



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue Eight

August 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## SIA: Contradictory lab results, missing records, & fraud allegations

Blaise Salmon

South Island Aggregates' controversial contaminated soil dump site was dealt another blow on July 16, in front of over 350 people at Kerry Park arena.



Dr. Andrew Weaver

Green Party MLA Andrew Weaver stole the show at the meeting, after Ministry of Environment officials announced that their surface testing of soil and water samples from one section of the SIA site found no threat to drinking water or aquatic life.

Weaver, an internationally renowned scientist, was the first person in line at the microphone in question period. He announced that his own testing of runoff from the site, conducted at the University of Victoria, showed

elevated levels of thorium, lead and other metals. This drew loud cheers from the crowd. Weaver noted that the ministry only tested the top 50 centimetres of soil. He called on the ministry to drill for "core samples" to actually determine what is buried below the surface.

Lori Halls, assistant deputy minister at the Ministry of Environment said that the ministry would follow up on Weaver's sampling results. "That includes MLA Weaver's sampling results. There is no question and no hesitation by the ministry to do that."

However, many in the community remain skeptical about the ministry's intent, and wonder why core samples were not done in the first place, given the controversial history of the property. Calvin Cook, president of the Shawnigan Residents Association, echoed Weaver's call for core sampling, saying "Certainly surface sampling isn't adequate".

### Missing records

Also at the July 16 meeting, the Ministry of Environment presented their review of the soil deposit records which were supposed to be kept by SIA, as a condition of their permit with the Ministry of Energy and Mines, to show where the soil deposited on Lot 21 came from.

The Ministry admitted that "No information was provided to directly link South Island Aggregates Lot 21 operations to the records." It went on to state "the records provided did not

contain adequate information to sufficiently describe the origin, deposition location, or environmental quality of soils arriving at Lot 21, assuming Lot 21 is the actual deposition site."

In other words, the records relied on by the Ministry of Mines to ensure compliance with their permit are, essentially, useless. We can't even be sure that the records are even related to Lot 21 at all, or to SIA, or to Cobble Hill Holdings.

While this may be no surprise to local residents who have heard for years of spotty and non-existent record-keeping at SIA, it is bizarre that both the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Environment would acknowledge the inadequacy of SIA's records at the same time as defending the permits they have issued which are conditional on the maintenance of proper records.

### Fraud allegations

Adding to the surreal atmosphere surrounding this controversy, the Ministry of Environment presentation came only a matter of days after the stunning revelation that SIA's sister company, Cobble Hill Holdings, which holds the permit to dump contaminated soil, had a secret, finely detailed, legally binding 50-50 profit sharing agreement with its engineering firm, Active Earth.

Active Earth was the "qualified professional" that the Ministry of Environment relied on when making its decision to issue the permit. The

existence of any such agreement was denied, under oath, by SIA principal Marty Block at the Environmental Appeal Board hearings last year.

This alleged fraud and misrepresentation is currently before the courts. The application to BC Supreme Court by the Shawnigan Residents Association states "...the revelation of the profit-sharing agreement is compelling evidence of "a fraud upon the Ministry and a fraud upon the (Environmental Appeal) Board in concealing its existence".

In effect, the "science" on which the permit was issued was done not by a "qualified professional", but by the applicant, making the application process and supporting material a sham.

SIA principal Mike Kelly did not deny making the agreement, but claimed it had been abandoned, though he produced no evidence to show it had been.

In the face of all this, the provincial government continues to stand behind its decision to allow the dumping of 5 million tons of contaminated soil, including dioxins, furans, PCB's and other toxins, onto the SIA property above Shawnigan Lake. Through this property runs Shawnigan Creek, the main feeder creek to the lake which, the same government admits, provides drinking water for thousands of people.

Strange days indeed.

