

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue Three

March 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

"Cooperative Community"

MARCH 13TH & 14TH

SHAWNIGAN GATHERING

2015

at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

FRIDAY:
6:30pm - 9:30pm

OPEN MIC
THE TWISTED VINE
FARM BAND

\$5 BONTERRA
PIZZA

FAMILY DAY ART
DISPLAYS



SATURDAY:
10:00am - 4:00pm

MUSIC DANCING

Interactive Sessions:
HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY

FOOD VENDORS
arts & crafts

SHAWNIGAN
TRADE
FAIR

COMMUNITY AWARDS
& SPECIAL GUESTS!

For further information, please visit our "SHAWNIGAN GATHERING" Facebook Page

You will not want to miss this year's Shawnigan Gathering!

- ★ Friday night will feature a showcase of local talent at an open mic session, followed by the beautiful bluegrass-inspired harmonies of the Twisted Vine Farm Band. There will be Bonterra Pizza available for \$5, so bring the family and make a festive evening of it.
- ★ On Saturday morning, we will begin with the opening ceremony and community awards – come out at 10:00 to join us in recognizing and celebrating the people who make a positive difference in Shawnigan.
- ★ Throughout the day, there will be delightful musical entertainment and dancing – with many opportunities to kick up your heels and join the fun.
- ★ All day long, the Shawnigan Trade Fair will run, with local businesses and organizations out in full force. This is a terrific opportunity to network with the people who make things happen in Shawnigan.
- ★ Free child minding, activities for kids, arts and crafts, and delicious food will round out the day – there will be something for everyone in the family.
- ★ There is an engaging and inspiring collection of presenters, with musical interludes between each session.
- ★ At 11:00 a.m., Co-Design from Vancouver will lead us through an interactive community design process, as we re-launch our efforts to create a shared vision for the Elsie Miles Community Park.
- ★ At 12:30 p.m., Rick Juliusson will tell us about how Cowichan Station created a thriving community centre at the HUB, and he will also inform us about the Cowichan Food Cooperative.
- ★ Our keynote panel at 1:00 p.m. will be Cavan Gates and Sandra Mark from Christina Lake. They explain how their small community is creating big change with a cooperative investment fund.
- ★ Our own Trina Burns will present at 2:30 p.m., telling us how entrepreneurs in Shawnigan Lake are creating a cooperative business model.
- ★ At 3:15 p.m., Rob Douglas will share with us the success stories of the Cowichan Elder Co-op.
- ★ Finally, at 3:45 p.m., watch for a very exciting announcement that will launch Shawnigan into its own cooperative adventure.

It will be a wonderful and inspiring event. See you there!

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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
MARCH 2015

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an
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by the volunteer Focus team.
Shawnigan Focus endeav-
ours to inform; promote
involvement in the commu-
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Shawnigan Moment



Photo by Dave Hutchinson

What's Coming Up?

Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary's
Annual Lemon & Lavender Tea

March 29th 2015, 2PM - 4PM
Tea in the Mill Bay Community
Hall (beside the Arena)

Tea will be served with
dainty sandwiches and sweets:
\$7.00 / Ticket.

Tickets will be pre-sold (contact
Evelyn 250-743-9397 or Na-
dine 250-709-8997) or purchased
at the door. There will be bak-
ing, and crafts, mini-Auctions,
and lots of fun!

Monthly meetings are held on the
second Tuesday of the month from
Sept to June at the Mill Bay Com-
munity Hall from 1PM to 2PM



Do you know who's who?

SLCC
Commission
AGM

Monday, March
23rd at 7pm

SL Community Centre

Area B Parks
Commission AGM

Thursday April 16
7 pm at SLCC

Don't miss the
Shawnigan
Gathering!!
March 13-14



Colourful chairs provided
by Inspire! Shawnigan

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.

Karma Shack

I started the Karma Shack on East Shawnigan Lake Road because I had so much stuff that I didn't want anymore, so thought I would share with the community.

I put my stuff out by the telephone pole on the road, it went away. I got up the next day and saw stuff by the pole that wasn't mine; I came back and found it gone too. I then thought I would build a shelter for the stuff so I bought wood, salvaged wood and roofing, and built a 4'x12' lean-to; cost of supplies around \$200. I used old wharf boards and pallets where I could. The Karma Shack was born.

As the summer progressed the Karma Shack became very popular. It seemed like magic the way things showed up that were needed. By October, I realized we needed to expand so things stayed dry over the wet months. I had my friends come and frame with pallets and turned it into a 10'x12' Karma Shack!

I have a great time facilitating the Karma Shack and seeing the smiling faces! I love the sharing and caring of this

community ... until now. Recently, I awoke to incomplete couches, dirty used tarps, and garbage dumped in front of the Shack.

I do not want to take the Shack away as it is appreciated by so many but I cannot cover dump costs of someone else's garbage, nor should I - if it's garbage to you, it's garbage to me!

This dumping was, and is, disrespectful. I will be asking that the Karma Shack be equipped with surveillance cameras as I cannot trust certain individuals to not dump garbage or to be respectful of the Shack.

I am looking at redesigning the Karma Shack on the Easter weekend so it is more functional. I am looking for pallets and, again, metal roofing. Someone took the metal roofing donated for the Karma Shack before I had a chance to move it; lesson learned: don't leave anything in the area of The Karma Shack that you want to keep - for example: I came out one day when renovating the Shack to find that while I was down below getting wood, someone came by and took my screws and ate my chips

and salsa!

If anyone wants to help please let me know by email at laketrust@shaw.ca. If you feel the need to donate to the dump fees you can drop change in my donation pipe or donate to my gofundme account at <http://www.gofundme.com/82tcw>. This fund covers the oyster mushrooms we have placed around Shawnigan to clean the toxins dumped at the SIA pit. It also covers the floating gardens we are using to clean the lake water!

I hope to see lots of sharing, caring and repairing in our community this year!

Thanks to everyone that plays nice in the Karma Shack - let's not let a few bad eggs spoil our fun!

*Shjelagh Bell-Irving (Shemama)
CVRD EcDev Department of Little Value*

Wasting Tax Payer's Money!

Dear Editor:

For more than a decade taxpayers, stakeholders and even some CVRD directors have been frustrated and complained about the money wasted by the CVRD's Eco-

nomic Development department, how it operates and is structured.

Currently EcDev spends more than \$830,000 a year. Except for the few special interest groups that get their hands on a lot of the money, no one in the Valley would notice if this CVRD department disappeared.

Finally, last fall, the CVRD board hired a high paid consultant to assess the department. In his scathing report the consultant documented confusion, frustration and waste with few measureable results from this huge amount of public spending where staff have been rewarded every year with pay increases.

Nobody is or should be surprised by what the shocking report says. The department is so messed up it doesn't even have an agreed definition of what economic development is or how to accomplish it.

There are few, if any, real results to report, except wasting of taxpayer's money and some of highest staff expense accounts in the CVRD and of course another manager who takes home more than \$120,000 per year.

People and commerce come here and economic development happens in this Valley without any help from the EcDev department. In fact the things that scare new development away are high taxes, wasteful government and an anti-business attitude in the CVRD which that department never talks about or deals with.

Shockingly, within minutes of the Board hearing about this horror show situation in their own house, they approved a slightly reduced budget for 2015 of \$700,000 for the EcDev department including another pay increase for staff. Where is the sanity in rewarding a do nothing department with more taxpayer's money to waste for another year?

In the same meeting the CVRD Board also approved the annual spending of more than \$110,000 for a new bureaucracy with a full time public relations employee. Presumably his or her first task is going to be to hide the truth behind the nonsense of CVRD decision-making with taxpayer's money.

W.E. (Bill) Dumont

Parents are way, way too protective.

Peter Salmon
Age 9

Okay, all you moms and dads out there, is this what you're thinking: "But we just want to 'protect' our kids!"

Do you say things like this a lot: "You're nine and you are definitely not allowed to cross the road." Or do you say, "Don't go outside unless we're watching."

Okay, here's an example that happened to me. "Don't cross that road. You don't stand a chance against a car." This is what I thought: You won't let a nine-year-old kid cross a road when there is a one in a million chance he's going to even see a car, much less get hit. In fact, this is what happened the day I wrote this

article. (And the road was in the middle of nowhere!)

New concept: at home. Do you make your children use plastic bowls and cups? Or make sure you buy plastic milk, juice, and water bottles? Think about the environment and your kids' health, and trust your kids not to break dishes.

