

September 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

MT BALDY: A LEGACY FOR SHAWNIGAN'S FUTURE



Sonia Furstenau Area B Dírector

Acquisition of Mt Baldy in order to preserve it as a park has been a goal of the Shawnigan community for decades.

A purchase agreement is in place: \$1.5 million for the 250-acre property. If \$500,000 can be raised in donations, the Mt Baldy property can be purchased with no impact on the Shawnigan tax requisition.

Capitalizing on Shawnigan's beauty and recreational attractions, with a focus on the year-round opportunities that trail networks offer, is a key component in su tainable economic development for Shawnigan Lake. Acquisition of Mt Baldy is a way for the Shawnigan

community to be proactive about our future and the health of our watershed.

All donations will receive charitable tax receipts from the CVRD - 100% of the money donated goes towards acquisition with no administrative fees.

Be a part of the Mt Baldy legacy project with your

Mt Baldy is a key priority in the **Shawnigan Parks** and Trails Master Plan. The Parks Commission and the CVRD Board have endorsed the acquisition.

generous donation.

For information contact loritreloar@shaw.ca



View from the top of Mt. Baldy



Victoria Aqua Ski Club hosts the Annual Novice Ski Tournament More photos and results on page 12

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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS SEPTEMBER 2015

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, nonprofit 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, VOR 2W0

Fair Vote Canada

Wendy Bergerud Faír Vote Čanada

Canadians have an extraordinary opportunity waiting for them in the 2015 Federal Election. They can elect a government that will bring in a Proportional Representation voting system. Proportional Representation, PR, is any voting system designed to produce a representative body i.e. parliament, legislature, council etc. where voters elect representatives in proportion to their votes.

In the 2011 Federal Election using our current First Past The Post system, of the 14.7 million votes, 7 million had no input into the make up of Parliament. Another "unfair" result of FPTP, a recurring problem in Canadian Elections, is the election of "majority governments" with less than 50% of the vote. The most recent example, in the 2011 election, saw the Conservative Party receive 54% of the seats (166 MP's) with only 39.7 % of the vote. With PR 39.7% of the vote would have given a party 123 MP's. The Green Party vote of 3.9% would have elected 12 MP's instead of one.

Of the main western democracies only Canada, the UK and the USA still use FPTP to elect their representatives. Most other major western democracies use a form of PR voting system. Where "Every Vote Counts" there is a more genuine representation of the voting public. There is an increase in the number of voters, more women are elected and all geographic regions are better represented. A majority government can

still be elected but only with more than 50% of the votes.

Canada has the opportunity to make the 2015 Federal Election the last unfair election. In December 2014 parliament voted on a motion to end our First Past the Post electoral system and to bring in PR in time for the 2019 election. Although the motion did not pass it received strong support. All the NDP, 16 Liberals, the Greens, the Bloc and 3 Independants, a total of 110 MPs voted for, while 166 MPs voted against. We can reform our voting system with a majority vote in Parliament. To achieve this we must elect 170 MPs who will vote for a PR voting system. On October 19, please vote for a candidate that endorses Proportional Representation and the future of a stronger democracy in Canada.

Fair Vote Canada is a grass roots, multi-partisan citizens' group campaigning for voting system reform for more than 12 years. We promote the introduction of an element of PR into elections for all levels of government. For more information please go to Fairvote.ca. For an overview of PR issues click on Resources, scroll down to Further Reading and click on Fair Vote Canada tabloid. Quick introductions to PR can be viewed on YouTube. Search "Make 2015 our Last Unfair Federal Election YouTube" or "John Cleese on PR YouTube"

To participate in our "Visit Your Local Candidate" initiative please email our South Island Action Team at victoria@fairvote.ca

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Average High	23.1	26.9	26.8	25.2	25.7	25.8	26.9	25.8	25.7
Average Low	11.9	13.3	13.1	12.2	13.3	13.5	14.0	12.9	13.9
Extreme High	36.1	33.2	32.3	32.4	32.7	33.1	33.8	32.5	32.5
Extreme Low	3.3	10.1	10.6	7.7	9.2	10.8	11.3	10.0	11.5
Precipitation	29.3	22.3	15.5	20.1	20.0	16.7	11.3	14.8	13.6
Days w precip	6	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
(Up to August 30 th) Since 1914: 6th warmest, 42 nd driest									
Lake Temperature: Aug 2 nd : 24° Aug 9 th : 22° Aug 16 th : 23° Aug 23 rd : 23° Aug 30 th : 20°									
Lake Level Change: Aug 2 nd :-1cm Aug 9 th :-4cm Aug 16 th :-2.5cm Aug 23 rd :-1cm Aug 30 th -4cm									



ATTN: PRINCIPALS AND ALL TEACH-ERS IN THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE, COBBLE HILL, MILL BAY AREAS.

Do any of you have a young artist, writer or a filmmaker? We are inviting all kids and youth in the above areas to create a poem, poster, essay or video about Remembrance Day and what it means to them.

Great local and National prizes are up for grabs cash, a trip to Ottawa, an IPad, IPod and MacBook.

Last year we had 284 entries from our local schools, but four schools did not enter. If the school does not want to enter, students can enter on their own and drop their entries off at the Shawnigan Legion.

Application should be arriving in the schools in late August. Entries must then be sent into the Legion ten days prior to Nov 11, 2015.

In 2014 Malahat Legion Branch 134 gave out \$1800 to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Then in May, Willow Cunliffe, from Bench School, won third place from Command in the amount of \$150.00 This was the very first year we have entries go to the finals for our area.

Remembrance Day is a very special day so we are looking for some very special entries.

