



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue Eleven

NOVEMBER 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

FORESHORE TO FOREST

The work begins on the Shawnigan commons

Bruce Fraser

SAVE THE DATE: *Public Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, December 2nd at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre to hear our experts present their findings.*

On October 29, 2015 the Shawnigan Basin Society received the final report of the Forest Ecologist, Herb Hammond, on the state of the upland forests of the Shawnigan Watershed. Herb has mapped our source watershed and provided recommendations for areas to protect, conserve and restore to ensure that the forest plays its natural functional role in water supply management. What this will mean in practice is engaging forestland owners in treating their land with the respect necessary to achieve sound forest cover of advancing age and diverse composition. The local initiative led by Area Director Sonia Furst-enau to acquire Mt. Baldy as public parkland is a great step in this direction.



Herb's forest analysis has been supported by the LANDSAT satellite analysis of vegetation change in the watershed from 1984 to the present conducted by remote sensing specialist Mar Martinez. Mar has documented the areas of the watershed where vegetation recovery from logging and other disturbances has been rapid, slow or lack-

ing. The two analyses taken together can indicate where investments in land recovery would provide the best return on effort.

Herb's and Mar's work is accompanied by the foreshore condition inventory recently completed by biologist Jenny Berg. Jenny mapped the entire foreshore of the lake and classified each section

of shoreline for its ecological condition. Her work makes it possible to identify sections of the shore that would benefit from restoration with natural vegetation. Restoration work on the waterfront can help to reduce the impact of wave erosion, provide for the final water filter for surface drainage to the lake and keep the shoreline attractive for resi-

dents, boaters and visitors.

Respect for the land and the lake cannot be achieved by top-down agency regulation, partly because there is no single agency with a grasp on the whole watershed area or the staff and budget capacity to plan, direct and monitor land-owner activity. We also have a watershed where most of the foreshore and forest is made up of private land. It requires a "bottom-up" participatory approach that informs and engages everyone with a stake in the watershed. A sound watershed can be achieved by thoughtful cooperation among residents, landowners and agencies, working together in the spirit of a "commons". We will be inviting all parties to help create and then sign voluntarily onto a "foreshore to forest" stewardship plan, each taking responsibility for their holdings' contribution to the common good. Engaging people will proceed over the coming year and proceed by sub-basin to ensure that ample opportunity to participate will be provided.



SHAWNIGAN FOCUS NOVEMBER 2015

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

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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.

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Shawnigan Focus Letters to the Editor:

All Tax Increases Should Be Subject To Referendum

Dear Sir:

Hearty congratulations to the voters of CVRD Area E for soundly resisting the bullying by their Director, and the CVRD Board and staff, trying to force them to pay new and extra taxes for the North Cowichan pool. Most Area E residents do not use that pool. When the CVRD board wants to hide a new tax on residents they use the Alternate Approval Process (AAP) - a negative billing option that is illegal for use by the private sector in Canada - to force new taxes on taxpayers. Under this system you are forced to accept a new tax unless you submit a written objection. Fortunately Area E residents were alert and gathered twice as many objections as needed to stop this fiasco that is regularly used to avoid

a real vote by taxpayers in a referendum.

The CVRD has successfully used this nasty, undemocratic AAP process more than 50 times in the past to raise taxes forever without a referendum. Once the tax is in place, the Board simply increases it over time and the result is an ever-increasing tax bill that no one ever voted for.

Right now the CVRD is doing it again, forcing ALL the taxpayers in the Valley to pay for another new tax to support the arts and culture special interests. That tax will raise more than \$130,000 per year unless more than 6000 taxpayers send in their forms objecting to the process. These can be found at <http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/67342> and must be in by Nov. 18.

In the complicated, and dif-

ficult to understand, AAP advertising for these unfair tax increases, the CVRD confuses the public by using a tax rate per \$100,000 of assessment rather than identifying how much the new tax will cost the average taxpayer or telling them this is a new «forever» tax.

In comparison to the \$79 million spending by the CVRD each year, the amounts in the now rejected Area E pool tax and the planned Arts and Culture tax total less than \$200,000 per year. There is more than enough waste in the CVRD empire that the Board could easily find that amount to fund their pet projects rather than taking an entitlement attitude to taxpayer's wallets. All tax increases should be subject to referendum using new on-line voting processes to minimize costs.

W.E.(Bill) Dumont

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.

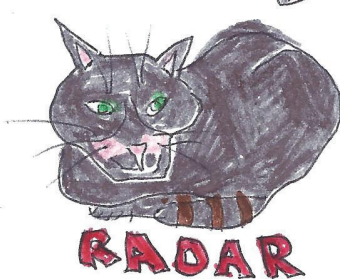
What's Coming Up?

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**TEN!
TO
MICK**



CU THBERT



RADAR



APPLE

Love from Joan Wachtin



Old Hall coming down



Sgt Rob Webb RCMP being presented a cheque for \$500 for his participation in Tour de Rock.

Remembrance Day

10:00am
Farmers Institute
Hall, Cobble Hill
11:00am
Ceremony at the
Cenotaph

Mark the date!

Shawnigan Shiver
New Years Day swim

Save the date!

Christmas Craft Fair
November 28th 10-4
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre



Old Hall coming down

Shawnigan Focus - Letters

Shoreline erosion:

I understand constant boat traffic, waves splashing, boats bouncing and loud stereos can be annoying when you're trying to relax on your beach or dock. I don't think anyone should ever wakesurf down the West Arm or through the Memory Island channel. If there are water conditions calm enough for safe riding in the middle of the lake, all water sports should be done there.

The problem of shoreline erosion is a direct result of residents altering their shoreline with retaining walls and/or removing the heavily rooted natural plants and bringing in topsoil, grass seed, fertilizer, weed killer etc., all of which have a negative impact on the lake and the drinking water. Add to that that the majority of the shoreline being altered is below the 1:200 year floodplain, so residents are altering property, they don't even own. This is an issue I have been passionate about, even before wakeboarding was invented. If you visit my dock, my shoreline is untouched, other than a 1 metre path to my walkway. There is no erosion and, if you sit there, you are surrounded by mink, kingfisher, red wing black birds, heron and small fish, living in the natural shoreline plants. Here is a link to a precedent setting legal case regarding this issue

<http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/water/97wat05.htm>

Shawnigan Lake is a recreational water sports lake and has been for many years. Limiting usage is not the answer and the RCMP have better use for their time. Here is what I propose:

I would like to see all lakefront property remediated to its natural state (or as close as possible) other than a 1 metre path to a walkway. Educate boaters of the annoyance they create by operating boats close to shore; and educate waterfront owners how to protect their property from damage by replacing derelict docks, with docks made of a combination of solid logs and flotation and the use of dock whips to secure boats. All of this should end shoreline erosion and property damage while maintaining respectful usage, without limitations.

Thanx, Stu

Editor's Note: Stu owns and operates a wakeboarding and wake-surfing business on Shawnigan Lake.