On the other hand, some parents are actually pretty nice. Like mine: they let me bake (if they're in the house), they let me bike to my friend's house (after they drive me up the big hill), and they even let me and my two sisters and brother all go on the trampoline at the same time. Pretty good!

I hope this has gotten you thinking about not being too over-protective.



École Cobble Hill making a difference.

Alice Tillie Fowler
École Cobble Hill - Age 10

Hi my name is Alice. I am from École Cobble Hill School and I am here to raise awareness to reduce idling. I am also in the Roots and Shoots Club.

We are making posters, leaflets and many other informative tools to raise awareness for this campaign. This year our school is entering the green games and we are trying our hardest to decrease our carbon footprint on the earth.

Please take the initiative and turn it off after 10 seconds because idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

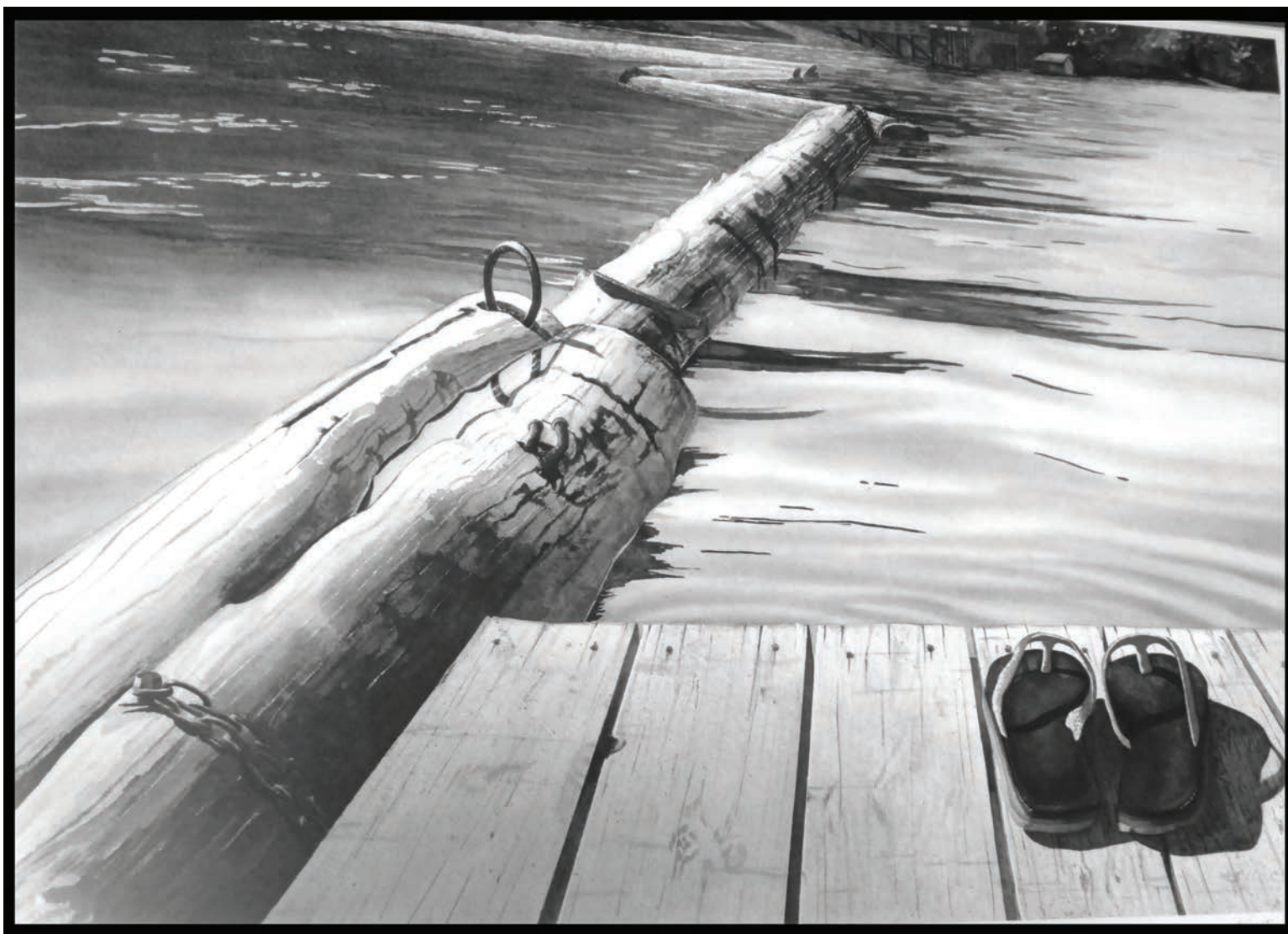
Plastic BoomDoggle

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

A “boondoggle” is defined as an expensive and wasteful project, usually paid for with public money, which gives the appearance of having value.

Last month’s “What Is It” contest showed a portion of the plastic log boom installed across the creek entrance near Mason’s beach in late January. As Lynn Weaver commented - “It is the strange ‘log’ boom at Mason’s beach that replaced the long-time well-functioning, actual log boom!” Most of us will fondly remember the real log boom that was removed in July, 2009. I suspect local artist Kristine Paton does. Her 1991 work “Cooling Off” captures the uniquely Shawnigan essence of what was taken away.

How did this happen? According to the CVRD Parks Department the removal of the log boom at Mason’s Beach Park was done in response to a Municipal Insurance Association assessment which advised that such log booms in public swimming areas posed liability and that the boom be replaced with more appropriate swimming area float demarcations. Prior to removal, the Parks



Kris Paton’s 1991 “Cooling Off” captures a more aesthetic era.

Department approached the Engineering Department to inquire whether they wished to take on responsibility for the section of log

boom across the mouth of Shawnigan Creek to restrict the flow of lake debris down the creek. The Engineering Department responded that it was not in their mandate, nor did they have the funding or resources. Little thought appears to have been given to primary purpose of the boom which was to prevent debris from jamming up the creek and potentially causing a flood.

So, because of the recommendation of some faceless insurance bureaucrat, despite that no one seems able to recall any accident or injury, the logs were removed in 2009. Now the same rationale would apply to the Government Wharf – why not remove it too?

Several years pass with seasonal storms and high water. Derelict logs, docks, boats, and even a giant wakeboard jump get stuck in the creek.

The Shawnigan Residents Association expresses concern about potential flooding and promotes an Alternate Approval Process which results in a new tax for waterfront owners and water-users. A CVRD budget item of \$18,000/year is approved for a “Creek Cleanout Function”. Money is spent on analysis and mapping of the creek bed. Some haphazard dredging is performed. Crane-trucks are hired to remove debris. Locals complain about the lack of a log boom. The CVRD looks for a solution but appears deaf

to the notion of just replacing the old-style boom with new logs.

Eventually, Heavy Metal Marine Ltd. was contracted to install the new plastic log boom for \$7,500 plus tax. The intent is to remove it each spring and re-install it each fall for about \$1,000 per year. Funds will come from the “Creek Cleanout Function”.

It will be interesting to see how well the new contraption can withstand the ravages of nature, let alone the inevitable attention of 14 year old boys. Walking the logs was a rite of passage for previous generations but, alas, it is a different world now.



Photo by Dave Hutchinson

2015 “BoomDoggle”-A celebration of bureaucracy & plastic.



PHOTO BY JANET NEILSEN

Shawnigan Gathering organizers

Director's Report - Area B

Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

Early in February, six of the CVRD Area Directors attended the CommUnity Innovation Lab in Kamloops. Unlike many conferences, where attendees sit through a deluge of presentations, this event built in a significant amount of networking time. We would hear a number of presenters speak about issues of sustainability and building healthy communities, and then we would have the opportunity to mingle with the presenters for an hour or so, and ask them questions

directly. This allowed for a great deal of meaningful interactions, many of which turned out to be quite serendipitous.

I had the opportunity to connect with a number of the presenters, including Tesicca Truong from Co-Design and Peter Truch from Stantec.

Peter happened to be on Vancouver Island a few weeks later, and I invited him to come up to Shawnigan. After a walking and driving tour, and seeing some of the challenges we face for making our commu-

nity safe for pedestrians and cyclists, Peter was keen to use his expertise to help us find ways to move forward with creating safer walking and cycling paths.