Comrade Win Teague - Malahat Legion Branch 134

2 | SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

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.



Mt. Baldy: Our First **Community Forest ?**

Although the current campaign to acquire a 250 acre chunk of the iconic Mt. Baldy for the community should be strongly supported, it is disheartening that the intention would be to designate the property as parkland. In the long run, an ecosystem based forestry model on this site would far better serve the Plain People of Area B. Whereas parks usually incur costs, sustainably managed forests actually increase community coffers.

Michael Copland (Ecoforestry Institute) and Ronnie Drever (David Suzuki Foundation) co-authored a "Sequential Thinning Strategy" that would be ideal for such a project. The methods described therein would not only enhance the marketable value of the young trees, but due to the high retention rate afforded standing timber, ensure that the pleasurable aesthetic experience would be retained as well. This aspect alone would contribute significantly to vital watershed function. The willful destruction of vulnerable ecological sites and wildlife habitat that has characterized "forestry" operations here would become a thing of the past.

according to ecoforestry principles, Area B could realize a modest financial profit approximately twenty years hence when the first juvenile thin would occur. As the forest matures, funds from this source (and possibly other fundraising efforts) would gradually accrue, paving the way for the purchase of more private forestlands. In this way, a "bank" of community controlled forests could eventually be established.

75% of Shawnigan's woodlands are privately owned and, for the most part, have been shamefully exploited with little regard for community concerns. "Trash and dash", or worse still, "log, then flog", have been the defining mantras of their piratical owners.

where our forbears began to turn things around!"

~Mary Desmond, Shawnigan Lake

Whose water is it?

I am in current awe as I drive by many lush green lake-front homes, Kelsey School soccer fields, the emerald green grounds of Brentwood College, the healthy green lawn at the Fire Hall, and the sprinkling of newly laid sod at Shawnigan Lake School; not to mention all I have missed!

The "Watering Restriction Program" really needs sorting out. Who is bound by the regulations? Do specific people or entities "own" the water or does it belong to ALL. Mother Nature provides it and I do not think ownership should be "bought".

limited few private and public entities to do so at their pleasure.

Water restrictions are good and proper but should/must apply to ALL. It is time to turn off the taps at the schools and fire halls and other places that are misusing water in a time of drought.

It is too hot right now. I am going for a glass of water.

~Reg Blackmore

The Heritage Fair in Shawnigan Lake

I am always awed, and grateful, for the support that can be found in our community. The Shawnigan Lake Museum recently hosted the Heritage Fair, an old-fashioned community picnic, and where we needed help people stepped up on a weekend day without

enough root beer and suckers for everyone.

Jan and Dave, from Dunedin Farm brought sheep and organized a mini Sheep to Shawl; Bonnie, Suzanne and Sonia spun, wove and knitted; The Shawnigan Quilters demonstrated hand quilting; Barbara showed us how to make bobbin lace; Jennie started a wonderful piece of community art; Dennis carved; Norm, Ed and Dave brought vintage vehicles and vessels; David, a professional (and accomplished) storyteller, enthusiastically offered his services, when asked; Elizabeth, a square dance caller from Victoria came with other dancers to demonstrate and offer participation; Zerena, Jens, and Ed from the Camera Club spent the day taking photos of people who dressed up in vintage costumes; Trudi helped dress them; Chloe and Alice managed the children's games; and Gavin showed up, unasked, to help set up and take down. Almost everyone said that they would help again next year.

If this approach is taken, and the land rehabilitated

But, fortunately for us, a far superior – and more enlightened - option exists. By adopting ecosystem based standards for our first community forest venture, the false dichotomy of assigning woodlands to either logging or parks can be retired forever.

With the passage of time, perhaps a century or so, the once flourishing forest industry could be revived. People pausing to admire the view from atop Mt. Baldy, and listening to a little train transporting timber to a local mill, might remark, "So this is

There is something wrong when I see the lush green lawns of private and public entities when the taxpayer himself (the majority) is denied usage.

The Alternate Director responded to me directly in the Director's absence. I appreciated that. We talked, agreed and disagreed, BUT we communicated. The BIG question "whose water is it?"

I think common sense says water comes from either the sky or underground. Having a permit or license to draw from the lake should NOT allow a

hesitation.

The museum has nine board members, Marcy, Sally, Garth, Robin, Peter, Mark, Pieter, Grant and myself, who energetically support the museum and show up willingly for the hard work that it takes to put on an event, but we can't do it alone. A small group of women, Trina, Marian and Patty, who I work with on a regular basis to make Shawnigan a fun place, came to help. Maurice at Country Grocer provided us with amazing cookies for our Memory Tent; Linda at the Mill Bay A&W contributed

It takes volunteers to create 'community'. It certainly felt like community at the Heritage Fair. If you missed it this year, make sure that you don't next vear.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make it a wonderful day!

~Lori Treloar, Shawnigan Lake Museum Curator



Nothing new under the sun



Owen Cook Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan Lakers are no strangers to a good fight. We are rather fond of our humble natural paradise and are more than willing to fight tooth and nail to preserve the invaluable qualities that define our Lake. Unfortunately, while we do not lack those who are willing to stand up for what we care about, neither do we lack the opposite - those who would exploit our little community for their own gain or those apathetic to their surroundings who may sometimes, through their

inactivity, aid those who would exploit us. This phenomenon is not new to Shawnigan. Some who have lived in Shawnigan for a long time may remember David Laverock. His family bought property in the area from the E & N Railway Co. in 1893 and the lot remained in his family until his death in 1986. Laverock himself moved to the property during the inter-war period, living on the property full time upon the conclusion of his service in the Second World War.