Bad Encounter with Wake-board Boat

Dear Editors,

I am writing regarding your recent article in the Shawnigan Focus. Upon retiring several years ago, my wife and I purchased a small aluminum boat, trailer and electric motor. This was something we always wanted to do, living so close to the lake, as we do. We had several enjoyable days on the water until one beautiful September day when we decided to go

to the West Arm Grill for lunch. We launched on the west side at Clearihue Road. The first thing that caught our attention was a wake boat, with surfer behind, right in our line of travel. I made several attempts to travel in our intended direction but they made no effort to let us past. Finally, I waved to get their attention and tried to indicate where we were trying to go. The operator responded by coming directly at us and veering away at the last second. Our boat almost capsized and my poor wife was so panic stricken that she was in tears. It doesn't end there. After gaining control, I immediately headed for the boat launch and they pursued us the whole way. I could hear them laughing. They made one last pass and topped it off by giving us the finger. Since that day, my wife refused to go out in the boat, even to Dougan Lake where no motors are allowed. I have since sold the boat and trailer and we spend our time at other things.

I realize that this was probably an unusual event but I don't believe that all the rules and regulations will change anything. I also realize that full time police presence is impractical and costly so that is unlikely to happen. I believe that the boats that cause large waves should be banned completely. Mine is not the only story of bad experiences when encountering wake board boats. I have heard many from others. There seems to be a mindset with these people that they can do what they like. By comparison, I found skiers to be courteous and responsible.

I wish you well in your efforts to find solutions to problems on the lake.

John H., Shawnigan Lake

Re: Shawnigan Lake Watch Group

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I believe your proposal to have the CVRD initiate a bylaw to limit large wave activity on the lake is ludicrous. Policing this would be based on individual perception and not fact. We have had a place on the lake for 40 years and during this time we have witnessed nothing but respect for the waterways by the regular recreational users. I do not believe the masses should be subjected to severe regulations in order to penalize the few renegades that have no respect for our lake and these are usually the weekend boaters who are unaware of the regulations now in place.

Perhaps education about the existing regulations is needed and could be posted and shared on websites or via brochures to make sure that all boaters on Shawnigan Lake are aware and follow them.

I am weary of groups of individuals who try to put in place new improved regulations when those we have are fitting and work for the majority of the boaters of Shawnigan Lake.

Regards, Irene Metcalfe

Subjective proposal?

I am glad to see that this initiative is not focused on a specific sport (e.g. Wakeboarding), but has correctly surmised that any vessel can create a significant wake, especially when operated at less than ideal speeds. Wakes formed by skiers, wake boarders, fishermen and tubers are all capable of causing a disturbance. However, I disagree that this type of regulation is the answer to protecting the foreshore. In many cases, it is the foreshore itself that is the issue. In the West Arm, for example, the primary cause of erosion appears to be foreshore that has retaining walls, grass lawns and/or sandy beaches. The areas where there is proper riparian vegetation do not appear affected.

In addition, the proposed by-law itself is very Subjective. Any by-law regarding large wakes will be open to significant interpretation. How does one distinguish between a heavily loaded boat full of sightseers versus a boat towing a trick skier versus a knee boarder versus a child learning to ski, etc? How do you measure a wake? The existing regulations designed to eliminate wakes limit the speed of the vessel to 10km/h within 30m of shore. This makes sense and can be enforced, but how do you consistently enforce a rule that says some wakes are okay (e.g. skiers), but others are too big?

Boat operators are already responsible for the damage caused by their wake and are already required to make no wake within 30m of shore. However, these rules are very rarely (if ever) enforced. Creating new rules that are highly subjective and limit access to certain areas of the lake (like the West Arm) is not the answer. A better solution to the issue of shore erosion is to enforce the current boating regulations and to restore the riparian areas around the lake. It is a gross over-simplification to blame the problem on a single type of boater or recreation, especially since we are only really talking about 2 months of the year. If all boaters keep their distance from shore and the shoreline itself is covered in natural vegetation, any possible impact of boat wakes on shorelines will be significantly reduced, if not eliminated.

Alex Acton, Shawnigan Lake

Most damage witnessed in last few years

Dear Editor

We are very much in favour of the following message regarding a Shawnigan Lake Safe Zone. We have also had damage to our wharves (2) and have had to have them repaired. We have lived on the Lake for 40 plus years and the last few years have seen the most damage ever.

We have a large family and we have all water skied over the years with no problems to the wharves or the foreshore. Thank you for your

attention to this matter.

Bob, Shawnigan Lake

Are taxpayers willing to pay more for CVRD garbage and recycling changes

Taxpayers need to realize that the CVRD Garbage & Recycling Survey is just about User Fees and not what it will really cost them with increases on their property taxes. The majority of the surveys are being collected before the Open House takes place in the taxpayers' area, so how can users and taxpayers make informed decisions?

Will the Multi-Material BC (MMBC) rebate of \$442,000 per year end up costing Electoral Area Taxpayers millions in new loans for trucks, staff wages, and numerous expenses to create new services?

If this system is so great why is North Cowichan not using these trucks and totes for their garbage and recycling pickups.

The CVRD Survey does not ask residents if they are willing to pay higher property taxes to cover the costs of these services.

At a May 2015 meeting in Area G (Saltair), the CVRD staff quoted a figure of \$3.2 million. This would mean loans for trucks & totes but what about staff and operational costs. There would also be a need for more loans to cover the trucks for kitchen organic waste or glass or garden waste as the tote trucks are not designed to pick these items up. For anyone interested in a more detailed breakdown of costs you can see the 2016 Garbage & Recycling Budget at: www.cvr.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/Home/View/7181

In 2012 the CVRD staff made presentations in communities promoting the loans for trucks & totes. These presentations indicated that the MMBC rebate would be given back to users on their user fee. For 2014 - \$17 per home, for 2015 - \$34 home; this has not happened. WHY?

The MMBC contract is only for 5 years (started mid 2014) so what happens to all these programs that the CVRD Staff is wanting the CVRD Electoral Area taxpayers to sign on for and all the loans to service these programs. What will the costs to the taxpayers be after the 5 years is up?

There is already a locally-owned and family run business operating in Electoral Areas A, B, C and a portion of D. For decades, P.A.N. Disposal has been providing an excellent service with local employees and is always going the extra mile for their customers.

One has to question why the CVRD has an Economic Development department that is working to bring businesses into the region while simultaneously not supporting an already up and running business.

Lynne Smith, Saltair

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, OR JUST WANT TO ANNOUNCE SOMETHING NICE?
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FortisBC responds to gas leak concerns

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Last month, in an article titled “*Natural Gas Leak Threatens Shawnigan Core*”, several questions were raised concerning the alarming event that occurred on September 8th. FortisBC took notice and has provided the following responses:

How significant was the risk?

The risk was minimal and limited to the immediate area because natural gas is lighter than air and dissipates quickly. However, we treat any damage to our natural gas system very seriously.

The first step we took was to ensure the area of incident was safe and secure. We then had to assess the extent of damage to the gas line and determine the safest course of action that would impact the fewest number of customers.

With the site secure and situation fully understood, crews then shut down the impacted section of our system and began to repair the damaged pipeline.

Throughout the repair process, we worked closely with the fire department to ensure a safe perimeter around the affected area.

In conjunction with the repairs, a team of service technicians from our Vancouver Island service areas and the Lower Mainland assembled to safely restore service to each of our customers.