**More on this story in next month's Focus.**

## Raffi - advocate for Shawnigan

Lori Treloar  
Shawnigan Focus

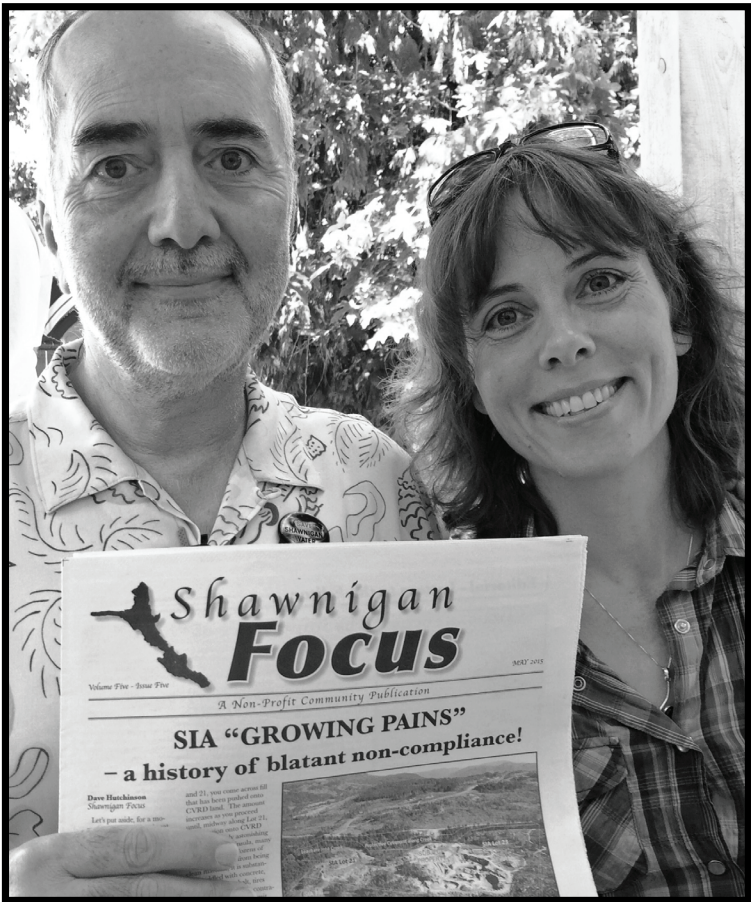
For nearly four decades, children's troubadour, independent label pioneer and founder of the Centre for Child Honouring, Raffi Cavoukian has been the world's bestselling and most influential children's entertainer, delighting successive generations of kids and their parents with his playful, exuberant personality and his irresistibly infectious songs. In addition to delivering numerous gold and platinum albums and performing countless sold out concerts, Raffi has also emerged as a respected advocate on behalf of children, lending his voice, insight and experience to a number of crucial issues.

During his third visit to Shawnigan Lake, I had the opportunity to interview Raffi. I asked him why he kept coming to Shawnigan Lake? Raffi replied that he had met Sonia Furstenau through her twitter campaign against SIA's plan to dump contaminated soil in the community watershed.

Sonia then explained to him, in detail, the failed process and the potential conflict of interest and/or fraud.

Raffi became involved in the fight believing that it is not acceptable for the BC Ministry of Environment to allow a toxic soil dump in a town's watershed when the community had, for three years, made it clear that they were opposed!! His questions to the government - Why won't Mary Polak respect the appeals of the citizens of Shawnigan Lake? And, why won't Christy Clark make her? Do we live in a democracy? To that end, Raffi continues to support the community of Shawnigan Lake and recently attended the community meeting/open house, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, on July 16th.

Raffi indicated that he wants to see justice served. "I want to see Shawnigan Lake enjoy their basic right - clean water". If the Ministry of Environment refuses to protect the Shawnigan Lake Watershed, Mary Polak should resign.





## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS AUGUST 2015

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Lori Treloar  
Dave Hutchinson  
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

### LAYOUT:

Taryn Treloar

### ADVERTISING:

Kim Hennecker  
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

### FOCUS TEAM:

Linda Nelson  
Bernie Lewis  
Monica Foster  
Sally Davies  
Peter Nash  
Bev McCooey  
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Grant Treloar  
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### ACCOUNTS:

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### ABOUT THE FOCUS

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

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

*Views expressed in articles and letters are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.*

Additional copies are available in The Village.

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Shawnigan Focus - Box 331,  
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# Take a trip on the Scarecrow Trail 2015



### Find your favourite and vote!

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special cause. The scarecrow  
with the most votes wins all  
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Chipperry or call to arrange  
for pick up. When you regis-  
ter you will receive a number  
to put on your scarecrow for  
voting purposes. Showcase  
your business, heritage or a  
special cause.

