goat minding as an antidote to the sordid affairs of man, convoluted and violent that they seem in this early part of the twenty first century.

I have contemplated at length trading the questionable profession of elected politician for the unassuming occupation of goat-herd. "Goatherd", has a nice earthy ring to it, does it not?



SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-emergency Phone:
(250)812-8030

Email:
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 13 Calls in August 2014

- ★ Sunday, August 3 – 1st Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Monday, August 4 – Unattended Fire near Burnt Bridge
- ★ Thursday, August 14 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, August 14 – Electrical Smell in House in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, August 19 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, August 19 – Electrical Smell in House in the Village
- ★ Friday, August 22 – Possible Dock Fire on Angus Rd
- ★ Friday, August 22 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Friday, August 22 – Flare Sighting on Lockspur Rd
- ★ Saturday, August 23 – Alarms Activated in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Thursday, August 28 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, August 29 – 1st Responder in Hillcroft Acres
- ★ Sunday, August 31 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd

The Fire Chief Attended Six Burning Complaints during the month.

Young Seniors Action Group Society

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

Physical Activities – for body and mind!

We all know that in order to keep our mind active and alert it is important to keep our body in good condition. We offer a number of activities throughout the week that does just that.

Monday: Men's Walking and Women's Walking group. The groups gather at the Legion parking lot and leave for walks that are about 6 to 10 km. local, or nearby walks. Departure times are 8:30 am for men and 9:30 am for women.

Tuesday: Zumba - A dance routine that gets your heart pumping. The routine is

geared for seniors but that doesn't necessarily mean "slow". Please note, since a non YSAGS member leads this activity a small fee is collected for each session. The sessions are in the Legion and go from 9:30 to 10:30 am.

Wednesday: Line Dancing - These dance routines are called by Ray. This group has been active for many years and will show their skills at community functions on occasion. They meet in the Legion from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

Thursday: Oops! No physical activity to start the day? We will fill that slot soon, I'm sure.

Friday: Tai Chi - A mind-calming, stress-reducing form of exercise. Helen

has been the leader for this for many years. There is a beginner's class (9 to 9:45am) and a class for more experienced Tai Chi persons (10 to 11 am).

After a summer break from our regular activities we now are back to our full Fall schedule. Our Harvest Dinner is set for October 7. This is a catered sit-down dinner and usually brings a capacity crowd of 80 members. Entertainment is provided after the meal.

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 and others.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre
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 Chippery
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**
Meeting times TBA. Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
See website for details: www.shawniganwater.org
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
Gathering Space hours: Mon-Sat 1-4 www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com




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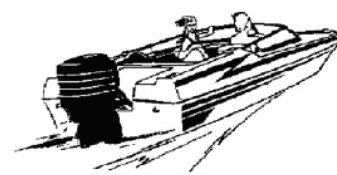
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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is IT?



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

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The winner for August was Roy Davies. The photo was of "KINSOL", the wooden rocking horse, 15 minutes the other side of the Kinsol Trestle. We received many replies but Roy was first by just a few minutes. Thanks to everyone for reading the Focus!

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ELKINGTON FOREST
YOUR PLACE IN NATURE

The Announcement

My name is Brent Beach. My wife and I own property in Shawnigan Lake. Over the last 8 years I have been active in the Shawnigan Residents Association, as a member of the Steering Committee of the most recent Official Community Plan, and as an editor and contributor to the Shawnigan Focus.

I will be a candidate for Area B director in the next municipal election (November 15, 2014).

Platform

1. New Official Community Plan
2. Incorporation Study and Incorporation Referendum
3. Community Capacity Building
4. Open Government

Details

Official Community Plan

I believe that we, as a community, have to go back and rebuild the Official Community Plan (OCP). An OCP is the community's plan for the future, based on its values. Our current OCP is not that.

First - it was not written by the community. Instead, it was written by a consultant who was fired by the CVRD (the work of the consultant was never shown to the Steering Committee (SC)). After that, it was written by CVRD planning staff. The SC was shown draft after draft, each as incomprehensible as the previous and rarely (in the case of Area B), reflecting input from the SC.

Second - the OCP was written for South Cowichan, to achieve goals for that area as a whole. One outcome is that Area Directors from Areas A and C sit on re-zoning panels that can make changes in the Shawnigan Watershed. This makes no sense.

Third - our OCP reflects the ideas of the CVRD planning and Areas A and C, more than it does the goals of the residents of Area B.

Fourth - our OCP is being used to support re-zonings that are contrary to the vision of many residents of Area B (see The Future, below).

We need to change that. We need to write our own OCP to reflect our vision for the future of Area B. There are several excellent OCPs that can serve as the beginning of our new OCP - adapted to Area B, by the residents of Area B.