In a little more than 24 hours:

- ★ the site was secured and pipeline damage safely assessed,
- ★ the affected section was shut down,
- ★ gas meters at each affected home or business were shut off,
- ★ the damaged pipeline was repaired,
- ★ each gas meter was turned back on and
- ★ all affected appliances were relit.

What damage would an explosion have done?

While natural gas should be treated with respect at all times, it has a track record of being a safe and reliable energy source.

Natural gas is lighter than air and when it vents or leaks from a gas line it rises and dissipates quickly and harmlessly, as it did in this case. Allowing the gas to vent straight up into the atmosphere was the safest solution possible until FortisBC technicians were able to fully assess the damage and then shut down the impacted section of our system.

While we recommend that caution should always be taken around any gas source, natural gas is very difficult to ignite. When natural gas mixes with air, it will only become flammable when the mixture is within five to 15 per cent natural gas.

Was this an exceptional local event or was the surprisingly slow response indicative of a regional or even larger problem?

FortisBC responded quickly and safely given the circumstances of the event. Crews received the call of natural gas line damage at 1:08 p.m. A technician arrived on site at 1:27 p.m., and crews brought gas under control at 2:40 p.m.

FortisBC followed proper safety procedures to bring gas under control as quickly as possible. During this time, crews were required to assess the extent of the damage and the impact to our system.

Our crew and the local fire department worked together to ensure the site was made safe. Once it was determined that the site was safe, crews assessed the situation to ensure as few customers as possible would be impacted prior to bringing the gas under control.

Also, it is understood that the equipment operator did follow correct procedure with regard to obtaining prior permission and direction from FortisBC. Could you please verify and explain where things went wrong.

In addition to promoting safe digging practices, FortisBC works closely with stakeholders such as municipalities and the digging community to ensure that correct procedures are followed prior to digging.

In this case, we would like to acknowledge that the third party construction crew followed all proper procedures for working around our gas lines. They had gathered information and were using equipment appropriately in their work zone.

Following our investigation we determined that there was a discrepancy between the mapping information and the actual location of the line. FortisBC typically dispatches a natural gas technician to physically locate the line. In this case, that did not happen.

This was an extremely uncommon occurrence and is very concerning to us. We will continue to review how we can prevent any incidents like these.

We are thankful to the residents of Shawnigan Lake for their patience during the outage and for the cooperation and support from the local Fire Station, Police and Community Centre.

Erika Schade
Corporate Communications Advisor

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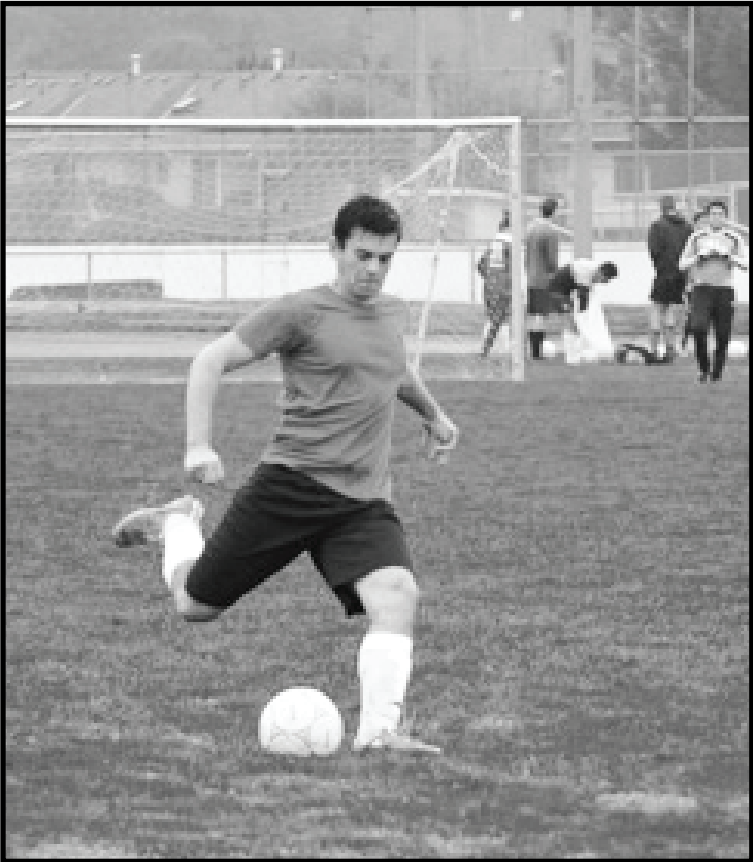
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The Dwight School Canada soccer team played in the Senior Boys Mid-Island Soccer Championship on October 21, and performed very well according to the coach, Mr. Baumgartner. The team won their first match against Cowichan Valley Open Learning Co-op, but lost their match against Glenlyon Norfolk School. Roy S. was awarded tournament all-star for the Dwight team, congratulations Roy!

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Let's buy Mt. Baldy fundraiser

It was great to come together on October 30th for the Let's Buy Mt Baldy Fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of Shawnigan Lake School, we had a beautiful venue in the Upper Dining Hall of the school.

Enrico Winery and Unsworth Vineyards donated a divine selection of red and white wine, which allowed us to greet guests with a complimentary glass of wine. The Chippery, Shawnigan Jen's, Oma's Bakery, and Shawnigan House Coffee provided delicious food and drink. The dulcet tones of Cari Burdett added a perfect ambience to the evening.

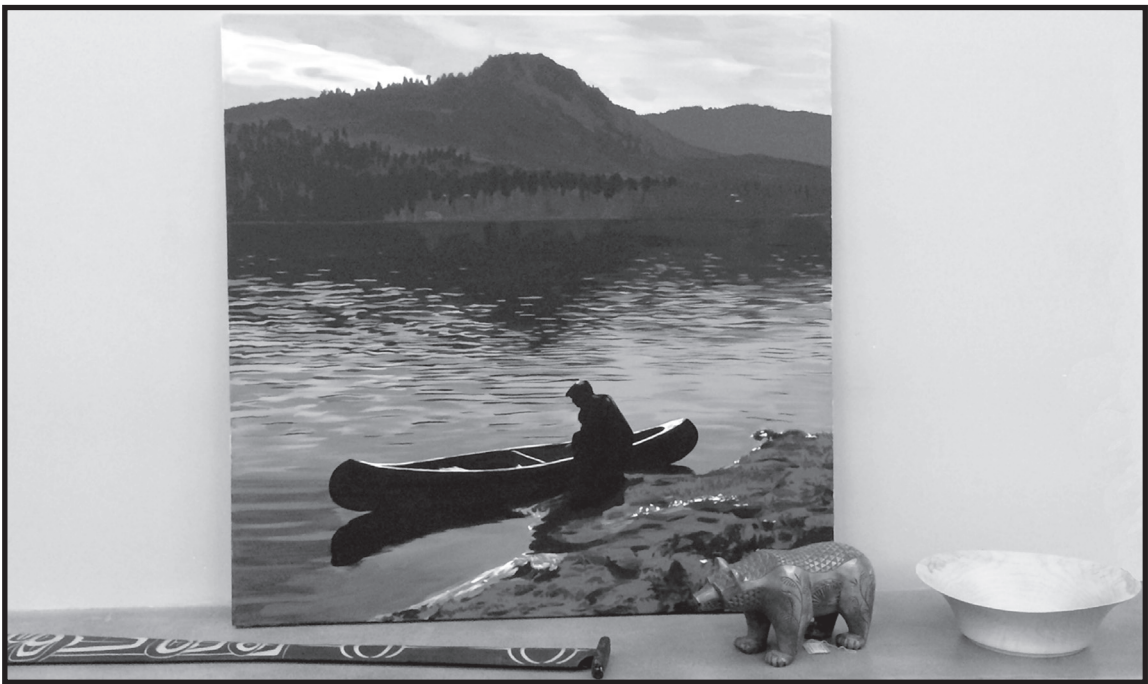
Thanks to the hard work of Barane McCartney, who gathered over 25 amazing silent auction items from businesses and individuals in Shawnigan, Mill Bay, and Cobble Hill, there was an extraordinary array of delightful items for people to bid on. Thank you to Awesome Sauces, Bonterra Pizza, Bowser and Co., Bridgeman's Bistro, Byran Richardson Chimney Sweep, Robert Cerins, Cherry Point Wines, The Chippery, Coast Mountain Resources, Curves, Esthetics by Lois, Evedar's Bistro, Heather Embury Personal Training, Island Blue Print, Maxine Scott Photography, Merridale Cidery, Francoise Moulin, Red Cedar Massage Therapy, Shawnigan