- ★ To vote for your favourite scarecrow pick

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Chipperry or go online  
[www.scarecrowtrail.ca](http://www.scarecrowtrail.ca)  
to vote electronically.  
Complete ballots will be  
entered into a draw for  
\$100 Shawnigan dollars.

- ★ Winners will be announced on September 21 at the Shawnigan Lake Business Association's AGM held at Camp Pringle.
- ★ Ballots and maps will be available by September 1 at the Village Chipperry.
- ★ Shawnigan Scarecrow Trail 2015 ~ Be a Builder. Be a Voter. Be Both.

### Sponsored by the Village Chipperry



The new rink at Shawnigan Lake School was full of fans and players for the Vancouver Canucks Development camp in early July.

## Shawnigan Moment



Photo Credit: Shawn Slade

Wesley, aspiring Astronaut from England, gets airborne during his first ski on Shawnigan Lake

## What's Coming Up?

### Waterski Competition

August 8&9th  
North End of  
Shawnigan Lake near  
the Ski Club.

Check out our  
September issue for  
exclusive photos and  
competition results!!

### Summer Series at the Museum

To Educate, Engage & Entertain

August 22nd @ 1:00 *Early maps of*

*Vancouver Island* by Michael Layland

RSVP - [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

By donation

### TO DO: Aug 16th Heritage Fair

Elsie Miles Park  
10:30-2:30

Advertise in the  
Shawnigan Focus for  
as little as one penny  
per household

Get involved!  
Volunteer in the  
community





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.

## To the Folks Who Organize/Participate in the Canada Day Boat Stampede on Shawnigan Lake

This is a very spectacular event to watch with a very cool follow up YouTube Video.

However, there is a dark side that you may not be aware of: This year you put a 9 year old boy in great danger while conducting your event. The boy was in the water after falling off his tube and trying to get back to it when the "stampede" of speeding boats, at least 10 wide, towing multiple skiers and with no room to maneuver, made a near miss of the boy in the narrow section of the lake near Memory Island.

The parents, who were taking a couple of kids tubing that day, had no idea that this large event was happening, nor did they have enough time, or notice, to clear out of the way and get to safety (or choose to avoid the lake altogether).

The Canada Day Boat Stampede is getting larger and will only be a spectacular Canada Day event until there is a tragedy and someone is hurt or killed. There was no public information, or notice, posted about this event.

Event Organizers and Participants: Next year, or anytime you are doing an event like this, Please, Please, Please be more responsible and do your due diligence by:

- ★ Putting Notices Up around the Community in advance
- ★ Putting Notices Up at the Boat Launches in advance
- ★ Take the trouble to include a notice or article in the June Edition of the Shawnigan Focus for the local community
- ★ During the event, drive your boats in a more narrow line at safer speeds, so that they have room to avoid small watercraft or swimmers in the water

These are just a few simple actions that could help avoid a major accident and are also a nice show of respect for the local community.

I am sure your intention is only to host an awesome event, but as the event grows, so does the danger factor.

Please consider the consequences of not taking care with your advance communications and actions, and be glad that this year's 9 year old boy was lucky enough to escape injury and was only shook up and water-logged. With some notice about the event, he'd be glad to watch from the safety of the shore next year, as would many others. Thank you.

~Concerned Parent

## The Old Hall

I read with interest the article, in another local paper, about the imminent demise of the old hall in Shawnigan Lake. I did think the article might have been more interesting had the writer delved a little deeper into the process that ultimately concluded with the decision to dismantle the iconic symbol of times past (when the hall was the social hub of our community).

Perhaps he could have spoken with people who have devoted countless hours to preserving our heritage and the engineers who actually inspected the structure. This was not a crew of faceless bureaucrats intent on wiping out our history.

The experts hired by the CVRD assessed the building for possible, and what was hoped, restoration. It was not to be.

The cavernous barn-like structure was lovingly but roughly constructed and paid for by the 1931 residents of Shawnigan, when the population was in the hundreds, not the 8 to 12 thousand that it is today.