With Tesicca, I discussed our hopes around a community-driven design for the Elsie Miles Park. When I told her about the upcoming Shawnigan Gathering, she thought that it would be ideal for Co-Design to come and help to re-engage the community in the design process. Co-Design, a non-profit community design organization, has been the

driving force behind the designs of Granville Island, Robson Square, and the Woodward's building in Vancouver.

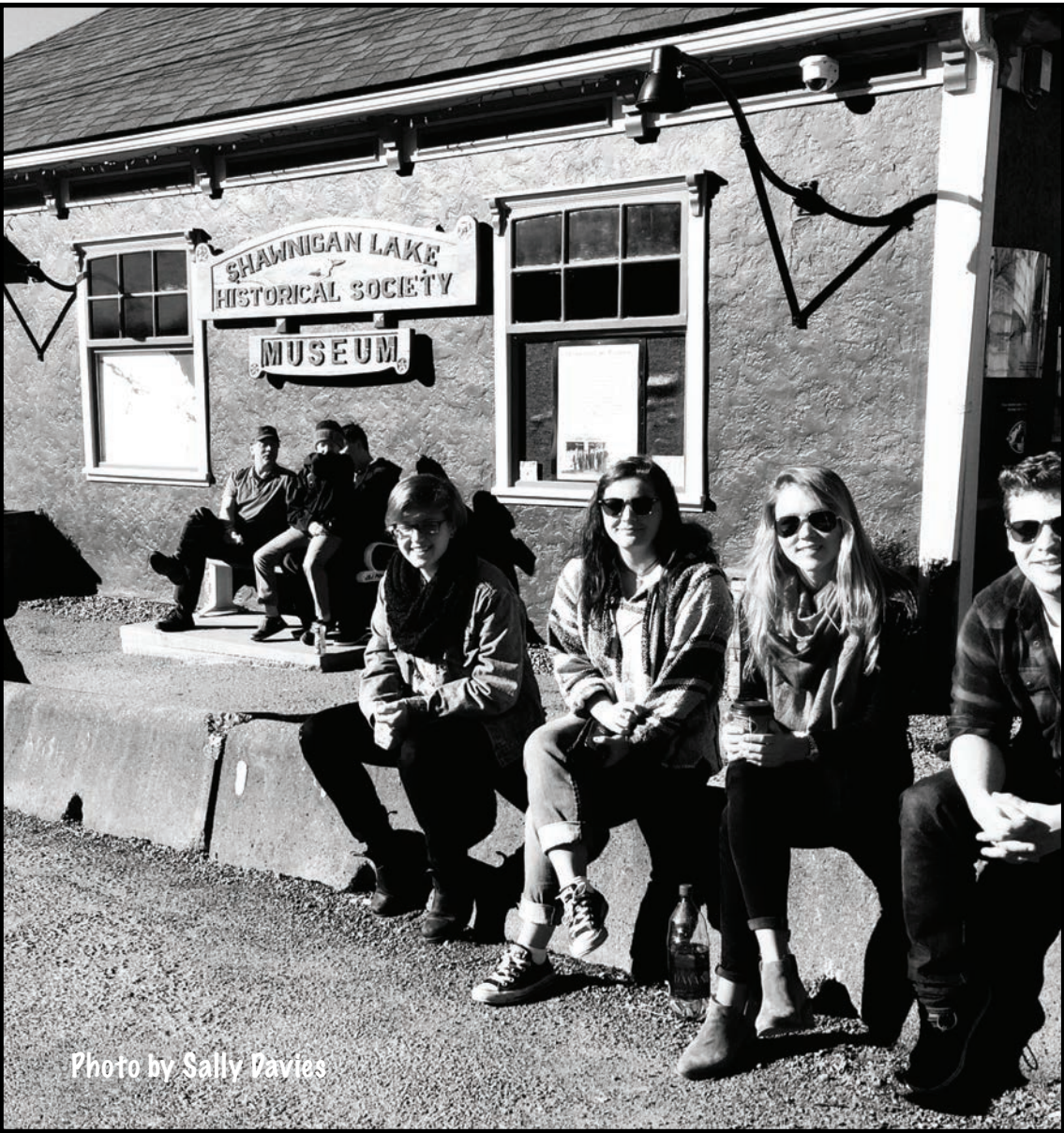
There were many other connections made over the course of the conference in Kamloops, and a deepening of understanding of the urgency of making our communities more sustainable among the Area Directors.

These difficult to quantify benefits – building of relationships, sharing of ideas, inspiring and supporting each other – are the most important reasons for

coming together. When we gather in our communities and connect based on our shared values and common goals, there is, in my experience, an abundance of serendipitous moments. And these moments can shape our future.

It is for these reasons that the Shawnigan Gathering is such an important event for our community. We will come together, share ideas, be inspired by each other, and build dreams for the future of our community.

I look forward to seeing you there!



www.shawniganfocus.ca

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Shawnigan Weather February 2015
Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Average High	7.4	10.5	7.3	10.8	7.3	11.5	7.6	10.7	7.6
Average Low	0.4	4.0	2.1	3.5	1.3	4.2	1.9	3.5	1.8
Extreme High	18.3	13.1	10.1	14.3	10.8	15.7	10.1	14.0	11.0
Extreme Low	-16.7	-1.3	-1.4	-2.0	-2.6	-1.2	-1.3	-1.5	-2.0
Precipitation	155.3	153.4	121.3	169.7	81.9	149.5	88.9	158.8	92.8
Days w precip	16	16	18	18	18	18	18	15	14
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	370.6	315.2	373.8	330.9	372.6	284.9	313.9	317.6	370.2

Since 1914: tied for warmest February(1991); 35th wettest February

Lake Temperature:	Feb 1 st : 5°	Feb 8 th : 6°	Feb 15 th : 6°	Feb 22 nd : 6°
Lake Level Change:	Feb 1 st : -20cm	Feb 8 th : +28cm	Feb 15 th : -10cm	Feb 22 nd : -22cm

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INSPIRE!Shawnigan - Past accomplishments

Jennie Stevens & Wendy Sehn
INSPIRE!

“Where did those beautiful painted chairs come from??” That is the latest question being asked at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, referring to the new and colourful cozy sitting area in the foyer! With a rather bittersweet smile, I must say it brings to mind those words, “... you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone...” And yet, the good news is that although we’ve closed the gallery space that birthed these unique chairs, now admired by all who come through SLCC, Inspire! will

live on in the many local spaces and events it supports and participates in.

Three years ago, INSPIRE! Shawnigan began with a vision to infuse arts and creativity into the culture of our community. Along the way, it has initiated and supported a diverse number of activities, in the village space, and collaborated in many local events.

Workshops included pottery, knitting, painting, drawing, fabric collage, beading, book-art, ukulele, pearl stringing, zentangle, to name a few. Inspire! also initiated the popular CHAIR-ity Auction,


which raised funds to continue offering space for local artisans to display their work. Some people took advantage of the ease in shopping locally for small handcrafted items in the Inspire! Gallery. Part of Inspire’s community involvement included The Chippery Paint-In (more chairs!), supporting Youth Art Shows (Francis Kelsey, Shawnigan Lake School), Youth Drop In nights, a few musical jam nights and performances. Poetry Jam evenings were facilitated by a local poet & her artist husband, while another popular artist hosted weekly Drop In Meditations. Materials were available for Drop

In Art as our space provided a welcoming home base for events such as the Triathlon, the Village Light Up, and was the seeding point from which the annual Inspire! Street Fest grew. An Artisan Market was much appreciated during the 2014 Shawnigan Adventure (Caregiver’s Walk), and dedicated Inspire! volunteers help support Family Day (hosted by the Historical Society) by providing a range of art activities for families to enjoy. This year, an interactive table top scene was designed and painted by Inspire! as a scale model of our very own Shawnigan Village. The kids LOVED it! Each year, Inspire

takes on organizing the full entertainment portion of The Gathering, which is being held this year on March 13th/14th at SLCC, an event not to be missed!

The website listing Shawnigan Events will continue to be updated, as we move from holding a village space, to sharing and celebrating the many other spaces conducive to encouraging creativity & the arts. Be sure to follow our next exciting transitions through our website: inspireshawnigan.com

For inquiries regarding volunteering and membership, please contact: Lindsey : intown@shaw.ca



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Valleyview Centre
#18-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd.
Cobble Hill, BC V0R 1L3

Young Seniors Action Group Society

Ed Wiebe
YSAGS

Moving into Spring

Here we are at the beginning of March and after this exceptionally mild winter it is easy to think spring thoughts like working in the garden or just walking, enjoying the outside.