Lake Museum, South Cowichan Rotary, Third Addition, Thrifty's, Tutor Pro, Vintage Barn, Kathy Waet & Epicure, and Alice Young.

The highlight of the evening was watching Steve Houser's impressive efforts as auctioneer, spurring on bidding wars and bringing in over \$2000 for four items: a killer whale paddle hand carved by Gus Modeste and donated by Jean Crowder; a beautiful bowl made from maple by Eugene Laughren; a stunning carved grizzly bear donated by Richard Shaw; and Georgia Collin's painting original of Mt Baldy (which she graciously painted at my request), to which Steve gave the title, "Some Guy in a Canoe."

It has taken a village to bring us to the cusp of protecting Mt Baldy forever:

- ★ Bill Savage initiated the meeting between the current owner and me
- ★ Lori Treloar helped bring a group of donors together in August, and always kept us on track
- ★ The incredibly generous donations from John and Maggie Mitchell, and Craig, Marily, and Lindsay Mearns family – each family has donated \$50,000!
- ★ The Shawnigan Parks Commission (Margaret



- Symon, Sarah Malerby, Al Brunet, Catherine Whittome, Matthuw Ronald-Jones, Bruce Stevens, and Gaileen Flaman) got the fundraiser ball rolling three short weeks ago
- ★ Julie Luna (Lakefeather Designs) who provided all the beautiful designs for the printed materials – poster, donation card, and sponsor card
 - ★ Barane McCartney, Gaileen Flaman, and Bruce Stevens were the energizer bunnies who helped make sure that the amazing event came together in a very short time

- ★ Catherine Whittome kept the track of donations going in (and with help from Barb Milligan filled wine glasses going out)
- ★ Janet Neilsen and Dave Hutchinson were there right when we needed them, helping with set-up and directing traffic with Tim Taylor and Kelsey McDaniel
- ★ Brian Farquhar at CVRD who has shepherded the efforts along throughout the entire process
- ★ And a special thank you to everyone who came out on October 30th to show support,

add energy, and donate generously. Thanks to you, we raised very close to \$10,000!

The opportunity to be a part of this exciting legacy for Shawnigan's future is not over! Mail donations, made out to CVRD (with Mt Baldy on the memo line) C/O Brian Farquhar, 175 Ingram St, Duncan BC, V9L 1N8, or contact sfurstenau@cvrld.bc.ca 100% of your donation goes toward acquisition, and you will receive a charitable tax receipt for 100% of your donation. Donors \$500 and over will be listed on the plaque at the future entrance to the Mt Baldy park.

Area B Director's Report

Sonia Furstenau
Area Director

Almost a year has passed since the election, and what a year it's been.

Shortly after the inaugural Board meeting, I bought what I now call my "magic white board". I felt I needed to be able to put the things that were of highest priority on it, so that I could keep those priorities in mind in the midst of all the agendas to read, meetings to attend, phone calls, and emails (between 50 and 100 a day).

Across the top, I wrote the following headings: Gathering, Trails Team, SALT. Beneath each one, I wrote lists of names, dates, and details. On the right hand edge, I wrote a to-do list. In the bottom left-hand corner, I put SIA (at the time of the election, the Environmental Appeal Board had not come back with a ruling – we were hoping for the best – so for a little while, the issue got to be in the corner.)

The Shawnigan Gathering needed to be pulled together by March, and I knew that it was going to take a lot of time and effort, so the "Ladies of the Lake" started to meet every Monday morning at the Chippery, making plans and checking off our to-do lists.

The Trails Team took a bit longer to get up and running, but I was determined to bring people together who were passionate about trails in and around Shawnigan. I'm pleased that we now have a core group of committed people who meet every month, and that our first project is now complete, with second and third projects lining up over the next few months.

SALT stands for Shawnigan and Area Land Trust. I

wanted to figure out how we could begin to protect our watershed for the long-term, and a small group of us began to look at the idea of establishing a land trust. Shortly after the election, I got word that the current owners of Mt Baldy – an investment group based in Calgary - were interested in discussing the sale of the property. Several meetings and negotiations ensued, and now here we are, many months later, on the cusp of protecting forever the iconic heart of our watershed.

The to-do list never goes away, but it is always changing. I have learned to write down every task that I commit to, or else it disappears into the ether – the days are too hectic, and incoming information too voluminous, to be able to count on my memory to keep track of everything.

And since March 20th, when the EAB ruled in favour of SIA, that issue has occupied a huge amount of my time and energy. There are now two court cases proceeding (CVRD zoning case, and SRA's Judicial Review of the EAB decision), and I expect that in November there will be much more SIA-related news. In the three months since the Ministry of Environment came to Kerry Park and tried to tell us that we have nothing to worry about, I and many others have been working with a number of allies, continuing to put pressure on the provincial government, and continuing to gather information. This has been a long, hard fight, but we have not let it destroy us – indeed, I see us as a community strengthened by our collective efforts to protect our water and our future. I am humbled by the hard work of so many, and I assure you that I will persevere on this until we emerge victorious.

I have learned a lot this last year. I have learned that the most important thing I can do in this job is to

listen. I have learned that this job is far too much for one person, and I am truly grateful to have a group of people that I can rely on for guidance and advice. I have learned that decisions can be hard to make, and that almost every decision will make somebody unhappy – but that as difficult as they sometimes are, decisions are also important.

I have also learned that another important thing I can do is to try to help people. As a Director with the CVRD, I have extremely limited authority, extremely limited jurisdiction, and extremely limited funds. What I do have, however, is the ability to bring people from various other jurisdictions together to try to solve problems that are difficult to solve. Sometimes just getting a group of people around a table for constructive conversation can be the most powerful thing we can do.