Yes, the wood rot and mildew could have been remedied and wheelchair accessibility could have been constructed. Yes, the wood burning furnace had been replaced, but the cost of heating the uninsulated space would have been prohibitive. There is virtually no parking and there is, of course, the perennial problem of septic at a time when we are all hyper-sensitive about the quality of our lake water. Community memory also reminds us that this building was condemned in the late 1980s and that is why it was sold to a private owner.

Peter could have spoken with Lori from the Museum, anyone from the Village Development Committee, the Trails Committee, or the Community



\*Except, of course, for iron, lead, iron...

Association who could outline their collective vision for the future of our village core and where the old hall will ultimately leave its legacy. He would have been told that some the boards hewn from old growth Shawnigan Lumber can be incorporated into an hoped-for expansion of the museum, along with other non-structural enhancements of the Village and Elsie Miles Park.

With the building gone, it will open the beach to a public space that is actually a historical gathering spot from a time when Shawnigan was a destination, where visitors stayed at the Koenig Hotel, and/or later when the train brought large groups of picnickers from the city. The view of the water and the beautiful arbutus tree will be visible from the Village core and the space will be incorporated into a holistic vision of a reinvigorated community village centre with a park-like beach access for pedestrians and non-motorized water craft.

As someone who was in attendance at the very last Christmas party in the old hall in 1975, I too, feel a wistful longing to hold onto the past. It was in that year that it was decided that the community had grown too big to host a party where every child in the community received a gift from Santa.

This sentiment holds true today - we must preserve our past while serving our future.

~Sally Davies

## Community Appreciation!

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association extends a huge thank you to the many community groups that made our Canada Day Celebration successful on July 1st!

In spite of the high temperatures and the desire to be relaxing in our beautiful lake, families still came to celebrate together!

Many local groups make this a fundraising event and a time to share what they do in our community. Without their volunteer support and participation the SLCA volunteers and staff of South Cowichan Recreation would not have been able to host this event.

It was a record year for decorated bicycles in the parade! Local youth take much pride in preparing to show off their imaginations and the spectators who cheer them on encourage them!

Malahat Legion and Mill Bay Lion's Club partnered to serve up hundreds of pancake breakfasts to start the day!

Malahat Legion hosted the raising of our National flag and singing of O Canada!

Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Museum, the Focus and our own Area Director added interest to the parade

Shawnigan Fire Department for being a part of the parade, bring their interactive Fire House to the grounds and

keeping the grounds damp and cooler!

Shawnigan Scouting, 4-H Community Club, Young Seniors Action Group, Kerry Park Skating Club, Village Chipperry and South Cowichan Rotary for hosting games, activities and providing food for everyone's enjoyment

Shawnigan Garage provided power for inflatables and sound system; Shawnigan Museum opened to display the history of our community

Just Doggin came to take care of our four-legged friends with a pool to cool in

Two large Canadian Flag cakes were cut and given away! Baked and decorated by Thrifty Foods

Entertainment by Pony Club, Cowichan Country Trio and Robin's Belly dancers kept toes tapping and hips swinging!

The Province of BC and the Government of Canada's Heritage grant provided funding for infrastructure costs. Thank you to the community who participated and supported the local groups. It is these groups who make Shawnigan Lake a community to be proud of!

Shawnigan...the place to Bee! Bee a part of the Buzz in our community...pick up a list of events to enjoy! Thank you to the Volunteers who make it all happen!

~Marian Davies

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# A voice from the past

*In a letter written to the Ministry of Energy and Mines in October 2006, Mary Desmond expressed concerns about SLA’s application for a Quarry Permit. Her foresight is remarkable! Here are some excerpts:*

**Attention:** the Chief Inspector of Mines  
C/o Mr. Ian Webster  
Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources  
PO Box 9320 Stn. Prov.Govt.  
Victoria, B.C.  
VRW9N3

**Regarding:** Lot 23, Stebbings Road, Cobble Hill, B.C. Legally described as Lot 23, Block 156, 201 & 323 Malahat District Plan

October 5,2006

Dear Mr. Webster,

I understand that Mr. Martin Block of South Island Aggregates Limited has applied to MEMPR for a permit to extract soil, sand, gravel, and rock at the location noted above. On behalf of SLWW [Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch], an Area B community environmental organization, I would like to draw attention to several issues associated with this application.