But first I want to talk of our activities in February. Our annual Valentine’s Pot Luck dinner was held on February 12, with a full room of members to enjoy all the great homemade food. After the dinner the centre area was cleared and we were entertained by the Norway Dancers from Victoria who invited us to join them. It was a great evening, but we are seniors, so by 9:00 pm it was time to close shop and go home off to bed.

At our regular monthly meeting we invited Sonia Furstenau, our Area B Representative, to give us her vision of the future of the Shawnigan Lake area and what may lie ahead for the general CVRD area south of Duncan. From Sonia

we received information about the trailer that is parked across the road from Mason’s Store and two research scientists, John Bergese and David Chan, from the University of British Columbia, who came to tell us about the research done by the RES’EAU Water-Net on the Shawnigan Lake water and the tests done to check the quality.

An open House will be announced soon where the public will be invited to see inside the trailer and hear about the extent of the testing done.

Come visit us at our Shawnigan Gathering table and also


see our Line Dancers perform. Our next general meeting on March 17 will be a Show and Tell event where all our activity groups will have an opportunity to show us what they have done the past year.

We have a Blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> where you can see and read about some of our activities or phone Ed: 250 743 8344 for more information. We also can be reached by email: ysagssl@gmail.com

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



The Norway Dancers are joined by YSAGS members! Valentine's Pot Luck Dinner, February 10, 2015




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Easter Seals 24-Hour Camp Challenge. Starting a new adventure.

More fun! More adventure! The new Easter Seals 24-Hour Camp Challenge has a new format, new location, new activities and a fresh new vibe. It builds on the legacy of the wildly successful 24-Hour Relay, which has raised over \$9 million for children with disabilities, providing an unmatched summer camp experience to assist them and their families. When the new

24-Hour Camp Challenge legacy begins on June 6 and 7 at Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan, will you be there to help kick it off?

Join us for 12 hours of engaging camp challenges followed by 12 hours of optional overnight camping fun. Some of our daytime activities will include archery, scavenger hunt, games in the outdoor pool, lake activities, a volley-

ball tournament and much more! When we move into the nighttime activities we will switch gears to bingo, a poker tournament, glo in the dark bocce and campfire activities.

“The 24-Hour Camp Challenge is fun for the whole family, for a great cause,” says President and CEO Stephen Miller. “Bring out your friends and colleagues for a real adventure. All funds raised from

this go to Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan, so you can see up close the good you are doing.”

Camp Shawnigan provides a safe, fun environment for children and youth with disabilities. Camp activities help build the confidence and independence of participants who get to try activities they may never have attempted before, from water polo and wheelchair basketball to

canoeing, leadership training and more; all on beautiful Shawnigan Lake!

24-Hour Camp Challenge Participants raise at least \$100 per teammate over the age of 13. Teammates 12 and under must raise \$24 per team member.

Participants can register their teams online at www.24hourcampchallenge.com

Shawnigan Resident’s Association Annual General Meeting and appeal update

Shawnigan Residents’ Association (SRA) will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) March 12, starting at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake School, Upper Dining Room (refreshments generously provided by Shawnigan Lake School). The agenda includes Reports from the President, Finance and other portfolios, and voting Directors into office.

While the AGM kicks off a new year, aligning the SRA’s mandate with opportunities and challenges, the Shawnigan residents continue to hold their breath waiting (7 months) for the decision regarding the appeal of the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) permit as to whether contaminated soil will be dumped in our watershed.

Through this appeal hearing, the SRA fought the impact of the permit on the quality of drinking water for its residents. The irony is that alongside the Province and the CVRD all parties want the same outcome - a safe, healthy, and prosperous environment. While

an administrative process has been set out to direct decision makers, the process begs review when taxpayers are triple billed in an attempt to voice concerns regarding a decision that impacts their health, safety, and property values. Whether the hearing decision prompts an appeal, or otherwise, the contributing process must be challenged - not only for our community but also for any community in our Province.

As the SRA exercises its mandate to ensure concerns are heard - it also continues to raise funds to pay the \$450,000 bill for the appeal. Costs have escalated due to the hearings extending over 32 days with over 115 days of legal preparation contributing to substantial evidence not initially considered when the permit was issued.

In closing, the SRA takes this opportunity to acknowledge its greatest asset - its volunteers and donators, dedicating time and resources, in continuing to support our community.

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Suddenly an arena!



Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

In May, 2014 Shawnigan Lake School announced it had joined the Canadian Sport School Hockey League (CSSHL). The league's mandate is to provide student-athletes with a high-level hockey experience that complements their academic commitments.

To ensure a first class ice hockey program, the school also decided to build an ice rink. From the ground breaking ceremony in September 2014 to the Showcase Tournament hosted in February, the innovative stressed membrane structure was completed very quickly. The opening ceremony was followed by a splendid first game between Vancouver Canucks Alumni and SLS staff.



Collaboration & cooperation

Dan Spinner
Dwight School Canada

Great schools require cooperative community efforts between staff and students, amongst students themselves, and between the school and its community. Dwight School Canada strives to be a cooperative community. We certainly have our share of mistakes and miscommunications – but learning is messy, and multiple collaborative efforts make for prime learning opportunities!

Treating one another with respect is probably the number one marker for cooperative communities. As an Inter-

national Baccalaureate World School, we make it our goal to uphold the IB mission statement by demonstrating “other people, with their differences, can also be right”.

Take, for example, working with parents, agents and students to ensure their success in academics and in character development; we carefully craft students' study programs and work to understand their interests, needs and capabilities so that they have the best chance for success.

Our Grade 6/7 class is currently collaborating with the local and external community.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada brought 300 salmon eggs for the class to raise in their classroom for the next few months. The students will observe as the eggs hatch into alevin and grow into salmon fry before being released into the Shawnigan Creek Watershed. We'd like to thank the Dwight Canada PAC group for help funding this project. This is an important step in the classroom to raise awareness of environmental stewardship, not only for the students who are directly involved, but for all students who attend our school. Looks like a fun project to watch for in the next

couple months!

The school's residences themselves are an unfolding scene of cooperation and collaboration between students from 15 different countries. The mix of cultures and languages makes for a rich learning environment and provides opportunities to break down barriers that can only be broken down when you share classes, meals and activities. These very different cultures have a common purpose and interest – to learn about themselves and the world around them.

Collaboration is about build-

ing from one another's energy, enthusiasm, ideas and insights and can be smooth or as often the case, bumpy in its unfolding. At the end of the day, our school is a community of people continually learning to cooperate and share. This involves compromise – the making of a mutual promise. It can be a slow process at times, but well worth the time for the benefits it brings. Dwight School Canada exemplifies this in all its hard work to create a caring community for all involved. To do so in the wonderful caring community of Shawnigan Lake is a real privilege.

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Village Development Committee

About twenty enthusiastic people came out to a meeting of the Village Development Committee on February 27th. The committee is intended to be an advisory community group that will explore potential improvements to the Village and the Elsie Miles property.

The committee will liaise with the Community Centre Commission and Area B Director, Sonia Furstenau. The process is open to everyone. The meeting provided an overview of what has been discussed over the past three years and the possibilities for the future.

The plan is to identify immediate and long term priorities for the Village/Elsie Miles Park and establish a plan that can be worked on over time as resources become available. The group was strongly encouraged to participate in the Co-design workshop at the Gathering – 11:00 on March 14th. All residents are encouraged to participate.

The next meeting for the committee is March 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the Watershed Advisory office (across from the coffee shop/bakery)



Residents were excited and encouraged by recent action on the building site just below the Village. Unfortunately, it was not the beginning of the long anticipated project (26 years). The machines were capping the old Village Dump site. The developers hope to see the final approval from the Ministry of Environment in the next three to five months...as does the community!

The 1st Annual Big Tree Festival

At: Elkington Forest, Trailway Drive & Goldstream Heights, S. Shawnigan Lake

On: April 18, 2015 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

The 1st Annual Big Tree Festival at Elkington Forest is a celebration of community, conservation, creativity and learning on behalf of The Trust for Sustainable Forestry. The festival takes its inspiration from BC's Big Tree Registry. The online registry, a project of the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry, enlists the help of citizens to identify, describe, monitor, and conserve the

largest trees of each species within British Columbia. At this inaugural festival, teams of students, community groups, families and individuals will compete to measure and nominate the first big trees in the Cowichan Valley Regional District to be included in BC's Big Tree Registry.