I am still trying to learn to find balance. I have far too many days when the first meeting starts at 9:00 am, and the last meeting ends after 9:00 pm. There is never a shortage of things that need to get done, but it often feels like a shortage of hours in the day. As my supportive and patient husband likes to remind me, "even Obama plays golf". My kids find it hilarious when I say to them, "you'll never guess where I'm going." They roll their eyes and reply, "to a meeting, of course!"

I am honoured to be the Area Director for Shawnigan Lake. I love this community, I am inspired by the people who live here, and I will continue to try to do my best.

Now...what to put on the magic white board for the next year?

The Shawnigan Lake Watch Group

The Shawnigan Lake Watch Group wants to thank the many people that have responded in full support of proposed restrictions on Shawnigan Lake. From over 100 e-mails so far, there were only 5 against the restrictions! The following e-mails are typical of Shawnigan Lake homeowners' passion to protect the shoreline from large wake activity.

"We have lived on the lake for 40 plus years and the last few years have seen the most damage ever. We have a large family and we have all water skied over the years with no problems to the wharves or the foreshore."

"We are on the south end west side and the wakes can be huge. I think half the people in the big wake boats don't care at all. I have approached many over the past three years and that is the take I have."

"I would like to state my full support of the initiative to reduce erosion of the delicate ecosystem of the Shawnigan Lake shore line by implementing wake free zones as outlined in the proposal by the Shawnigan Lake Watch Group."

"I support the restrictions on wake-boarding and surfing on Shawnigan Lake. The damage to our Shawnigan property on one of the islands, docks, and boats is considerable. The powerful waves are a safety hazard to swimmers and dock users. They limit the safe use of the lake by often smaller boats."

"We can see the damage that wakeboarding activity does to the properties and foreshore in our area, as we own property on the lakefront. It is important that we take reasonable action to protect our investments, our lake and our environment while still allowing safe recreational activities."

"This is long overdue as we live on the West Arm and have watched our shoreline erode more each year due to these wakeboard and surfing boats. Please keep them outside these narrow channels and in the wider parts of the lake."

If you have not contacted us with your view on the issue yet, please send your opinion to: shawniganlakewatchgroup@gmail.com and editor@shawniganfocus.ca

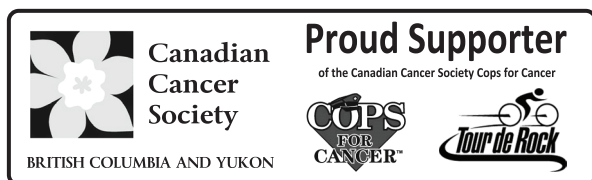


Worhtington by Jodie Gallant



Shawnigan sunset by Jodie Gallant

Hats Off to Shawnigan...



Thank-You! For enjoying the Fundraiser Breakfast. Together we raised \$240 for **Cops for Cancer - Tour de Rock** supporting Sargent Webb on his journey.



Thank-You! For your donations to the **5th Annual Toys Toiletries & Toques**. Drop-off at the Village Chippery.



Thank-You! To All Participants in the **2015 Scarecrow Trail**. The winner is Dewar McCarthy and his charity of choice is the SRA. Congratulations!



Thank-You! For purchasing a Poppy at the Village Chippery in support of the local **Malahat Legion Branch 134 Veterans**.

...and our Biggest Thank-You goes out to you, our customer, who helps us to help others! Enjoy our Gift to You!



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Aviva community funding program results

Kelly Musselwhite
Executive Director,
Shawnigan Basin Society

On behalf of the Shawnigan Basin Society in partnership with the Shawnigan Residents Association, I would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who supported our latest funding efforts.

Bursting with pride to be a member of this community, I watched as numbers, based on our relative position, rose and fell between October 6 and 23 - in amongst our federal election - depending on the hour of the day. Although projects were considered from across Canada, participation demonstrated by votes occurred from across the world! (I had friends voting in the UK and Australia, for the common cause of clean drinking water!).

Shawnigan Lake's "Fore-shore to Forest: Restoring Shawnigan Lake's Watershed" submission finished with a solid 6th place out of 17 sub-

missions!! The top 5 submissions will go before a panel of judges who will then make a final decision. Regardless of the fact that we did not meet the criteria to move forward for final consideration, the support we received was overwhelming..

My optimism continues to run strong, as a second opportunity to fund up to 30 foreshore restoration projects is being submitted to Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program by November 1, 2015. Should our application prove successful, I will relay full details for what could be a three year project worth an estimated value of almost \$175,000!

The Shawnigan Basin Society and the Shawnigan Residents Association are proud to collaborate and seek solutions to secure the integrity of our drinking water. From "Fore-shore to Forest" and working toward a common cause, we can make a difference!

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Curator, Shawnigan Lake Museum

The Shawnigan Lake Museum had a great summer. Hopefully, you had an opportunity to visit. Attendance has grown steadily over the last ten years and this year was no exception. In addition to opening to the public five days a week, we offered a *Speaker Series* every second week through the summer. Six wonderful presentations were offered to appreciative audiences. The *Speaker Series* will be offered again next summer as well as some evening sessions through the winter and spring. Stay tuned.

Our 3rd Annual Heritage Fair, in August, was a huge success. Families picnicked at Elsie Miles Park,

participated in old fashioned games, races and activities, and had photos taken in our dress-up photo booth. This ‘slow’ event is destined to become a summer favourite...

Watch for our 4th Annual Family Day event in February 2016. Participating families will have the opportunity to learn and play together in the community. We will, once again, offer a ‘selfie’ scavenger hunt/road rally to find out more about Shawnigan history – in 2016, the theme will be Shawnigan Schools. The hunt will end on Family Day, February 8th, with fun, food and themed activities at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