As a long-time resident of Shawnigan, Laverock is an

important piece of our local history - even serving a six year term as Area B Director from 1968 to 1974. His property, known as Lot 40 of the Malahat District, falls along the southern shore of the Koksilah River, a couple kilometres upstream from the Burnt Bridge. This 95 acre, odd shaped triangle of land represented for David Laverock the pinnacle of those invaluable qualities that we all cherish.

In 1943, however, the lawyer for the Kapoor Lumber Company served Lily



Laverock, the elder sister of David and the legal owner of the lot, with a notice of expropriation. The Kapoors offered five hundred dollars as compensation for the construction of a private logging road over five acres of Lot 40. Lily and David promptly refused as neither were keen to have the property bisected by a busy industrial artery. David had hoped to build a hunting and fishing resort on the property to share his slice of heaven on Earth - a project like Kapoor's presented a death sentence to those aspirations. However, Kapoor had no intention of diverting his route, having already built a road from the extent of the public roads at Glen Eagles to the eastern edge of Lot 40, as well as from the south-western corner of Lot 40 on to the Kapoor lumber camp at 3 Mile Creek.

It fell to the courts to resolve the matter. In 1944, the Laverocks and the Kapoors went to seek binding arbitration. Three arbiters were selected, a judge, a logger, and a journalist, to see evidence from both sides. Kapoor's representatives argued that it was necessary to cut through Laverock's property because it would cost the company more to cross the river as they would need to build bridges. Laverock's legal counsel proposed two solutions 1) use the existing road through Lot 40, (which Kapoor deemed unfit for his needs) or 2) cross the river which apparently represented a cost higher than Kapoor was willing to take on. In the end, the Kapoors were allowed to build their road through Laverock's property, although at the higher cost of \$8910 rather than the initial \$500. Laverock's appeal was denied by the courts and the road, which every Shawnigan Laker will be familiar with as Renfrew Road was built directly through Lot 40.

For the next several decades, David Laverock made the best of his situation, charging a toll for any company that sought use of his road. This once again became a legal issue when, in 1969, Laverock had to take British Columbia Forest Products (B.C.F.P.) Limited to court over their use of his road. They refused to pay Laverock's fee, as they had acquired the right of way through Lot 40 from the then defunct Kapoor Lumber Company. Laverock believed that the right of way was nontransferable and as such had been illegally acquired by British Columbia Forest Products. B.C.F.P. denied such claims and were backed up when, in 1971, Justice Dohm ruled in favour of the lumber company and their right to use Laverock's property. Now, having lost the right to his own property twice on the eyes of the law, Laverock had to accept that he was not going to get any help in this matter.

Twice, Laverock stood alone against corporate interests and lost. This brings us back to today where residents of Shawnigan Lake are endeavouring to stand against the might of South Island Aggregates, and the Provincial Government, a government that does not seem willing to lend a helping hand anytime soon. What we need is complete unity.

Who could reasonably take a stand against the right to clean water? It is one of the core unifying traits of each and every living thing. That begs the question to our government, "why are you not helping to defend our water?"

The old idiom, "might makes right" rings true in this case. When faced with a more powerful adversary, one must gather their own forces to exceed them. When we all stand together we could see ourselves become the might needed to resolve this issue.

Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail

2015 Official Guide

Sponsored by the Village Chippery

Vote for your favourite at Village Chippery. You could win 100 Shawnigan bucks.

Winning scarecrow gets to donate all money collected to their favourite charity.

Have Fun!

6. Trina Burns Insurance ~ 2337 Ravenhill Rd 7. Camp Pringle ~ 2520 W Sh. Lake Rd 8. Shawnigan Museum ~ 1775 Sh-Mill Bay Rd 9. Sonia Furstenau ~ Watershed Office 10. Village Chippery ~ 2740 Dundas 11. Shawnigan Coffee House ~ 1761 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd 12. Camp Shawny ~ 2676 Morningstar Rd 13. Vintage Barn ~ 1755 Baden Powell Rd 14. Dewar McCarthy ~ 2769 Sh Lake Rd 15. Mason's Store ~ 1855 Renfrew Rd

To Victoria



4 I SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

SIA, Malahat LNG, & the Duncan Journal

Dave Hutchinson Shawnígan Focus

The first issue of the new Duncan Journal was published August 17th and states its mission as "Be the community's newspaper." The lead story was titled "Soil Company Gets Clean Bill of Health" which referred to the Ministry of Environment's testing results of South Island Aggregates' sites on Stebbings Road. There was no mention of Dr. Andrew Weaver's tests which indicated elevated levels of thorium. lead and other metals, nor of the Ministry's intention to follow up on his results.

The second issue published August 24th has a full page article titled "LNG: Promised Economic Saviour, or Bust". LNG issues including politics, economics, environment concerns, and technical considerations are discussed. A list of current projects in BC is provided alongside an advertisement for Cascadia Energy Ltd.

On July 17th there was an announcement that the Malahat First Nation had purchased the 525 hectare Bamberton property. Chief Michal Harry and Band CEO Lawrence Lewis were both optimistic about the opportunities this presented. On August 12th it was announced that Chief Harry had resigned due to revelations he was receiving a "consulting fee" of fifty cents per tonne for material received at the South Island Aggregates site. Chief Harry had been a staunch supporter of the controversial contaminated soil facility from the get-go. On August 20th a Mutual Benefits Agreement was announced supporting a proposed LNG facility at the Bamberton site. The Malahat Band was represented by Acting Chief Tommy Harry and CEO Lewis. Steelhead LNG was represented by CEO Nigel Kuzemko. All saw a bright future ahead. While the event was well attended by media and interested parties, no opportunity for questions was provided; even more remarkable, none saw fit to object.