Incorporation Study

As with the OCP, the CVRD and the Provincial government are trying to push us into a single municipality combining Cobble Hill, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake. That would be similar to making a single municipality of Metchosin, View Royal and Sidney.

Working through the CVRD and the Provincial government, we cannot get an incorporation study that applies to Area B alone. If we are to ever find out if incorporation of Area B makes sense, we will have to do it ourselves.

My goal is not incorporation. My goal is to complete an incorporation study for Area B, largely through the efforts of the residents of Area B that can be the basis for an Area B incorporation referendum in 2019.

There are several excellent model incorporation studies on which we can base a community written Incorporation Study for Area B.

Community Capacity Building

Right now, Area B may well lack the capacity to be an incorporated municipality.

- We have not written an OCP and identified the future we want for ourselves.
- We have not identified the revenue and expenditures such a municipality would have.
- We have not worked through the services we want the municipality to offer.
- We don't know what that municipality would provide to its residents, or what it would cost.

If we used **traditional** means to write the OCP and an incorporation study, we would be little closer to having the capacity to govern ourselves. **Traditional** means would involve hiring a consultant, getting a steering committee in place, having many meetings and writing reports, having open houses that few attend, dumping a 200 page report on the public at the end and asking them to approve (or not reject) the resulting report.

That process does **not** involve the community. That process does **not** discover the community vision of the future.

Worst of all, that process does not create the capacity within the community to govern should the incorporation referendum pass. We can only create the capacity to govern ourselves by stepping forward, and helping to write the OCP and the Incorporation study.

The **traditional** model - consultants, small groups, big documents just before decision day - is a relic of the past. Today we have mechanism that allow for much wider participation in both the OCP and the Incorporation studies. In fact, we can have full participation from day one.

Open Government

We have seen a number of resignations in the senior levels of the CVRD. We have no idea why. Too many CVRD meetings include in camera sessions. Documents used in those in-camera sessions vanish forever from public sight. We have staff and area directors meeting with developers, with no public record of the event unless one of the developers decides to release a transcript.

If elected, everything I do will be public. That means not attending in-camera session at the CVRD. That means all meetings with developers will be recorded and the recordings will be public. All communications with residents, from and to, will be public. Rather than too little information, you may find it too much information. It may be that there are some meetings that must, by law, not be public. As much information as possible will be disclosed about any such meeting.

All material will be on public websites that are easily navigated, containing documents that are easily read.

Expert Assistance

I believe that volunteers from the community can do most of what we need to do over the next four years. That includes a new OCP and Incorporation studies that would be ready for public vote in 2019.

I know that the community can not do this alone. Expert help is essential. It is clear to me from following the Environmental Appeal Board hearings into the Contaminated Waste Permit that we need experts. Those hearings would not have been as successful as they were, without experts - both on the science and in the law.

The OCP and the Incorporation study must be acceptable to the CVRD and the Ministry, as well as to the people of Area B. Bridging these gaps - between us and the CVRD, between us and the Ministry - will require some expert help.

I am not an expert - I am a volunteer. Even if elected, I will still be a volunteer. As such, I am no more entitled to pay than any other volunteer. Experts though, do need to be paid. I will divert money from my Area Director salary to help pay for experts as needed.

The Future

Right now, with the existing OCP, we are drifting along. Bruce Coburn wrote that "The trouble with normal is it always gets worse." For those living in Area B over the last 15 years, we know this to be true.

I see Area B in a gradual decline. From the place I first visited in 1978, it is slowly degrading as developers grab off a bit here, a bit there.

Right now we are faced with two attempts to re-zone F-1 land - land that should only be used for forestry - into residential land. This is an immensely lucrative venture for a developer. For example, an 80 hectare parcel on Renfrew Road, valued at \$385,000 as is, could be re-zoned into 31 residential parcels, worth from \$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000. With profits like that, it is not surprising that developers are very persistent. Although turned down by the Advisory Planning Commission (an appointed committee of local residents who review re-zoning applications) several times, this re-zoning request is coming to a public meeting on September 17, 2014.

A second F-1 property and an exhausted gravel pit, is lined up behind it. If these re-zoning are granted, there is little to stop developers from turning the Shawnigan Watershed into Langford.

With a new OCP that affirms our desire to live in a watershed dominated by forestry land, we can control development. Once incorporated, with a team of residents who have written the OCP and the Incorporation studies, we can govern Area B in a way that our vision of the future is a certainty.

We don't have to settle for normal - the slow slide into development that many of us do not want.

We can design the future we want and can make it happen.

I Can Not Do It Alone

Even if elected, I cannot do this alone. It will require widespread community involvement to convince the Ministry that they must allow a vote on the new OCP and on Area B Incorporation.

We stood up to the Ministry on the Contaminated Soil Permit. We can do it again.

We can do it together.



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