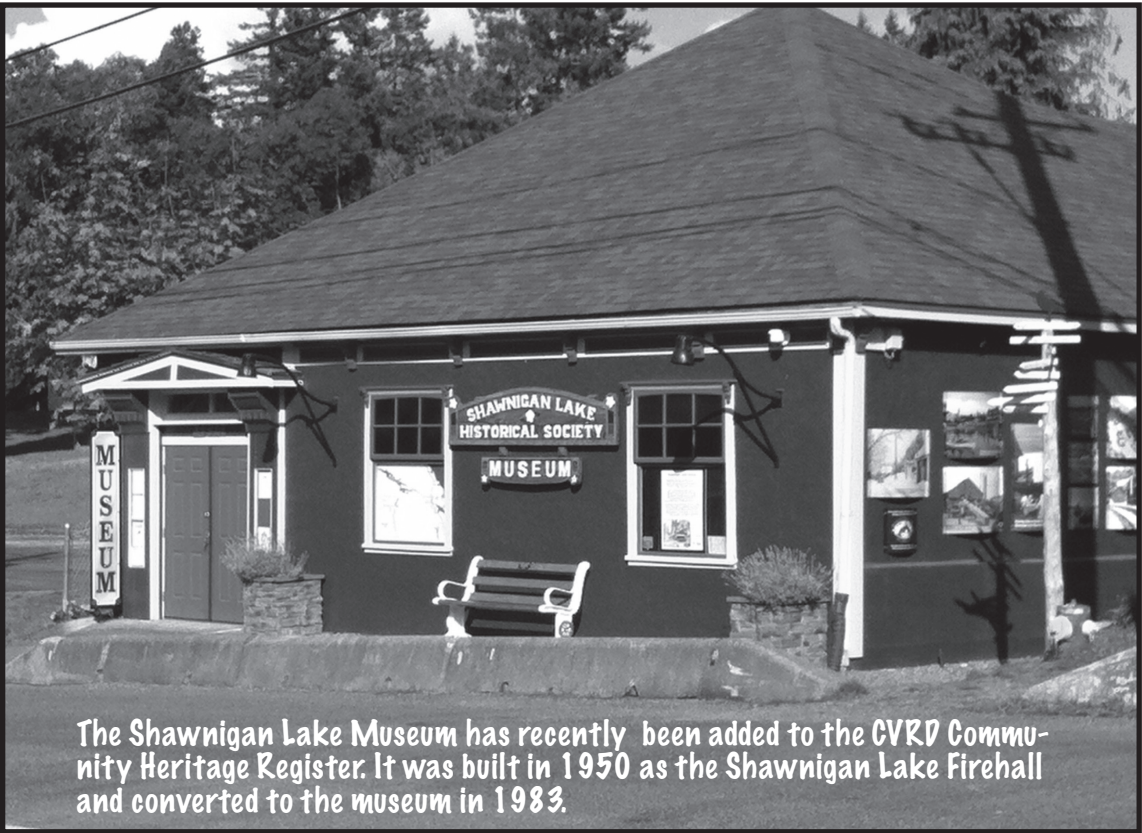
If you want to get involved in the community, we

welcome potential volunteers to assist with museum activities and ongoing administration. In particular, we need people with fundraising experience; book-keeping skills; graphic design/website abilities; and people who are interested in sharing (or researching) our rich history with visitors and educational programming. Volunteer involvement is flexible for time and interests.

If you are interested in exploring a volunteer opportunity, please contact Lori at shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

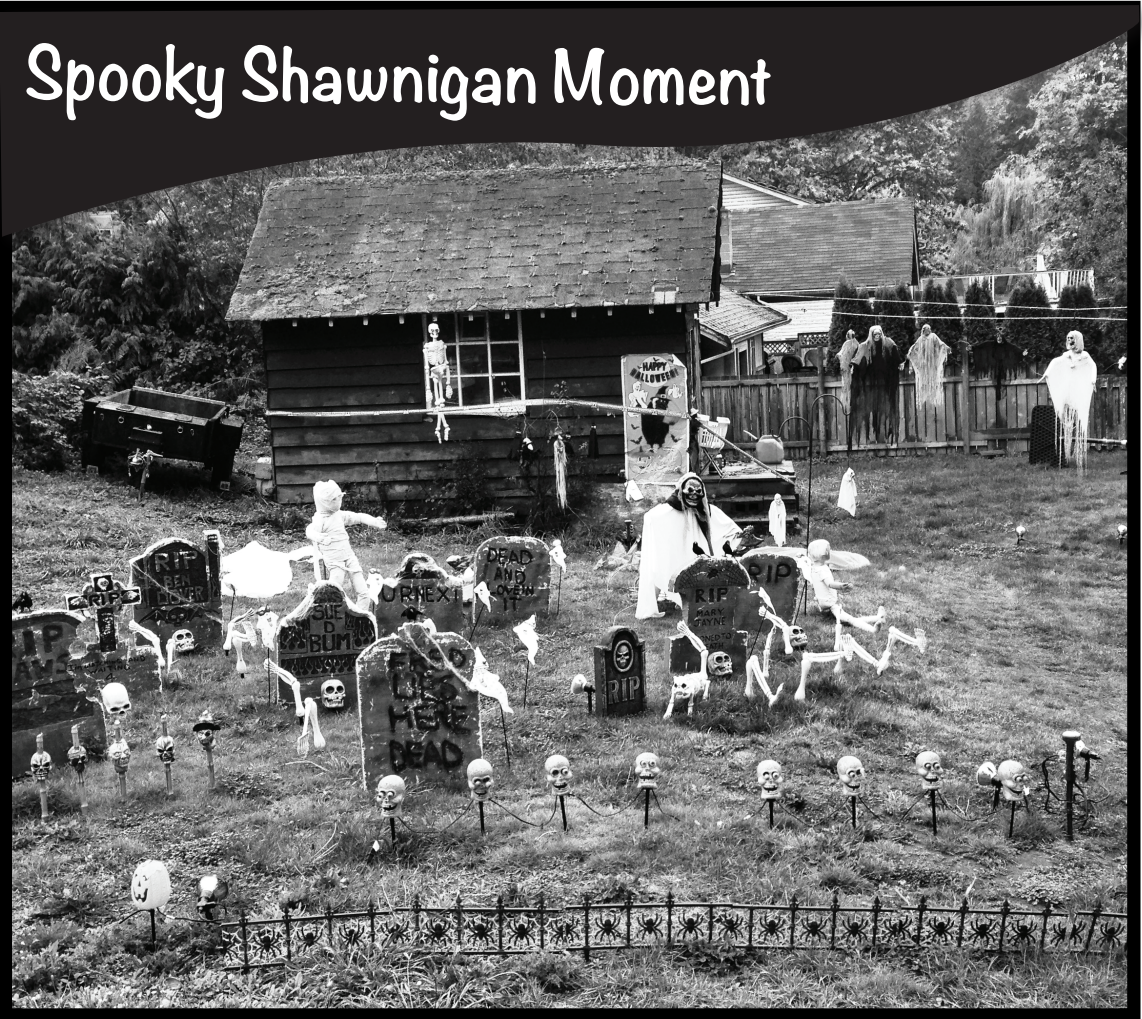
Our current hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11:00am - 4:00pm.

www.shawniganlakemuseum.com




The Shawnigan Lake Museum has recently been added to the CVRD Community Heritage Register. It was built in 1950 as the Shawnigan Lake Firehall and converted to the museum in 1983.

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go...
T.S. Eliot




Spooky Shawnigan Moment



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Young Seniors Action Group Society



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

Our events in October and looking forward to November

The Harvest Dinner was held on October 6 to celebrate Thanksgiving. This was a 3-course meal catered by Legion member volunteers - the "Moon Riders" provided entertainment. We had 46 members in attendance. The meal was great and the music was our kind of music for dancing. I want to thank everyone who helped organize this event.

Our regular meeting, and annual election event, was held on October 20. Not all positions were filled but Executive members from last year will stay on for now. A full slate of Directors were elected.

One of the special events in October is the preparation of the poppy envelopes that are

delivered to each household for Remembrance Day. Thirty-five YSAGS and Legion members stuffed 6000 poppies for close to 4 hours on October 21. This is a huge effort but many hands and a social group of people makes light work of it.

The proceeds go to help injured veterans and others.

Looking ahead, our next regular meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 2:00 pm.

The program will be announced to members when details are confirmed.

A Potluck Dinner is planned for November 24 at 6:00 pm.