While the Malahat's vision of a Big, Bold & Beautiful Nation may include an LNG plant, not all First Nations agree. The Tsartlip Nation, across Saanich Inlet, is strongly opposed to the proposal. While the Malahat Band and Steelhead LNG have been negotiating for the last 13



Tommy Harry, Lawrence Lewis and Nigel Kuzemko at the podium

months, there have been no consultations with the community or other First Nations.

This is big money. Steelhead LNG has applied to the National Energy Board for five licenses to export up to 30 million tonnes of LNG per year for 25 years. Four of the licenses are proposed for Sarita Bay near Bamfield where they are partnering with the Huu-ay-aht First Nation. That project is estimated at US\$6 billion not including pipeline costs. The remaining license is proposed for the Bamberton facility. No information on proposed pipeline routes has been provided.

What has any of this got to do with the Duncan Journal? Perhaps nothing - although it is interesting to look at the backgrounds of some of the people involved with the new "community" newspaper:

Manager Content: Nick Caumanns

LinkedIn has a Nick Caumanns of Duncan, BC

listed as President at Cascadia Energy Ltd. Cascadia specializes in natural gas supply management and risk management. This Nick Caumanns has also worked for Shell Energy and Fortis BC.

Manager Operations: Laurie Thomson

LinkedIn has a Laurence (Laurie) Thomson of Duncan BC, listed as the Vice President of Mining & Business Development at EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. EDI is involved in the environmental assessment and monitoring of Fortis BC's Tilbury 2 LNG plant expansion.

Contributor: Stephen Connelly

Cascadia Energy has a team member named Steve Connelly with a background at Fortis BC and BC Hydro.

Note: LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) is a businessoriented social networking service for professionals to list their experience and education.





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Nurturing individual and community growth

L.M. Peterson Dwight School Canada

September marks the start of a new school year, and the introduction to a new community of students getting to know each other and finding their niche. We asked Liam, a local Cowichan Valley student, returning to Dwight School Canada for grade 10, what advice he would give to new arrivals at school. "Just be yourself!" he shares. "People here accept each other, just as they are." Liam will be living on campus again this year and is looking forward to the experience of this multicultural community. "Meeting people face-to-face is a great way to learn how different other cultures are from our own." He says. "It's a really good way to break down stereotypes."

Global-mindedness is an important theme at Dwight, and students are encouraged to nurture the desire to help others in inspiring ways. As someone with a childhood friend who was wheelchair-bound and often excluded from activities both scholastically and socially, Liam feels strongly about the issue of access. He is determined to work towards a future that is inclusive; and to ensure that nobody who wants to participate is excluded because of physical limitations.

Thanks to the summer Global Leaders Academy session he attended, Liam has found a way to put his passions into practice by working with the Victoria Wheelchair Sports club, a non-profit group dedicated to the development of lifetime skills for people with disabilities. Liam used this group as the focus of his GLA fundraising efforts over the summer, and plans to find ways to incorporate the club into his service activities throughout the school year to fulfill the CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) portion of his classes. We're excited to see where this might lead him, as time and again we've seen youth break through the barriers of convention and present a new way of addressing problems.

Like Liam, all students should feel inspired and excited by their learning environment. After all, every child has hidden potential that needs to be nurtured, and the focus at Dwight is to ignite that spark.



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Vancouver Island Regional Library

Community Consultations

Earlier this summer, the Shawnigan Residents Association received an invitation to participate in a community consultation at the library branch in Mill Bay. These consultations were being held in all 38 branches of the Vancouver Island Regional Library system in order to receive input into their upcoming 5 year strategic planning process. A representative from the SRA completed the preliminary survey and attended the session on July 9th. Although we are focused, of necessity right now, on leading the court battle against the contaminated soil permit, we believed that the provision of library services is of interest and concern to the residents of Shawnigan Lake, and that our

For 2015, the total amount allocated from CVRD taxes to the VIRL is \$1,679,563; of this amount \$367,099 comes from Area B. By contrast, the next highest portion, \$218,893, comes from Area A and after that \$212,236 comes from Area C.

Two observations from the meeting:

1. The governance of VIRL does not adequately represent our local community. The nine electoral areas of the CVRD are entitled to collectively appoint one representative to the VIRL library board; Mary Marcotte of North Oyster/ Diamond is serving this year. When asked at the meeting if Director Marcotte, or any other representative, visited or met with our local librarians to ascertain issues to take to the system board, the answer was no. Incidentally, the Municipality of North Cowichan, the City of Duncan, and the Towns of Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan each have an individual representative on the VIRL board. Since this arrangement is legislated provincially, our area cannot expect better representation at the system level, but the suggestion was made at the session that our local library could benefit from an informal advisory board made up of individuals from the communities of Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake, and Cobble Hill. The librarian was receptive to this idea, particularly since throughout the session it became apparent that the three communities are distinct and have different needs and expectations for their library.

larger physical space, including meeting rooms for workshops, art displays, or book clubs, and for accommodating the needs of differing groups, as for example: a separate area for kid's programs (Shawnigan Lake has a very high proportion of children out of all the electoral areas) and a quiet reading area for seniors.