**Watershed Protection:**

First, as our name indicates, SLWW is primarily concerned with the safety of our community’s drinking water. The source of most residents’ domestic water is Shawnigan Lake, which is fed by underground springs and surface water flows, including South Shawnigan Creek. Several thousand citizens rely on water drawn from Shawnigan Lake. This watercourse, being the main feeder creek into the lake [our reservoir] holds a position of special significance in watershed function. We are familiar with the property in question, and are aware that not only does this creek pass through Lot 23, but noticed that other related watercourses are present as well.

In addition, there is a private resident located just below [eastward – approximately 150 m away] whose domestic water supply [well] might be immediately affected by the mining operation.

The South Shawnigan Creek is fish bearing [cutthroat trout], and spawning beds can be found both above and below this land.

Settling ponds are proposed for a location adjacent to CVRD dedicated parkland.

We have perused the plans available at the CVRD and noted that excavation below ground water tables may require special approval from the inspector. Since the excavation may reach levels of 30 m, we would request that this protocol be enforced.

Time and time again, research has demonstrated that an ounce of protection beforehand is worth a pound of “reclamation” after the damage has been done.

**Dumping of Questionable Fill:**

Although the CVRD does not yet have a Soil Removal bylaw in place, the custom of using fill derived from unknown – and possibly nefarious – sources should be strictly prohibited within the confines of an officially designated watershed.

We have observed that enough “fill” of uncertain origins to fill a small valley [approximately] has been deposited on site, with an overall total of possibly 2 million cubic metres of return haul material being anticipated. The applicants state that they envision a housing subdivision on this land [once the gravel extraction has been exhausted]. However, they should bear in mind that the minimal parcel size for F1 zoned land is presently 50 acres, and this amount is likely to be increased to 60 hectares in the near future.


We would request that all fill be fully identified as to content and provenance, and certified as being free of environmental contaminants, before being unloaded on Lot 23.

Obviously, certain of these issues fall into the category of “land use planning”, which is outside the Inspector of Mines’ mandate. Thus we are directing our concerns to all our political representatives and the CVRD Development Services staff as well.

We request that these points will be considered for inclusion in the Area B OCP review of Forestry bylaw. It is increasing clear the varied uses permitted at present in this zoning classification are too loosely defined, and that circumstances pertaining to some of these practices – water quality, fish habitat, traffic congestion, noise disturbance – may necessitate special operational permits and DPAs as developed with public consultation.

Lastly, we request that the process for resolving these problems be an open and integrated one, involving the participation of all levels of government, informed by the community.

Sincerely,

Mary Desmond  
  
Cc: Director Ken Cossey  
CVRD DS staff  
MLA John Horgan  
MP Jean Crowder



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# Area B Director's Report

**Sonia Furtaneau**  
*Area B Director*

### Looking back, looking ahead

It was eight months ago that the inaugural board meeting of the CVRD was held. The room was packed with spectators as the new and returning board members were sworn in. There was even controversy, as a motion to ask questions of the candidates for Chair was put on the table, debated, and passed.

The last eight months have been eventful, to say the least.

Before March 20<sup>th</sup>, my focus was on building foundations and moving forward. There was a steep learning curve around how the CVRD functions, as we found ourselves launched directly into the budget season, which required a significant amount of time and effort.

Within Shawnigan, my efforts went into community building. A small and dedicated group of us met at the Chippery every Monday morning to plan the upcoming community events – the Shawnigan Shiver, Family Day, and The Gathering. All of these were fantastic events, bringing the community together to celebrate and collaborate.

I also worked on creating a Shawnigan Trails Team, which has been meeting monthly since March. I believe that Shawnigan's sustainable future is one in which we capitalize on the extraordinary recreational potential that we have in this area – not only the lake, but also the surrounding mountains and wilderness offer endless possibilities for attracting people to our spectacular community.

A small group of people also helped with moving us towards the acquisition of Mt Baldy, an iconic feature in the landscape of Shawnigan. The preservation of Mt Baldy in perpetuity – a goal of this community since the 1980s – is an important step in creating a future we want to see for our community.

Amidst of all this were the many CVRD meetings – commissions, committees, board, workshops, conferences, and community meetings – all of which involve varying degrees of preparation and follow-up. It has also been a time of extraordinary relationship-building, both within Shawnigan, where I have come to know so many new people, and beyond. I am amazed at the abundance of people who commit so much time and effort into their communities, and into finding solutions

to problems that affect all of us.