Plans for two trips are being worked on:

- ★ The first is a bus trip to the Ladysmith Light Up on Thursday, November 26
- ★ The second, also a bus trip, is to the Butchart Gardens on Saturday, December 5.
- ★ Anyone interested is asked to sign up for these early, since there are only a certain number of seats available. Also there are costs involved, with payment requested up front. For details phone Ed at 250 743 8344.

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.

Events of interest

A Story of Hope and Transformation

Speaker: Yonatan Shapira, a Jewish Israeli activist for peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians

Friday November 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Vancouver Island University, Duncan campus - Theatre 140.

Open to the public. No admission charge, but donations are welcome to help cover costs of the tour.

Yonatan's talk in Duncan is co-sponsored by the VIU Department of Anthropology, the VIU Cowichan Campus, and Mid-Islanders for Justice and Peace in the Middle East.

More info: Harry Berbrayer - 250-746-7426 (not after 10 p.m.).

Mill Bay Craft and Gift Fair

Saturday, November 28th 10:00am to 2:30pm

Mill Bay Community Hall 1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd (Next to Kerry Park Arena)

Baking, Sewing, Knitting, Epicure, Jewelry, Stained glass, Woodwork, Toys, Decorations & more...

Hourly door prizes.

Lunch available: homemade soup & bread, snacks

Sponsored by South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary (formerly Lake-Bay-Hill Aux.)

Come have lunch and do some Christmas shopping!

Shawnigan Christmas Craft Fair

November 28th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

More info: 250-743-1433



Cheese Making Workshop/Wine Day

November 21st, 2015

O.U.R. Ecovillage

Spend a day with local food and artisan cheese making

Good Old Fashioned Community Christmas Entertainment!

Brenda's Brats are once again producing two Christmas variety shows for the whole family's enjoyment, featuring superb local home grown entertainment with Melissa Flint, Bryon Thompson, Lesley Ridenour, the Killiam sisters and many more.

Admission is by donation to the food bank. Come and join us for both shows. Refreshments are included!

Sunday, November 29, 6:30 – 8:00 pm Cobble Hill Community Hall

Sunday, December 6, 6:30 -8:00 pm at the Mill Bay Community League Hall.



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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Take a Hike!

The Estuary Trail, as they call it in Ladysmith, is somewhat of a hidden treat. I have driven past the intersection of Trans Canada Highway and Davis many times and have never even noticed the marker or the big ‘trail map’ structure nestled into the corner.

I must say that this hike had me perplexed at first! On the first trip, we parked at the trailhead on Dogwood Drive and crossed the road into the forest, as I recalled a signpost marker stating ‘Estuary Trail’ with an up arrow. Following a wonderful 10ish minute hike, it was right where I left it. Traipsing upward we found ourselves at the aforementioned intersection. Hmmm... Oh, there’s another marker at the lights. Oh, and another one across the highway. We waited dutifully for 15 minutes for the pedestrian light to change. We finally got to the marker

and map...”Go left,” it said.

As per the map, we headed to the end of Roland Road and it felt like we may land on someone’s front porch. That couldn’t be right. Sometimes I’m sure you’ve seen dead end trails too, where trails shift during development and the signage does not get updated right away (my thoughts).

After about 20-25 minutes on the tracks, we decided we were not meant to see the Estuary that day and headed back. En route we saw a couple of very, very steep trails heading downwards but decided...no thank you, not today!

The second time, I’m wiser and park at the highway junction. I take a ‘map snap’ with my phone and head down to the end of the road as before, and...!?!?! I’m not sure if there were fewer leaves, but there it stood, the trail entrance right there waving at me!

It’s a beautifully simple trail. Down, down you go in a fairly safe manner and, to my



happiness, timing was on my side with low tide, allowing me to get right down onto the beaches. Since it is Fall, the trees were most notable with all the vibrant colors of the forest. The trail dips off in a few sections to beautiful seaside views with many, many birds lurking in the waters, vying for their lunch. Half way down the trail, if the tide is right, you can pop onto the beach and see

the salmon in front of the tunnel that flows from the Holland Creek spawning station. Oh, and...be aware of bears! It’s time for them to stock up – a backpacker that we met on the tracks earlier mentioned that he saw one in this area.

I read somewhere that when the tide is out you can loop around to Transfer Beach via the shoreline but, at the time

of my visit, I was unable to get completely around – perhaps you’ll be lucky enough to do so on your trip!

When passing through Ladysmith, take the 20 minutes to explore this little space. It’s well worth it.

Find more photos of this hike and our other adventures Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Hannah and the Wild Woods

Written by Carol Anne Shaw
Published by Ronsdale Press
Copyright 2015

This is the third book in the Hannah Young Adult series and the author continues to delight readers of all ages with the ongoing adventures

of her resourceful and likable heroine. It’s always a treat to read a story set in our beautiful part of the country and this time the focus is on Tofino, with its rugged coastal beaches and islands.

Mysterious shape-shifting in the form of a spirit fox from Japan, plus an ocean wolf and the wild weather, all create a thrilling story of suspense guaranteed to keep the

reader turning pages until the final climax.

At 14, Hannah is growing up and is away from home for a few weeks, helping to clear the beaches of the Pacific Rim National Park of debris from Japan’s 2011 tsunami. This results in the finding of a magical talisman, and so the excitement begins. Environmental issues are dealt with, but never in a preachy way, and Shaw’s

trademark humour keeps the plot bubbling along.

The multi-generational characters are colourful and nuanced, with Jack, her guardian raven, playing his usual pivotal role. “Frenemies”, relationships with parents and coping with change are all issues that Hannah has to learn to deal with, sometimes with great difficulty. Unforeseen events and life-threatening scenarios all

contribute to the mix.

In the end, all is resolved, and we are given a few clues as to where the fourth and perhaps final book in this series will take place. Hannah and her friends have gone from Cowichan Bay to Salt Spring Island to Tofino to...Victoria! Stay tuned. Carol Anne Shaw goes from strength to strength with each book and this is my favourite one so far.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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Holiday crime prevention tips

Oriana Parker
South Cowichan Community Policing

The holiday season is fast approaching. Did you know that between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day the crime rate escalates? It’s a time when thefts, burglaries and property crimes increase. Don’t let your home or business become part of the crime statistics. Here are a few tips from the RCMP to help you have a safe and worry free holiday season.

When doing your shopping:

- ★ Don’t withdraw more money than you need when visiting ATM’s. Thieves lurk in parking lots around financial institutions. Be aware of your surroundings & take note of anyone following you.
- ★ Men should carry their wallets in their front pockets as opposed to their back pockets or jackets.
- ★ Women should carry their purses close to their body but should not wrap their purse straps around themselves.
- ★ Never leave your purchases unattended, even for a short period of time
- ★ If possible, park under lighting, close to entrances and exits.
- ★ Under no circumstances should you leave your children unattended in your vehicle, even for a short period of time. Place all of your purchases in your trunk.

At a store:

- ★ Keep an eye on anyone who handles your debit or credit card.
- ★ Be sure a cashier only swipes your card once- identity criminals sometimes use small devices that look like store equipment to copy your card information and then use it fraudulently.

- ★ Get your card back promptly and shred all credit card receipts.