All teams will have the opportunity to name, nominate and become designated stewards of one of BC's Big Trees. The competition will include:

- ★ Identifying the scientific name of the tree;
- ★ Obtaining an accurate measurement (plus or

minus range to be verified by the festival's registered surveyor);

- ★ Describing and recording the tree's characteristics;
- ★ Completing the Big Tree Registry's nomination form; and
- ★ The team's stated commitment to steward a big tree (optional)

The stewardship commitment includes visiting the Big Tree an annual basis to detail and record observations on the tree's condition, and to submit these observations to The Trust for Sustainable Forestry and to BC's Big Tree Registry.

Situated in the midst of 1,000 acres of mature and protected forest, the festival will take place in the new conservation community of Elkington Forest.

The Trust for Sustainable Forestry has worked in partnership with Elkington Forest to implement conservation/eco-forestry covenants on 850 acres of medium growth (and some old-growth) forest on the Malahat, BC. These conservation lands adjoin agricultural and residential properties nestled within the remaining 150 acres. Elkington Forest is located south of Shawnigan Lake, between Victoria and Mill Bay.

The festivities will include local musicians, games, food vendors, eco-forestry tours, solar energy demonstrations, watershed and forestry presentations by UBC, the Trust for Sustainable Forestry (and others not yet confirmed) and community exhibits.

The Festival is seeking: Student Teams, Sponsors, Volunteers, Exhibitors & Community Partners. For more information, please contact Deb Morse, Festival Director: info@sustainableforestry.com or 250-858-8100.

Sponsored by: Living Forest Communities, 1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay road, Shawnigan, 250-508-3299

Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary

The Lake-Bay-Hill auxiliary (LBH) to the Cowichan District Hospital (CDH) formed in 1972. Originally, it included members from Cobble Hill, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake; thus its name.

LBH Auxiliary is a volunteer organization that gathers funds to support the care and comfort of patients and residents of CDH and Cairnsmore Place. Monies are raised annually during four major events: the Strawberry Tea at the Mill Bay Garden Club Annual Flower Show; the Lemon and Lavender Tea, this year on March 29th (see Events Calendar); the Fall Raffle; and the Fall Craft and Gift Fair.

Since LBH Auxiliary formed, it has raised over a \$100,000 for equipment and care items for CDH and Cairnsmore Place.

Annually, the LBH Auxiliary awards a bursary to a student attending Frances Kelsey

High School who is choosing a career in the health services field. As well, the Auxiliary has funded the window refurbishing project at Cairnsmore Place, and contributed toward the cost of equipment purchased by the Hospital Foundation.

This year, Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary donated funds for CDH to purchase a portable storage cart ("Triple Par Stor111 Triple Module Mobile Unit Care, With a Dust Cover") for the Emergency Room at a cost of \$4,072.

Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary's 23 members contribute 3000 - 3500 volunteer hours annually. LBH Auxiliary meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September to June at the Mill Bay Community Hall. New members are always welcome. Please contact the President, Evelyn Roberts @ 743-9397, or Karin Boudreau @ 743-0899 to learn more about the LBH Auxiliary.

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Triathlon – A sport for life



Sarah Malerby,
Race Director, Shawnigan Lake Triathlon

Say the word “Triathlon” and most people conjure up a vision of a hungry-looking person subjecting themselves to extreme conditions, near drowning, unnatural endurance and fitness abuse from ridiculous life-consuming training regimes.

Not so.

Based on recent surveys conducted by the Subaru Western Triathlon series and USA Triathlon, here are some really interesting facts about real triathletes:

- ★ Average age: 38 (largest group is the 35 to 44 yr old demographic)
- ★ Gender: 60% Male, 40% Female
- ★ Marital Status: 74% married or common-law
- ★ Average household income: \$170,000
- ★ Average participation: 4 events per year
- ★ Favorite distance: Sprint (750 m swim, 20 km bike, 5 km run)

- ★ Reason: #1 - Personal Challenge, #2 – Stay in Shape

Triathlon events come in all different distances – the longest, and most famous distance is the IRONMAN – which can take up to 17 hours to complete. (Ouch! And yes, many of the faster Ironman finishers may fit the description in paragraph one.)

However, even the Ironman folk started on the shorter races, such as the Half Ironman, Olympic (Standard) Distance or Sprint. There are also many beginner races out there that have a variety of short distances, plus duathlons (bike/run), aquathlons (swim/run) and most events allow relay teams.

Just like the races, triathletes come in all shapes, sizes, ages, backgrounds and with a huge diversity and variety of reasons and stories that got them to the finish line. In some countries, such as New Zealand, triathlon is a very common sport and is included in school curriculum as part of the regular physical education program. It is not unusual for New Zealand schools to have weekly triathlon

races and monthly district triathlon challenges and championships. (It also helps that most schools have a pool and that the climate works for swimming most of the year...).

Triathlon is a great sport for kids (and adults) largely due to its three key values:

Respect – through the practice of inclusion, acceptance of diversity, empathy, sportsmanship and thankfulness

Challenge – your own limits, find fun in working hard, encourage self-discovery of new skills and fitness, be courageous and use positive self-talk

Community – is created naturally through triathlon. The same race can be completed by people of different generations (12 to 75+ year olds) or athletic abilities (Olympian Champions and Newbie Triathletes). Triathlon encourages all athletes to cheer on others and be generous with lots of high fives and positive words for effort for all levels.

Convinced? Well you might want to consider a triathlon event goal in your near future. If you are looking for sup-

port, training opportunities or partners, you should check last month’s issue of the Shawnigan Focus for local recommendations and contacts.

There are lots of great local triathlon event opportunities for adults and kids coming up between April and September. Triathlon BC has a full list of Provincial races and also kids events on their website: www.tribc.org

Some of the very fun, supportive and awesome local opportunities for kids are as follows:

April 19 - CV Breakers Splash n’Dash - Info & Reg: www.cvbrowsers.ca

May 23 – Shawnigan Lake Kids Fun Run/Duathlon (FREE EVENT for 12 & under) Reg Info: Coming in Spring South Cowichan Recreation Guide

May 24 – Shawnigan Lake Triathlon (12yrs+ - Relays, Sprint, Western Canada High School Championships) Info & Reg: www.ironman.ca

June 7 – Victoria Youth Triathlon - Info & Reg: www.vicyouthtri.ca

July 6 to 10 – Kids Triathlon Camp, W.Shawnigan Park - Reg Info: Coming in Spring South Cowichan Recreation Guide

July 12 – Cowichan Challenge, Kids Splash n’Dash Info & Reg: www.cceevacs.com/cee-vacs-races/cowichan-challenge

On another note: The Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Volunteer Sign-up Is OPEN

We need our returning and new volunteers to get to the website and sign-up!

Lots of volunteers are needed to fill lots of jobs, so please check out the volunteer page and sign-up now if you can come and help. Thank you!

Volunteers can sign up on the website: WWW.IRONMAN.CA

Then, Choose: May 24 Shawnigan, Choose: VOLUNTEER menu, Click: REGISTER button

To see a re-cap of last year’s awesome volunteers in action, go to You Tube and type in the search field: 2014 Shawnigan Triathlon Volunteers. Enjoy!

Email: sarah.malerby@ironman.com



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Wild Side – Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

The Bald Eagle is not really bald – its head is covered in snowy white feathers, as is its tail. The name is derived from an older meaning of white-headed. In our part of the world, the Bald Eagle lives year ‘round. As avid fisher birds, these members of the raptor family are happy residents of the Shawnigan community. Often, you can spot them perching on the tallest tree overlooking the lake, as they wait for dinner to swim past.

There are many stories of a Bald Eagle swooping down and catching a meal from the water with its large talons – and sometimes, directly from a fisherman’s boat. These birds have a superior sense of vision that allows them to see significantly farther than a human.

The babies are called eaglets and life is tough for them.

Only about 50% survive. Eaglets start out grey and fluffy and by 12 weeks old, when they are ready to leave the nest, they have turned brown. Their signature white head does not occur until they are about four years old. The average lifespan of a Bald Eagle is anywhere from 25-40 years in the wild and longer in captivity.