Nevertheless, when asked whether our branch was on a short list for a new or expanded facility, the answer was no. Budget considerations play a part, although the regional system as a whole sets the priorities for new capital projects and bears the cost of any new facilities, not the individual community. Lake Cowichan just opened their new facility, Chemanius is in the design process, but it appears that Mill Bay may be waiting for an upgrade for some time. Despite the difficulties of the governance model, everyone who enters the library in Mill Bay knows that it is a warm and comfortable environment with knowledgeable and helpful staff, and the consultation session overall concluded that they do a good job in the services provided. The focus of the Shawnigan Residents Association was on fairness and value for tax dollars allocated for library services, and on advocating for maximum input into the operation of our local branch.

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gillian@HNGPromo.com www.HNGPromo.com locally owned and operated organization could contribute on their behalf to the future of our local library.

The primary reason why we believed that this is a topic needing input is that in 2015, the VIRL system is the sixth largest line item in residential taxes for Area B, as follows (all figures are per \$100,000 assessed residential value):

- ★ Kerry Park Recreation 63.03
- ★ Shawnigan Lake Community Centre 40.87
- ★ Planning 26.78
- ★ Solid Waste Complex 25.83
- ★ Community Parks 22.85
- ★ Vancouver Island Regional Library 22.06
- ★ 32 other functions supported by our taxes

2. Throughout the session it also became apparent that an overarching need for the Mill Bay branch is for a Results of the consultation process in each of the communities are available here:

http://virl.bc.ca/communityconsultation-sessions-your-communitys-results

61SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

Take a Hike!

Robin Massey Shawnígan Focus

In the past few months, the name Jack Fleetwood has been a constant in Take a Hike articles. We've discussed his contribution in Bright Angel Park and also his involvement with the Kinsol Trestle. So why not talk about the Kinsol Trestle?

Most Shawnigan Lake residents know about the trestle and its history, and people travel from all over just to see this refurbished phenomenon. And, if you didn't see it before, it's almost hard to imagine that it was out of commission for many, many years and was a bit of a death trap! 1979 marked the year that the last train crossed over the trestle and by the following year it was completely abandoned by Canadian National Railway.

There were people (many of them from Shawnigan) who began advocating to save the trestle and have it designated 'heritage' from the time it was abandoned. The government took over the CN line in the 80s but had no appetite to save it. They deemed the trestle as a typical representation of railway bridge building in the day.

Fast forward to the late 1990's and the advocacy to repair and reopen the trestle was set in motion, once again, by a persistent group of amazing individuals. After much planning and coordinating, the rehabilitation began in 2009 and was completed by mid 2011. It is now a multi-recreational use trestle, connecting an important segment of the Trans Canada Trail.

Back before the rehabilitation project, many of us spent time around the neat old trestle pondering its birth and legend while thoroughly enjoying the trails on either side of the inaccessible structure and the refreshing dips into the icy cool waters of the Koksilah River. But now! Now we are gifted with some pretty fabulous trails leading us right down to picnic sites and water fun, and best of all - we can cross to the other side of the river and head all the way to Lake Cowichan if we wanted!

Perhaps you are new to the area, or maybe you just don't know these fun facts about the Kinsol Trestle:

- ★ It's one of the (if not the) largest wooden trestle bridges in the world
- ★ It's Canada's tallest wooden rail trestle
- ★ The 'new' bridge retains 60% of its historic timber
- ★ Much of the rehabilitation work was performed locally by MacDonald & Lawrence Timber Framing
- ★ A majority of the funding came from provincial and federal government grants as well as several community fundraising initiatives

There certainly are remarkable views along the Cowichan Valley Trail/Trans Canada Trail, but.... this stop is a pretty grand one! Thank you to everyone for their hard work in bringing the Kinsol Trestle back to life for us to enjoy for many years to come.

If you haven't seen this before it is a super neat time-lapsed video of the rehabilitation in 44 seconds! <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=TxG57doOmW4

For a full Cowichan Valley Trail map go here: http://www.cvrd.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/ Home/View/7720

Fall's coming and its getting cooler – a good time to get out for a hike! Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.

Young Seniors Action Group Society







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Who and What we are:

We are an active seniors group in Shawnigan Lake. Our home base is in the local Malahat Legion Branch 143. Legion membership is not mandatory but they will welcome new members at any time.

If you are 55 years or older come join us. The cost to join in all the activities is minimal and the benefits of meeting and socializing with 160 plus other like minded community members is priceless.

Every third Tuesday of the month we have a combined

business meeting and entertainment. Sit down dinners are planned for most of the fall and winter months. Through out the year we are tourists on the Island and trips are planned to interesting places. And in summer we of course have a barbeque and a picnic.

During July and August is a time to relax and we take a break from some of our activities. Starting September 1, we begin all our regular activities again. There is something happening for seniors every week day. We walk, zumba, line dance and Tai Chi to get our physical exercise. We play canasta, chess, learn computer skills to stimulate our minds. We learn photography, folk art, crafts, wood carving, quilting to express our artistic side. Whatever your interest is, we have it. And, just so you know, if your interest and expertize is not listed here come join us and you can form a new group and be a leader.

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

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SEPTEMBER 2015 - SHAWNIGAN FOCUS 17

Don't take the bait when it comes to email phishing

Oriana Parker South Cowichan Community Policing

Email phishing refers to the act of creating and sending fraudulent or spoofed emails. These emails are designed to lure you into sharing personal financial information for the purpose of fraudulent gain by the perpetrators. Here's one I found sitting in my Junk Mail.