Online Shopping:

- ★ Is it a reputable retailer? Only shop at reputable e-commerce sites. Look for the lock symbol and https at the beginning of the URL, this shows the site uses a secured encryption to protect your data.
- ★ Meet in public places. When purchasing items from individuals online, don’t complete transactions in their home or yours. Instead, arrange to meet in a public place like a mall or coffee shop.

If a crime has occurred at your home:

- ★ Do NOT enter your home.
- ★ Use your cell or a neighbour’s phone to call the police.
- ★ Do NOT touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- ★ Note the license plate number of any suspicious vehicles.
- ★ Note the description of any suspicious person(s).

Mail theft:

- ★ The holiday season is a busy time for couriers, Canada Post and mail thieves.
- ★ Don’t leave mail in a mailbox.
- ★ Collect your mail promptly after delivery.
- ★ Unattended mail is a treasure trove of personal information for potential thieves.
- ★ Plan ahead. If you’ll be away, let Canada Post hold your mail until you return.
- ★ Don’t just recycle. Shred documents that contain personal financial information, such as statements and credit card offers.

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Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members
Attended 22 calls in October

- ★ Thursday, Oct 1 – Haz-Mat/Gas Leak on Munsie Rd
- ★ Thursday, Oct 1 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Oct 6 – Alarms Activated in Shawnigan Station Estates
- ★ Friday, Oct 9 – Hydro Lines at Renfrew & W Shawnigan Lake Rds
- ★ Friday, Oct 9 – Alarms Activated in Burnum Park
- ★ Tuesday, Oct 13 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Oct 14 – 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Oct 14 – Bush Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Oct 15 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Thursday, Oct 15 – 1st Responder off Cobble Hill Rd
- ★ Friday, Oct 16 – Lift Assist off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Oct 20 – Mutual Aid MVI with Mill Bay Fire Dept
- ★ Wednesday, Oct 21 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Oct 22 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Oct 22 – Mutual Aid Rope Rescue with Malahat Fire Dept
- ★ Friday, Oct 23 – Alarms Activated on Elford Rd
- ★ Saturday, Oct 24 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Oct 25 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Sunday, Oct 25 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake
- ★ Tuesday, Oct 27 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Tuesday, Oct 27 – Assistance – CO Detector in the Beach Estates
- ★ Wednesday, Oct 28 – 1st Responder off Devries Rd

Shawnigan Weather October 2015

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	October Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Average High	14.0	16.0	15.9	16.1	15.6	16.8	16.2	16.1	15.7
Average Low	5.7	8.7	9.2	7.8	8.6	8.6	9.4	7.9	9.0
Extreme High	28.3	21.3	22.0	22.0	21.4	24.5	22.8	22.5	21.0
Extreme Low	-5.7	4.7	2.9	3.1	2.6	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.0
Precipitation	104.8	90.1	209.8	122.9	201.7	109.5	181.1	115.2	199.2
Days w precip	14	19	21	19	22	19	21	19	22
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	720.8	761.9	1035.1	756.9	968.4	720.6	853.3	733.6	920.4
Since 1914: 3 rd warmest, 49 th wettest									
Lake Temperature:		Oct 4 th : 15°		Oct 11 th : 15°		Oct 18 th : 14°		Oct 25 th : 13°	
Lake Level Change:		Oct 4 th : -1cm		Oct 11 th : +2.5cm		Oct 18 th : 0cm		Oct 25 th : -1cm	



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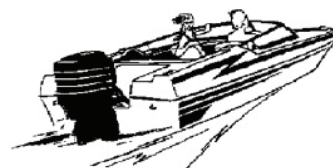
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours (Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 to 11:00), 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 of the month 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Monday Nov 16 7pm at the SL 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 bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of the month 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** TBA Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd

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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.

NO ONE KNEW THE ARROW!!!

October's "What Is It" showed part of a gigantic arrow which is the top section of an impressive arch over a driveway on the 1800 block of West Shawnigan Road.

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CVRD building garbage pickup empire?

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The CVRD has announced plans to expand curbside collection services. This is another controversial topic and the Focus will follow up with more information to coincide with the **January CVRD Survey and the Open House scheduled at the Community Centre on February 1st at 7pm.**

In the meantime, here are some things to consider:

- ★ Should the CVRD directly provide curbside collection of garbage, recyclables, and compost?
- ★ Should the CVRD be responsible for the required equipment, operating costs, and personnel?
- ★ Would services provided by the private-sector, and regulated appropriately by the CVRD, be more efficient?
- ★ If the CVRD follows through with the intended expansion it would jeopardize existing service providers like PAN and Fisher Road Recycling. Should the CVRD be competing with already established private-sector companies?
- ★ Should residents be forced to pay for CVRD mandated services whether they use them or not?
- ★ The CVRD is holding \$721,018 of accumulated Multi-Material BC (MMBC) funds. This money was meant to offset the expense of curbside recycling pickup.
- ★ Should the MMBC funds be used to finance a CVRD expansion into garbage collection for areas, like Shawnigan, who currently use private-sector services?
- ★ Should the MMBC funds

be used as originally intended and a rebate issued to residents who have been overcharged for the CVRD curbside recycling service?

The CVRD Survey will be attached to the Recycling Tote by CVRD staff. The resident is expected to retrieve it, fill it out, and attach it to the Tote for the next collection date. This will occur in January for Shawnigan Residents.

Do you see any problem with the survey process? Are people that use the service regularly more likely to participate? Not everyone puts the Tote out each week. What if you miss those dates? Would a mail-out or web-based survey process make more sense?

You can also visit www.cvrld.ca/survey for more information.

Shawnigan specifics on upcoming AAPs

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The CVRD recently announced three areas they want to fund by property tax increases. The costs below are per \$100,000 of assessed value:

1. Cowichan River Watershed Management (\$9.13 – Briefly postponed)
2. Cowichan Flood Management Service (\$2.65 - AAP deadline December 2)
3. Arts and Culture Initiatives (\$0.85 - AAP deadline November 18)

They are using the contentious Alternate Approval Process (AAP) which is a form of reverse billing where the tax increase will occur unless residents specifically take action to indicate they do not want the new service. **Ten per-**

cent (10%) of residents within the Service Area must formally object in order for the tax increase not to happen. That requires obtaining, completing, and returning the original Elector Response Form. **Faxed and emailed forms are not accepted.**

The AAP process is controversial because it rarely results in the proposed tax increase not becoming a reality. A more democratic option is to hold a referendum but the authorities typically claim the costs are prohibitive. Timing these questions to coincide with local election dates seems beyond the capabilities of the bureaucracy.

The first two initiatives involve the Cowichan River Watershed which includes only a small, sparsely populated part of the Shawnigan

area. The CVRD information uses the phrase “Portions of Electoral Area B” which is not at all clear. This will probably result in Response Forms from Shawnigan residents that are not in the service area.

A map is available at: www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/67508

The third proposal for Arts and Culture Initiatives applies to all Shawnigan residents.

You do not have to own property to be eligible to fill out an Elector Response Form. You must have resided in BC for the past six months and been a resident in the CVRD Service Area for the past 30 days.

Forms and more information are available from CVRD Offices in Duncan at 175 Ingram Street, or from their web-site at: www.cvrld.bc.ca.



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