Since March 20<sup>th</sup>, in addition to the regular CVRD and community work, the efforts to protect our drinking watershed from SIA's contaminated dump have been all encompassing. While this has been exhausting and at times demoralizing, it has also brought us together as a community, and I am certain that the benefits of the connections we are forming throughout this will reverberate for a very long time.

Looking ahead, I will work on moving forward with the Elsie Miles property, based on the significant input and consultation from the community over the past three years. I also would like to see progress on creation of a walking path between Mason's Beach and the Government Wharf, and up to Old Mill Park.

Concerns about pedestrian safety and the lack of crosswalks have been communicated to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – making the village safe for all is an important priority.

There are continued efforts on getting trail access between the Capital Regional District and the CVRD. The province recently announced \$440,000 of funding towards 3.8 kilometres separated bike path from Sooke Lake Road

Trailhead to Stebbings Road, which enhances the Cowichan Valley Trail. As these trails are created, we have enormous opportunity as a community to capitalize on the cycling traffic that will be heading into Shawnigan.

I hope to see the Shawnigan Station development across from the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre move forward before the end of this year, and I also hope to see more businesses move into the storefronts in the village.

It will also be interesting to see what develops from the recent confirmation of \$7 million in provincial funding towards the E&N Railway. This also represents great potential for Shawnigan, and the opportunity for us to become the destination for day-trippers from Victoria.

Looking ahead, I see incredible potential for our community. We are demonstrating that we are determined to be active participants in shaping our future. Once we have protected our watershed, let's work together to build the future that we want.

I will be away for much of August, spending some much-needed time with my family. In my absence, please contact my Alternate Director, Ian Caesar. ***There will be no office hours or Area Director's meeting in August.***

*"The best way to predict the future is to create it."  
-Peter Drucker*

## 2015 Shawnigan Lake Foreshore Inventory

**Jenny Berg**  
*Shawnigan Basin Society*

Last month I had the pleasure of presenting the 2015 Shawnigan Lake foreshore inventory at the Shawnigan Lake museum, on behalf of the Shawnigan Lake Basin Society. This baseline study was undertaken to examine the ecological integrity along the SL foreshore. We took to the lake in early June, and then again in July to photograph along the foreshore. Over 500 pictures were stitched together and coded to visualize the current state of the SL foreshore.

The foreshore, also distinguished as a riparian zone, is a critical transition space between water and land; in British Columbia, this area is vital to the survivorship of some of our most rare, threatened, and endangered species which depend on this habitat for have all or part of their needs – approximately

59% of species at risk (Stevens et al. 1995). Not only does its serve as a crucial habitat for wildlife, but the riparian zone functions to stabilize shorelines and contributes to ground water recharge. In addition, water quality is also dependent on healthy riparian zones with robust vegetation which slows run-off thereby, reducing sediments and pollutants entering the lake. In terms of lake stewardship, foreshore land use practices go hand-in-hand with protecting water quality and biodiversity.

So what did we find? The 2015 SL foreshore inventory shared key concepts to a similar initiative with Cowichan Shoreline stewards in 2014. Although public engagement and restoration were at the forefront of the Cowichan Lake project, both projects highlight a continuum of impacts, namely the different landscaping and land use patterns among private residents.

Therefore, the next step in the SL foreshore inventory was to create a coding system by which general trends and effects could be easily interpreted. Five colours we used to represent a continuum of impacts. Although we did not use direct measurements, we modelled the lake coding after a similar inventory for Columbia Lake in B.C. (McPherson et al., 2009). For example, fully vegetated foreshores received the lowest impact classification, while retaining walls and other obvious human modifications to the foreshore received the highest impact classification.

Early this September the Shawnigan Lake Basin Society will have electronic copies of the inventory available to residents by sub-basins around the lake. Lake stewardship is a process and we look forward to continuing a dialogue about increasing the resilience of lake water quality.



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# Young Seniors Action Group Society

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

### Our Summer Break

Our seniors group takes some time off each year in the months of July and August. We, like every one else, use the hot months to travel, go camping, generally relax and visit family.