Dear Tax Payer,

- ★ Canada Revenue Agency has sent you an INTERAC e-Transfer (previously INTERAC Email Money Transfer).
- ★ Amount: \$974.55 CAD
- ★ Sender's Message: A message was not provided
- ★ Expiry Date: 18 August 2015
- ★ Action Required:
- ★ To deposit your money, click here:
- ★ http://www.cra-arc. gc.ca/confirm/interac/ user/online/secure/ REF3728288222
- ★ 2015 Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

As you can see it is brief, impersonal, contains very little information and refers you to a website. It demands action by a certain date, in this case August 18, 2015. Other than stating that it comes from Canada Revenue Agency there is no official marking on the email suggesting that it does come CRA. Most importantly, my name does not appear anywhere on the email letter.

Here's some important

information on phishing from the Government of Canada:

Under such schemes, emails are designed to look exactly like the ones that are sent by legitimate companies. Sophisticated phishing attacks use the email addresses of people who are registered to use certain services. When those people receive emails that are supposed to be from those companies, they are more likely to trust them. Spoofed emails often contain links that lead to spoofed websites, where various methods are used to request and collect a person's financial and personal information. Forms are occasionally contained within the emails themselves too.

There are many signs of a phishing email. The first thing that you should look at is the greeting. Does it use your actual name, or does it have a generic greeting? Look closely at the email's header. What is the sender's email address? These addresses are usually carefully designed to look authentic. By taking a very close look at them, though, you can usually see inconsistencies and things that don't make sense. If possible, compare the sender's email address to that of previous messages from the same company. If it's a phishing email, you will notice things that don't add up.

Some very interesting statistics as well:

156 Million Phishing Emails Every Day

Cyber criminals start their phishing trip by sending out millions of phishing emails.

16 million make it through filters

Many phishing emails end their journey destroyed in spam filters; 10% make it through.

8 million are opened.

Of those that make it through spam filters, half continue their journey by being opened.

800,000 links are clicked

Of those emails that are opened, 10% lure someone into clicking on a phishing link.

80,000 fall for a scam every day and share their personal information.

And finally, another 10% of people who click the link are netted by the baited website. Their information results in stolen identities, financial loss, credit card frauds and other Internet scams. So in the end, these phishing emails hook about 80,000 victims. Not bad for a day's work

Who's taking the bait?

If you've ever clicked on one of those devious little emails, you're not alone.

- ★ 9% of online Canadians have replied to spam mail unknowingly.
- ★ 7% have replied to spoof or phishing mail unknowingly.
- ★ 3% have entered bank details on a site they don't know. That's over 1 million Canadians.

Don't get phished!

★ Phishing emails often look like real emails from a trusted source such as your bank or an online retailer, right down to logos and graphics.

- ★ They may ask you to verify your account, or warn you that your account will be closed if you don't respond.
- ★ Be wary of any email asking you to provide personal information; if you're not sure an email is legitimate, get in touch with your bank or the company to verify.
- ★ Visit Getcybersafe.gc.ca for more tips on how to avoid phishing scams.

About these numbers:

The numbers represent an approximation of the global totals of phishing emails and subsequent victims. Though the actual totals are impossible to know for certain and will fluctuate, the trend stays the same.

Sources:

- ★ Symantec Security Technology and Response Group, August 2012
- ★ Cyveillance, "The Cost of Phishing: Understanding the True Cost Dynamics Behind Phishing Attacks," 2009
- ★ EKOS Research Associates, "Baseline, Online Probability Survey of Internet Users Regarding Cyber Security," 2011
- ★ Based on the Statistics Canada estimate of Canada's population of about 34,880,000, July 2012

Area B Parks

Margaret Symon *Chair, Area B Parks*

After a warm and prolonged dry summer, September has arrived at Shawnigan. The Parks Commission hopes you've enjoyed memorable times exploring our parks and trails. Not surprisingly, lakeside parks seemed especially popular this summer. As always, we extend an invitation to members of the public to attend our first fall meeting, on September 17, at 7pm, at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. A free flow of ideas on matters of public interest is important to parks and trails planning at Shawnigan Lake. At the upcoming meeting we will be seeking ways to acquire Mt Baldy - the jewel in our crown. Please check the CVRD website to confirm meeting times.





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8 I SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

You Should Read This!

Marcy Green Shawnigan Focus

A God in Ruins -by Kate Atkinson

Published by Bond Street Books Copyright 2015

For those readers who enjoyed Atkinson's "Life After Life", this companion piece will be most welcome. It follows the life of Teddy, a British pilot who survived the Second World War, and who was the beloved younger brother of the main character, Ursula Todd.

However, while the characters from

the first book wander in and out of the story, this book does stand alone. It moves us forward from the end of the war through the bewildering changes of the last half of the 20th century, as seen through the eyes of a modest man who considers himself very ordinary, despite his extraordinary war exploits.

Viola, his daughter, is perhaps the most annoying, shallow and narcissistic literary character to come through the pages in a long time. How her actions and negligence impact her children and confound her father is central to the story and a cautionary tale to all well-meaning parents trying to "find" themselves at the expense of their families. Her time spent in a hippie commune and then her transformation into the role of a bestselling writer give the author plenty of material with which to skewer popular culture with sly humour.

Teddy stumbles through his life and relationships in a well-meaning although sometimes myopic way, and, over time and through flashbacks, we see the central role he plays in providing stability for his family and beloved grandchildren. He is truly a good man, and, as such, we care about what happens to him. We also discover how it is that such a man could have produced a daughter so different from himself, and the roles he and his wife both played in raising her.

In true Atkinson style, we are turned on our heads by the author in the final pages of the story, to emerge dizzy with the possibilities of "What if ?", which is the same theme she explored in her earlier book. Life is random and our lives, and the lives of those who come after us, depend on a combination of coincidences. A heart-breaker of an ending, but worth the read.