The Bald Eagle is Canada’s largest bird of prey and the US National bird (and animal) symbol. It is the only eagle exclusive to North America. Bald Eagles make their homes in forested areas near large bodies of water, ensuring good fishing and large trees for nesting. Eagles are at the top of the food chain and have no natural enemies. They primarily eat fish but, if hungry, they will eat rabbits, squirrels, birds and even young deer. They are not above scavenging for carrion or stealing the kills of other animals.

I have been lucky enough to see a bald eagle taking a bath in the lake. The bird stood in the water and splashed the water over its body, ducked its head under the water and had a grand old time. When he was done he perched on an old snag to dry off, for at least a half an hour, shaking the water from his feathers and grooming himself. Another time, I thought that I was witnessing an eagle in distress, as it seemed to be floundering in the water. To my surprise he was swimming, using a stroke very much like ‘butterfly’. Eventually he came to a log boom and pulled himself out of the water onto the logs with lunch in his clutches. It was amazing!

Bald Eagles generally mate for life. Together, they build an enormous nest built of sticks, called an eyrie (or aerie), the largest nest in the bird world. There have been Bald Eagle nests that weighed as much as one ton. They share the



02/21/20
Photo by Bob Starkey

incubation of their eggs (up to three per year). The sexes are identical in plumage and the female is about 25% larger.

Did you know?
When a bald eagle loses a

feather on one wing, it will lose a feather on the other in order to keep its balance!

Several words can be used to describe a group of eagles: ‘convocation’; ‘jubilee’; ‘soar’ and ‘tower’ of eagles.

Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Lake Focus

One of my favorite places to go when I’m not feeling up for the challenge of a mountain hike is the Cowichan Estuary. It doesn’t promise butt-kicking inclines, but it is a perfect stroll for any weather and also every level of fitness. If you like you can always jog and pump your arms to intensify it.

The Estuary is the floodplain and marshlands where the Koksilah and Cowichan Rivers meet creating a fantastical network of water ways right in Cowichan Bay. Not only is the tidal landscape fascinating, it is also said to have over 200 species of migrant shorebirds and waterfowl that frequent the estuary. So if you like to bird

watch, this is a place you must see (and hear).

There are several access points into the Estuary but one of my favorites is off Lochmanetz Road. To get there take the Cowichan Bay exit off TCH, but be sure it’s not the Valleyview one but the other one towards the South Cowichan Tennis Club! Then zip right across Cowichan Bay Road onto Lochmanetz Road, take the first right at the house and follow to the end parking area. From this entrance point you are greeted by the amazing waterways and open views. Foggy days around the Estuary are extra magical and mysterious, I must say.

Not too long ago the Cowichan Bay Nature Cen-

ter was constructed. The Nature house offers loads of information in regard to the history and sustainability of the Estuary and its inhabitants. They also provide interesting workshops and guest speakers for those that would like to learn more. Find them at <http://www.cowichanestuary.ca/>.

Also if you are a bit of a history buff, take a few moments to check out the South Cowichan Tennis Club’s website (<http://www.scltc.bc.ca/>) for some neat history of the area.

Thinking of getting out there in the woods but not sure where to start or who to contact? Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.

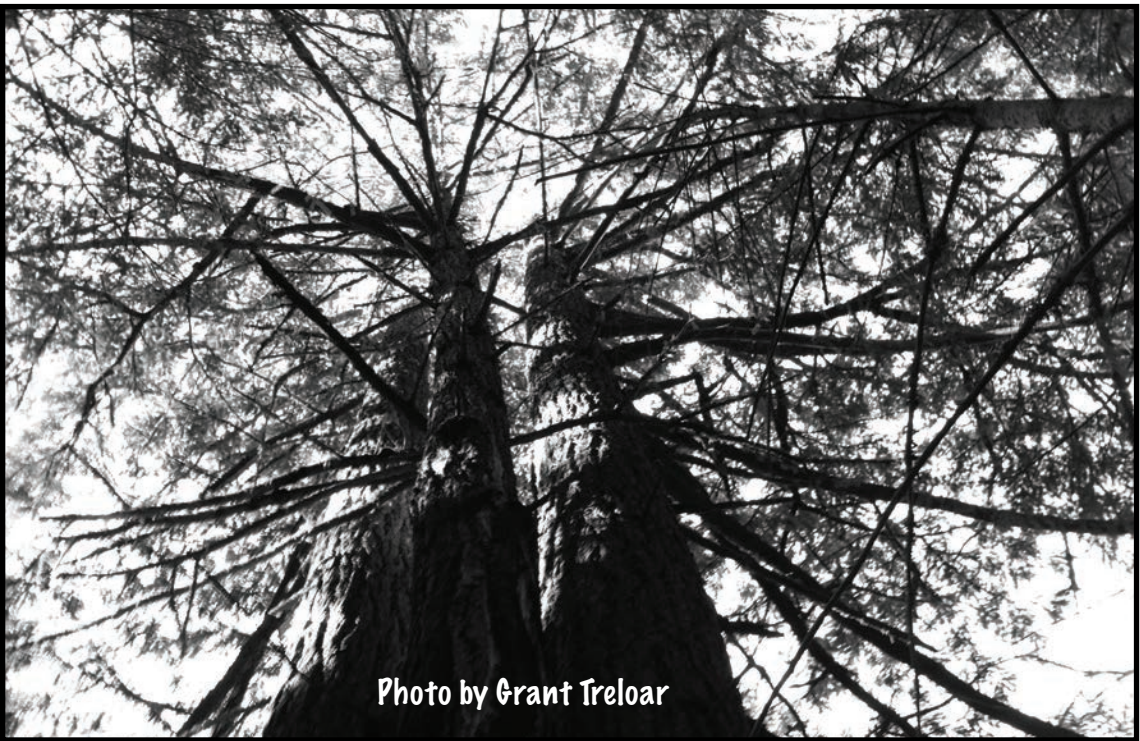
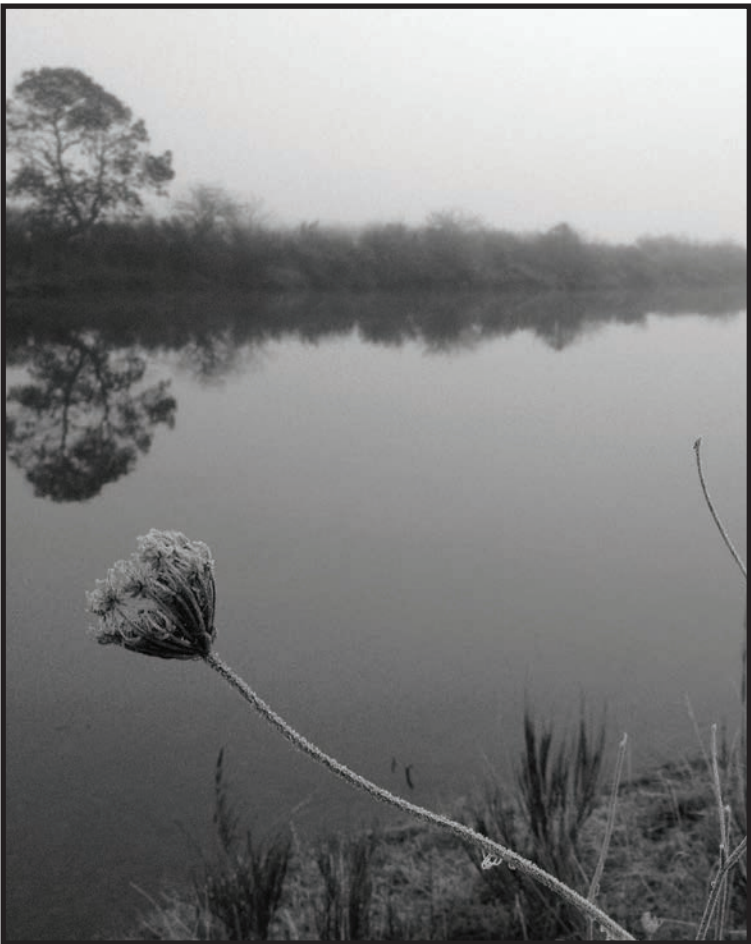


Photo by Grant Treloar

April 18th, 2015
1st Annual
Big Tree Festival
at Elkington Forest
Trailway Drive & Goldstream Heights

Become a citizen scientist. Sign up your team to measure & enroll Big Trees for inclusion in BC's Big Tree Registry.
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For more info, to sign up or volunteer:
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A healthy complement of mirrors

Bruce Fraser

A view from the river

It is hard not to respond to the vilification of Muslim people, now so popular in the worst corridors of power. As a species, we seem all too ready to indict the neighbouring tribe with outrageous customs that justify their persecution. As a multicultural Canadian society, such a reversion to our most base instincts should be readily dismissed.