We do like to celebrate and participate in community

events and that is what we did on Canada Day. We walked in the local parade, right in front of all the fire trucks. They are a noisy bunch! We organized a bird house kit building event for kids ages 2 and up. It was a joy to help the young ones build their own kits and listen to the tap-tap-tap sounds of nails being hammered home.

We will participate in the Heritage Fair slated for August

16th. This edition of the Shawnigan Focus will just have arrived in your mailbox, so check out the event program.

In September, right after Labour Day, we begin all our regular activities again. There is something happening for seniors every day of the week. We walk; do zumba; line dance and practice Tai Chi to get our physical exercise. We play canasta, chess

and learn computer skills to stimulate our minds. We learn photography, folk art, crafts, wood carving, and quilting to express our artistic side

Whatever your interest is, we have it. And, just so you know, if your interest and expertise is not listed here, come and join us. You can form a new group and be a leader.

We also organize sit down

dinners, trips, barbeques and more.

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 can be reached by email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)

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



**YSAGS members playing competitive Bean Bag Baseball.**



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## The Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion is looking for new members to take part in all of their programs and in order to do that they have come up with an offer hoping to attract new members.

Any NEW members joining this fiscal year will be able to do so for 50%

of the annual cost for membership. What we are hoping is new members will join, give us a try and then see if they want to continue with the Legion.

Many people are still under the impression that you have to have had service in the Armed Forces or the

RCMP to join the Legion. This is no longer true.

So come and give us a chance, You may be one who can come up with a new idea and take us in a new direction

Comrade Win Teague  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Royal Canadian Legion - 134

## Free Parks Programs

**Garleen Flaman**  
*Parks Commission*

It's partway through the summer and the Free Parks Programs at five South Cowichan Area Parks continue to provide fun, safe, structured activities for your preschoolers (ages 3-5 yrs) and older children (ages 6-12 yrs) and are financially supported by your local Area Parks and Recreation Commissions.

The program piloted at the Huckleberry Park location in 2000 then expanded in 2001 to Malahat, Cloverdale-Watson, and Farnsworth parks. The most recent program established at Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park in 2012, was a relocation from Gibson's and Discovery School, with the number of participants increasing dramatically over the past 3 summers.

The parks programs run every weekday morning, except for holidays, with the preschoolers playing and crafting with their grown-ups for 2 hours in the morning and the older kids program runs three hours each afternoon. As a parent, I enjoy the opportunity to take my preschooler to

the park for fun and games, but I especially appreciate the afternoon program as my almost-8-year-old can be there without me. Freedom for all!

The best part is knowing that the facilitators are skilled and trained leaders. Most are locals taking post-secondary studies elsewhere and returning home for summer work. Some are even past program participants! All of them have First Aid certification, have undergone Personal Information Checks through policing and have successfully completed High 5 training. I know Andrea from the past few summers facilitating the programs at S.H.A.P. and am most impressed with her ability to engage the kids as well as her dedication to personal fitness – you may see her running to and from work and it's not because she is late!

Do keep in mind that this is not a daycamp, and if your older child does not normally go to the park alone, parental supervision is strongly encouraged.

For more information about the Free Parks Programs, you can call Programmer Janine at 250-743-5922.



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# Take a Hike – Bright Angel Park

**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

To continue from last month when we talked about the trails of “Burnt Bridge”, we left untold a story about one trail’s namesake. Jack Fleetwood, a local historian and advocate for the heritage site of Kinsol Trestle, along with his wife Mabel, were land donors for what has evolved into another Cowichan Valley gem - Bright Angel Park.

Have you been there lately - perhaps within the past year or so? If you haven’t, it’s changed a bit and has had the most amazing facelift! Upgrades to the historic park include such things as newly groomed trails, a modern washroom facility, new children’s playground, a fitness station and loads of parking. Oh, but the most memorable of the park’s charms, the suspension bridge, still continues to be an icon for the park! Yaay, as who doesn’t love the thrill of wiggling and wobbling across that thing?

I have dragged a few friends and family to wander around the park this summer and am really loving the changes. There is an amphitheatre



where the old park used to be; this can confuse the children a bit but it’s ok as the tree props are fashioned with rock climbing nubs for them to clamber upon. Sad news recently

however as the much loved rope swing (and it’s branch), enjoyed by many children (and adults) over the years, has apparently met its demise. Perhaps it will resurface!