Rating: 5/5 stars

The 13th Bird

Bruce Fraser

It began with a baker's dozen of this year's pullets. Three Buff Orpingtons, three Speckled Sussex, three Brahmas, three Ameraucanas and one Silver Laced Wyandotte. They came home in a cardboard box from the Sunday poultry swap at Buckerfields in Duncan.

The coop was ready, with a fenced yard and overhead netting to keep away flying predators. On day one the newcomers explored the yard with enthusiasm, watched ominously by a pair of ravens perched on the peak of the nearby goat barn. They were clearly sizing up the pullets for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There were enough to consider inviting guests to the feast.

What fascinated us the most was watching the emergence of character among the varieties. The Orps are very sure of their henny superiority, first at the feed and scratch and proud of their sleek butterscotch feathers, unmarked by any discoloration. The Brahmas are large birds and stomp happily around on their feathered feet as if looking for the snow to match their snowshoes. The Sussex' are the foragers, always at the margin looking for bugs the others missed. The Wyandotte is a comely bird, obviously aware of her attractiveness and always the first to cluck around our feet looking for attention. But the characters of the flock are the Ameraucanas.

General Cruella emerged as the flockmeister. She hates to see any other bird seeking or getting attention so much that she flies into a rage and pecks the offending human. We began to suspect that she is head of the pecking order. Lieutenant Ameraucana follows the boss around, two steps behind, making sure that the underlings are suitably deferential. But Ameraucana three, the smallest hen, is clearly a buck private with a scarce understanding of flock protocol. When the scratch was scattered so was she. When the feed bin was stocked and surrounded by ravenous birds, she was wandering in the garden, seeking solitude. When the flock headed for the coop to roost at night she had to be chased out of the garden. We began to suspect that she was a bit of a bird-brain.

Soon the flock was producing eggs to justify their feed cost and avoid the pot. That's how we saw it anyway. Brown, tan and pearly white eggs began to appear in the nest boxes. But two birds discovered a private place under an apple tree and persist in using their own nesting arrangements. Without a rooster in the yard, the hens just found egging a strange interlude between feedings. They were up to 8-10 eggs a day, but our private and shy girl was still wandering in the wilderness. Then, just as we suspected that she was going to be fey forever, she surprised us. There in a nest box was a spectacularly beautiful, bright blue egg. She had just been waiting to upstage them all. Now the whole flock and the respectful humans wait on our late bloomer to set the standard of eggcellence.









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SEPTEMBER 2015 - SHAWNIGAN FOCUS 19

Frances Oldham Kelsey - Coming Home



Sally Davies & Lori Treloar Shawnígan Focus

It has been reported (Globe and Mail) that the ashes of Frances Oldham Kelsey will be interred at cobble Hill, presumably at St. John's Anglican Church where her parents rest, and not far from where she was born.

Lieutenant Colonel Frank Trevor Oldham and his new wife, Katherine, settled in the area, around 1911, on thirty acres along the Old Victoria Road, Shawnigan Lake (in the vicinity of Plumtree Road). They are listed as residents of Shawnigan in many of the early directories. The motivation to move here was a need to find a place where they could live cheaply on Oldham's pension. Frank 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. Frank and Katherine raised four children, and were 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 Oldham's 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 Oldham, was born in 1914 and grew up at her family home. Here, she spent her childhood exploring nature and collecting local specimens such as insects and bird eggs.

Frances, (Frankie) started her education in Shawnigan Lake. Frances Kelsey herself gives a fascinating account in her "Autobiographical Reflections" of what was quite obviously a bucolic and blissful childhood. She paints a vivid picture of the forces and events that would shape the extraordinary person she was to become.

In her own words:

"I think I was used to being in a class with men because the first school I started out in, Leinster Preparatory School, a small private school in Shawnigan Lake, was theoretically an all-boys...there was no grade structure. You worked to the level of your ability and the ability of the teachers. I learned a lot of Latin and some algebra and geometry, but the school was a little weak on things like history, French, and English.

The school was in existence for about three years until the Depression, I think, foundered it. After a year of private coaching by Marjorie Gillette, I went off to Victoria to finish up eighth grade and high school. I did get some very important and useful lessons in Cobble Hill while I was still at home. I had painting lessons in a class run by Connie Bonner. We largely painted flowers and birds. I took piano lessons from school, and for several terms I was the only girl. So I started off in the atmosphere of boys, particularly since I had a brother who was two years older."

Frances graduated at 16 and credits her early schooling as a large part of her career success.

Frances went on to become an eminent Doctor and scientist. In 1960, the US Food and Drug Association (FDA) hired Kelsey as a medical reviewer. As her first assignment, Kelsey was given the task of reviewing an application for what was supposed to be a safe and effective drug. Thalidomide, used at the time to treat nausea, particularly in pregnant women, was already being prescribed in Europe, South American and Canada. However, Kelsey felt that Richardson-Merill, the German pharmaceutical company, had failed to submit sufficient data involving the safety of their product. Kelsey's research of the drug resulted in the FDA's refusal to approve the drug company's application. Her suspicions proved correct when the drug was discovered to be the cause of the births of an estimated 10,000 deformed children in 46 countries. Kelsey soon became recognized in the United States as a national hero. In 1962, her name appeared in The Washington Post under the headline "Heroine' of the FDA Keeps Bad Drug Off of Market." In the same year, she was given the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service by President John F. Kennedy.

In 2010, the FDA honoured Kelsey for the 45 years that she spent working for the association, during which time she remained an active force in the globalization of proper clinical practices.