Criminal and beastly behaviour, indeed terrorism, is not the exclusive province of any civilization, any religion, any society or any community.

It rears its head in all quarters where civil order has been damaged, where disasters happen, where abject poverty reigns, where age-old grievances fester, where famine has devastated a land and people, where colonialists meddle with historic societies, where criminal gangs flourish or where dismembered armies

are loosed on their communities in the aftermath of war.

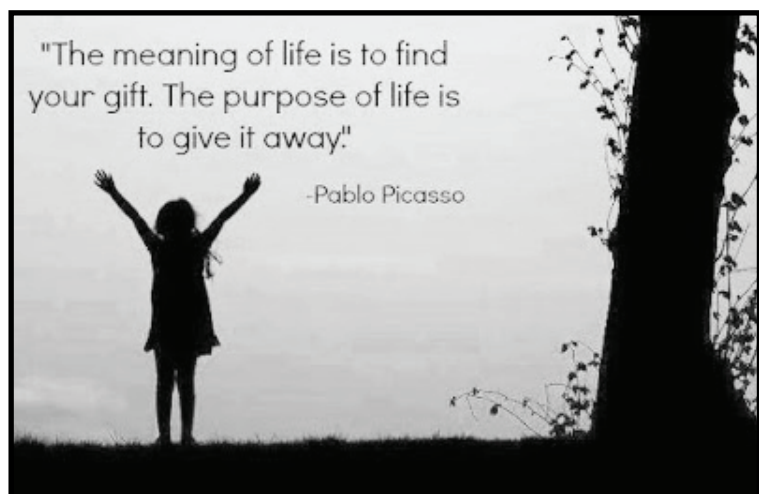
I have worked and visited in many countries where Muslims were in the majority, among them Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Jordan, Palestine and Pakistan. My colleagues were mainly those interested in economic development, education and environmental management. Universally they were thoughtful, dedicated individuals, working for the betterment of their people. They were devout

in their religious beliefs and practices that demanded of them respect for others, exceptional standards of hospitality to visitors and personal probity. Some wore western dress, some traditional and some were veiled. They all lived in societies that had their share of inherited difficulties that had to be overcome by collective effort

Of course the same could be said of most peoples and their religions. In Canada, where we are such a wonderful mix

of native and immigrant cultures, we should take great caution in the criticism of other societies and their religions when our own civility is just as much at risk as theirs. We will be tested by natural disasters, by economic difficulties, by homelessness and mental illness, by criminal gangs, by climate change, by growing coercive surveillance and by socioeconomic inequality.

Our glass house should include a healthy complement of mirrors.



More on the Williams Creek Bridge

Gerry Burch

I received a copy of the February article on the Williams Creek Bridge, and believe I have some important detail to provide, as I was involved in the construction of this bridge.

I was employed by BC Forest Products (BCFP) as a cruiser at this time, but, in the winter months I was sent to a camp to act as assistant engineer. In the period of 1948 to 1960, I seemed to spend most of the winters at Bear Creek camp at Port Renfrew. All logging was by railroad at this time, and development was concentrated on the eastern portion of Block 191 at Bear Creek. This involved the construction of two bridges—one at Williams Creek, and one at Floodwood Creek.

During the Second World War, the Army had constructed a road from Shawnigan Lake to the end of steel in order to service an Army installation at Port Renfrew, with gun placements to thwart any attacks from the sea. The “end of steel” was a short distance from the east end of the Williams Creek trestle, at a location of a watchman’s shack, called “Bert’s Shack!” Here, the loggers in the San Juan valley would leave their cars for the week, for use on their time off on weekends, or whenever.

Around 1957, two events occurred: the logging of the east portion of Block 191 was complete, and there was a trend towards truck logging. As a result, the steel rails were picked up back to truck roads that were being constructed to the higher ground. In this area, the steel rails now ended at the east end of the Bear Creek Bridge, where the new parking lot occurred. And, the bridges were planked over



to allow vehicle travel. At this time, a bus service from Shawnigan Lake was started on a twice a week trip, for workman, visitors, or freight. Also, diesel oil and gas trucks became common, but, after a few years, the old bridge structures began to show signs of wear, and concern was expressed as to their serviceability. Eventually, and I would say it was around 1960, a decision was made to replace the Williams Creek Bridge, but, “do it as cheaply as possible, and make it safe for public use.”

The camp engineer at this time was Glen Forrester, and we talked at length on a new design. It was Glen who came up with the “bedspring” design. There were two major problems to solve: large cables would be needed, and the “deadmen” at each end must not fail!

At this time, the company was involved in building a connecting road from the Harris Creek operation on the north side of the San Juan valley to the operation on the south side, which involved a major bridge across the San Juan River. This river is noted for flooding, and the bridge would undoubtedly be used to haul logging trucks, so, a suspension bridge was adopted. This involved large cables (rather than old logging cables). Fortunately Jim

Crickmay, our Chief Engineer at BCFP, heard that the Boston Bar-North Bend cable car crossing, which replaced their cables every few years (for safety), was trying to find a sale for considerable lengths of the perfect sized cable we needed for the San Juan Bridge. Glen determined this was the perfect cable for his “bedspring” bridge, and that enough was available to construct four strands for his bridge. We bought the cable.

As for the “deadmen”, he built the biggest cement blocks, well surrounded by rocks, and which never moved a bit, to my knowledge.

Yes, it was a bit of a scare crossing this bridge, but all were warned not to stop, but, just keep going! And, it worked for many a year. Naturally, freight trucks or the bus were not allowed to cross.

Editor’s Note:

A sincere thank you to Gerry Burch for providing more information on what has proven to be a popular topic. We intend to follow up with more stories of this nature. Coming soon will be a piece about the Bear Creek Trestle. This engineering marvel was built in 1939, stood a dizzying 74 metres (242 ft) high, spanned 158 metres (517 ft), and was, at the time, the highest wooden trestle in the world. It was demolished 20 years later for safety reasons.

**green**
PARTY OF CANADA

Meet Your Green Party Candidate
Shawnigan Lake Community Social

Date: March 29th Sunday
Time: 2pm to 4pm
Location: Watershed Office
1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road
Coffee, tea and muffins will be provided
please bring your own mug
Music by Mbira Spirit

Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi



fran.hunt-jinnouchi@greenparty.ca
Office: 225 Canada Ave. Duncan BC

St. Michael's Residential School demolition ceremony

Georgia Collins
Shawnigan Focus

I lived in Alert Bay when I was a little girl. I remember playing for hours on the beach with my Mum and my sister, looking for blue glass trading beads. My Mum loved to take us for walks through Gator Gardens, I remember skating there when it froze. I got my ears pierced in Alert Bay, at the same store where Buster, my huge stuffed animal dog, was from. It took persistence, but my Mum finally caved and got him for me.

Until this week, I hadn't been back since 1990. The emotions of returning to a familiar place were altogether tragically diverse from most who were also visiting the island this week. While I happily reconnected with my Grade 3 teacher, Mr. Guenther, and found my old house where I learned to play Nintendo and watched *Sleeping Beauty* too many times to count, there was an intense and intolerable juxtaposition of my own joy and wonder filled childhood to those whose childhoods were savagely and systematically stolen from them.

There was, and still is, an unnerving, hollow energy around St. Michael's Indian Residential School. And while the building marred only the physical landscape of my own childhood, it's walls harbor memories of childhoods disrupted and destroyed, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Not just childhoods but livelihoods of families and generations of people who are all severely impacted by this genocide that still lives on today.

I cannot begin to imagine what the feeling of being close to that building was like for the survivors. I cannot articulate here all that there is to say about the atrocities that took place there, and the lasting impacts on entire cultures and peoples. Visuals haunt my mind of my own ear punctured with a pretty gold and emerald stud, while a generation back in the same location, another child's tongue is pierced by a tack for speaking her own language. There were many moments during the ceremony when I couldn't look at the building. I knew that if I didn't look away, if I didn't instead look up to the birds soaring overhead, I would begin to cry uncontrollably. The pain coming from experiences that aren't my own, and the tears from the thought of my own children being exposed to such harm.

I watched the eagles, ravens and crows fly in great numbers above us all.

I thought of the crow funeral held outside our Alert Bay home. Just before arriving at Wednesday's ceremony I had convinced our entourage to take a quick detour to my old house so that I could take a picture to send to my Mum. I stood beside the pole where a crow, years ago when we still lived there, had somehow been electrocuted.



It had fallen to the ground and, not long after, hundreds and hundreds of crows came to our place and cacophonous cawing ensued. They all hung around for quite awhile and when they did finally start to break up, one bird remained. It stood with the dead crow for many more hours.

If there's one thing that I learned this week, it is the power of presence. Being there for, and with, others gives way to understanding.

Many people were present. And again, in the presence of so many wonderful human beings, I marveled at my unfair advantage in life in Canada and the serendipity that had me standing with incredibly significant people in my life while bearing witness on this day. To my right I had my partner Michael, with

whom I am enjoying the experience of mutual love, respect and growth. To my left (all in a row) were Alistair MacGregor, a special colleague whose effort to be present was admirable; my dear childhood friend, Rupert Richardson, whose openness, love of learning and willingness to show up is ever inspiring; and my teacher, Mr. Guenther, who created the space for me to write elaborate stories that enabled self expression and furthered my development. I have led a blessed life.

This kind of experience was not afforded to the children who endured Residential School. At the hands of those who created opportunity for me and my family, these children were not allowed to be present in their own families or cultures. Our federal government, who finally shut

down the school in 1975, apologized for it in 2008, sent a representative to the ceremony who spoke on behalf of Canada. Needing to leave early, he got bumped up to the first speaking spot and read apologies from a piece of paper. Our provincial government was not present.

During the day it was mentioned by a Namgis woman that none of the acknowledgements or apologies mattered unless it meant her children could walk down the street today and be looked at and treated with dignity and respect.

We are not there yet.

It will take all of us choosing understanding, choosing healing, choosing to be present, and sometimes it will take much more than that.



Spot the Shawnigan Players. Come out and meet some of the early Shawnigan Players at the Shawnigan Gathering March 14th. They will have lots of memorabilia to show and share.

House numbers!
Who cares?

Keith Shields
Fire Chief

We at the fire department care. Your volunteer firefighters spend countless hours training on firefighting, rescue and first aid with one common denominator, a quick response! Fire has the potential to double in size every minute. The chance of survival after having a heart attack is very time dependent, and choking could be even more so.

Case in point, not that many years ago the department was paged out to a cardiac arrest in the village area. The address was easy to find so response time was as good as it gets. The end result was positive for the very grateful recipient of honed CPR skills and application of the automatic external defibrillator (AED). Any delay in response might not have had such a positive outcome.

It's very frustrating for your firefighters to waste time trying to find you. For the sake of taking the time to find a spot on your property so that your address is easy to see night or day from the road helps everyone. Primarily it helps you, since you're the one that called for assistance. The emergency service that you're looking for can come direct. Listening to the response team drive up and down the road looking for you can only add to the

anxiety of the incident.

Knowing where YOU are is paramount in response time. Did you know that Shawnigan Lake Road runs from the Malahat through Shawnigan Lake Village to Cobble Hill Road, just before Cobble Hill Village? This is contrary to a lot of popular opinion that Cobble Hill Road starts at Renfrew Road by Masons. West Shawnigan Lake Road runs from Shawnigan Lake Road at the south end of the Lake to Renfrew Road. There is no such thing as East Shawnigan Lake Road. When travelling north along Shawnigan Lake Road, just after you pass the Easter Seal Camp, the road splits. If you go up the hill you are on Stowood Road, if you go left towards the Marina you are on Shawnigan Lake Road.

Think how you would feel if something happened to a family member, or to your property, that could have been prevented if your address was easy to find. The cost of a sign is looking pretty cheap! Please take the small amount of time it takes to help us help you. Compared to the amount of time the firefighters dedicate to being efficient, it is minuscule.

The most visible signs are the blue reflective with the white letters, posted at the road edge. These are available from your local sign shop.



SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

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

Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030

Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Mem-
bers Attended 27
Calls in January

- ★ Thursday, January 1 – 1st Responder off Munsie Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 1 – Assistance on Ida Rd
- ★ Friday, January 2 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Friday, January 2 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 3 – Burning Complaint on Campbell Rd
- ★ Monday, January 5 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, January 5 – Alarms Activated on Wallbank Rd
- ★ Tuesday, January 6 – Extinguished Structure Fire on Lampman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, January 7 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Friday, January 9 – 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 10 – MVI on Ingot Dr
- ★ Monday, January 12 – 1st Responder off Baden-Powell Rd
- ★ Tuesday, January 13 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 15 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, January 16 –

- Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 17 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 18 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 18 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 18 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 18 – Hydro Lines on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wednesday, January 21 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 24 – 1st Responder off Hartl Rd
- ★ Monday, January 26 – 1st Responder off Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Monday, January 26 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, January 28 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 29 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 31 – 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd

Department Mem-
bers Attended 15
Incidents in Febru-
ary 2015:

- ★ Wednesday, February

- 4 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, February 5 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Thursday, February 5 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, February 7 – MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, February 8 – MVI on West Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, February 9 – 1st Responder off Wilmot Ave
- ★ Monday, February 9 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, February 9 – MVI off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, February 12 – Chimney Fire on Colman Rd
- ★ Monday, February 16 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, February 17 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Sunday, February 22 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, February 23 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Wednesday, February 25 – 1st Responder off West Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, February 28 – 1st Responder off Ingot Dr

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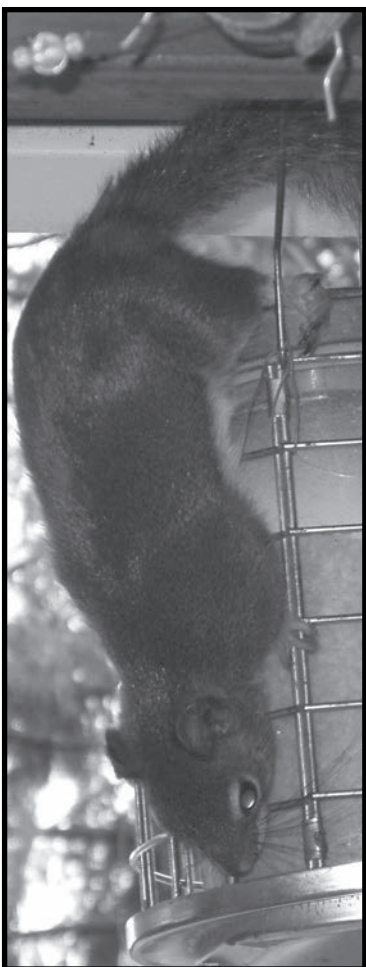
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director’s meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
1st Monday of the month. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
No meeting in March
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
AGM Monday, March 3rd at 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**
3rd Tuesday each month 7pm www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of each month 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **Village Development Committee** March 28th 10-11:30

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



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

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for February was Lynn Weaver who wrote “It is the strange “log” boom at Mason’s beach that replaced the long-time well-functioning, actual log boom!”
Please see the article in this issue for more information on this BoomDoggie.

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Family Day 2015

Lori Treloar

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Well over a hundred participants came out to play in Shawnigan on Family Day. The theme was Shawnigan Roads. The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre was busy, on February 9th, with families playing 'street' hockey, creating road sign art, texting in the ICBC walking Village, checking out the mini touch-a-truck, a Lego activity Shawnigan Village, collecting the box lunches (from the Village Chippery) and decorating stop sign cookies with the SLCA. The event at the Community Centre was the culminating activity after families completed their "Passport to Shawnigan" - a road rally to discover the origins of eight local road names. Families went on a quest to eight destinations - to find the answer to a skill-testing question and take a family 'selfie' at each.

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society (Museum) sponsored the event but it would not have been possible without the help of many other community groups: The SL Community Association; Inspire!Shawnigan; the South Cowichan Community Policing/Speedwatch; Shawnigan Volunteer Fire Department; Shawnigan Lake RCMP; Mill Bay Towing; the Village Chippery; Shawnigan Lake Business Association; Mill Bay Lion's Club; ICBC; Kim Liddle, and the staff (Ros) of the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre... and, last but not least, the Ladies of the Lake.