Frances Oldham Kelsey's battle against pharmaceutical drug companies had far-reaching impacts on the international community. Her headstrong refusal to approve thalidomide set an important example for governments all over the world. After the Thalidomide tragedy, many countries, including Canada, began to enforce stronger drug laws. The Shawnigan native is a remarkable woman who (on top of raising a family) devoted her life to protecting many people around the world from unnecessary harm.

Her achievements are cemented in the annals of the international scientific community and her stubborn determination in the face of strong pressure from pharmaceutical companies left the U.S. as the only country that did not succumb to approving the drug thalidomide.

Her legacy and story are now known to the world, but a very special part of her history will have resonance for the communities that shaped the extraordinary person she was to become. In addition to numerous honours in the U.S., the local high school was appropriately named Frances Kelsey, to honour of this remarkable former resident and she received the Order of Canada, on August 6, 2015, the day before she died.

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Department Members Attended 11 Calls in August

- ★ Saturday, August 1st -Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, August 2nd 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, August 2nd –
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- ★ Thursday, August 6th Bush Fire on Thain Rd
- ★ Tuesday, August 11th MVI at Shawnigan Lake & Northgate Rds
- ★ Saturday, August 15th Possible Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, August 18th
 MVI at Renfrew & Gregory Rds
- Thursday, August 20th Smoke Report on Thain Rd
- ★ Thursday, August 20th 1st Responder off Ida Rd
- ★ Friday, August 21st Smoke Report on Renfrew Rd

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau Office hours (Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 to 11:30), and Director's Meetings (First Monday of the month at 7:00) at the SL Community Centre. For updates: check www.soniafurstenau.ca
- ★ Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC) 1st Thursday of month. Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission Third Thursday in September. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission Sept. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ Shawnigan Improvement District 2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting for info: check 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 <u>bburr@shaw.ca</u>
- ★ Shawnigan Basin Society 1st Tuesday of September 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS) Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- Shawnigan Lake Museum Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:00-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ Village Development Committee September 26 at 10:30. Unit 4 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd

What Is It? Where Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.



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We thought August's "What Is It" would be an easy one. The photo showed the "NO FIRE" sign carved into a pine stump on Memory Island. Unfortunately there was evidence of recent campfires... not a very smart thing during this unusually dry summer!



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Taryn Treloar Shawnígan Focus

Growing up, I had the privilege of spending my summers at Shawnigan Lake. By four years old, I was 'skiing' on a makeshift ski made out of a big piece of plywood and by five, I was ready to test out the two plank set of kid skis. It wasn't long after that I was skiing on one ski (slalom skiing). I look back and remember countless summers of occasional early morning skis.

I never really learned the fundamentals of skiing and took a very recreational approach to the sport.

This summer, at 31 years old, I decided to try slalom skiing again. Without any attempt to water ski in fifteen years, I ignorantly thought I would be able to pick up my skiing ability right where I left off. I popped on a double-boot slalom ski (both feet are anchored into one ski) and jumped in the water expecting to get up on my first try. Boy, was I mistaken! Not only could I not get up on one ski after several attempts, I severely strained all the muscles in my forearms.

Over the next few weeks of skiing, on a regular basis I relearned how to start out of the water on one ski (deep water start). Now I'm hooked. Since that first day of skiing and failing miserably, I've skied almost every day of the summer and improved dramatically. Every time I look at the water now, I see an opportunity. If the waters are calm, I'm thinking of getting out for a ski behind the boat. I love the camaraderie, intensity, and physical benefits of the sport. Going behind a boat at 33mph is thrilling.

In August, Lee Curtis, President of The Victoria Aquatic Ski Club (VASC), invited me to attend their Shawnigan Lake Ski Tournament and take photos for The Shawnigan Focus. The VASC is celebrating its 58th anniversary this year and it is one of the oldest continuously operating water ski clubs in Canada. I knew I would learn so much by observing skiers of all levels and ages, plus it is an amazingly exciting sport to watch.

All slalom competitors (ages 10-70) in the tournament went through the ski course. (others participated in events such as

ski jumping or trick skiing)

The Slalom ski course involves a 25 multi-buoy course that the skier must go around in order to complete the pass. There are entrance gates at the beginning and end of the course that the skier must go between, and there are 6 turn buoys that the skier must navigate around in a zigzag pattern. The remainder of the buoys are for the driver to ensure the boat goes straight down the centre of the course.

Every consecutive pass is harder than the pass before. When a pass is completed, the boat is sped up by 3 kilometres per hour (2 mph) until the maximum speed has been reached for the division, based on the skier's gender and age. After the skier has run his/her maximum speed pass, the rope is shortened at specific increments to make it more difficult to reach the buoy width. In a tournament, the boat speeds up, or the rope shortens, until the skier fails to complete the slalom course by falling or missing a buoy.

A skier's score is based upon the number of successful buoys cleared, the speed of the boat, and the length of the rope. In a tournament, skiers choose the starting boat speed and rope length (with a maximum length of 22.86 metres (75 ft)). Professional water-skiers will typically start at the max speed of 58 kilometres per hour (36 mph) with a rope that has already been shortened to 13 metres (43 ft). The skier with the most buoys wins the competition. <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/</u> wiki/Waterskiing

Riding in the official boat pulling all of the competing waters skiers was wildly exciting. I was awed by how easy some of the skiers made the course look. One of the best skiers I watched in the tournament had 38' of rope off and was skiing at 34mph. Incredible!!!! It wasn't until I actually tried the ski course myself, abour a week after the ski tournament, that I realized just how much talent it takes to complete the course successfully, even at the longest rope and slowest speed.

Next time you see a skier on the lake, take a moment to appreciate the skill and courage it takes to get up behind a boat and consider trying it yourself!







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