I’ve also, in the past, found it a great place to camp - real camping – you know, the type without refrigerator or stove. It used to be that RVs were allowed but not anymore.

The upper group-camp area, complete with a cook shelter, can accommodate up to 60 people. The lower area is considered day use, with 12 picnic tables and a wood fired grill. But for those spontaneous types, like us for example on Father’s Day this year, we just brought a picnic and a blanket to nestle under a tree on the grass, and it was absolutely lovely!

Jack Fleetwood and his wife Mabel donated the original 4.13ha of the land to the government for park usage. Over time, through donations and support, the land space has expanded to its current 22.3ha (55 acres). Jack was a poet of sorts and wrote many poems inspired by the beauty found within the Bright Angel Park.

AND, just down the road by the small trestle over Koksilah Rd., is a cute park in memory of Jack Fleetwood. Created by a summer student parks crew back in 1992, it has access to the river for swimming, a little beach, and its own picnic area.

Enjoy the rest of your summer everyone!

\*It’s summer – get out there! Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.\*

## Bats!

**Keilih Gates**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

As the sun sets on a warm summer’s eve, the night sky over the lake comes alive with erratic flutter of bats swooping overhead. At the end of the day, these nocturnal mammals are hungry and are on the hunt for insects. Bats have a large appetite and can eat up to 900 mosquitoes in an hour. These predators fly through the night air using echolocation to map out their surroundings and pinpoint their prey.

At night, when they’re not hunting, they rest hanging upside down by their hand-like feet with their wings folded in beside them. They roost underneath the furrowed bark of Douglas fir trees, in caves, woodpiles, rock piles, hollowed out trees, attics and rock crevices. During the day, they sleep in similar but separate roosts, hidden from light and predators.

In the spring, you might find bat mothers in communal maternity roosts with thousands of other moms and pups nursing their young until they are old enough to hunt (about 1 month old). Then they are out and about, ready to crunch through exoskeletons with their sharp insectivore teeth. If you do find



a maternity roost you can wait until dusk and see the bats leave. Don’t shine a flashlight inside a roost as it will scare them off and they might not return.

Bats are active from spring until fall when food is plentiful and the climate is mild. Come autumn, some bats will cozy up and hibernate while others will migrate south, returning with the springtime hatch of insects. Of the 16 species of bats in BC, 10 are found on Vancouver Island. These insectivores keep pests under control and play an important role in our ecosystem. Despite this, they have a negative image and are often a source of superstition and fear. If you’re out and about with friends or family and you see a bat, here are some common myths you can bust:

They want to suck your blood. Bats in BC do not drink blood. Vampire bats do exist in South

America and feed primarily on livestock but do not hurt them in the process.

All bats have rabies. The average bat is no more likely to carry rabies than any other wild animal. Bats actually groom themselves like cats and have different roosts for daytime and nighttime to keep their space clean. Most bats avoid humans. The ones that we do find out during the day are usually ill or injured so if you do see a bat lying on the ground stay back and don’t touch it.

Bats can’t see very well and will get caught in your hair. Bats use echolocation to navigate the night sky just like we use sonar. If a bat does swoop close to your hair, chances are it’s going after a mosquito that is hovering near your head.

Bats are really just flying mice. Bats are more closely related to humans than they are to mice.



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# Young leaders learn to nurture passions and follow dreams



**L.M. Petersen**  
*Dwight School Canada*

How do you spend your summer? Do you relax in the sun, or race around having fun? Instead of summer camp, some teens choose to spend two weeks of their time learning to be better leaders in their community. Cultivating resourceful and impassioned leaders is an important theme at Dwight School Canada, and the Global Leadership Academy (GLA), offered in partnership with Powerful Youth, gives young adults an opportunity to expand their thinking and improve their skills.

“What would you try if you knew you would not fail?” The question posed by the Powerful Youth website is a good one. Teens are the ones with the passion for creating a better future, yet so often they feel discouraged from hearing that nothing will ever change. The GLA teaches them they can make a difference. They spend two weeks participating in activities designed to teach teamwork, encourage community-minded thinking, and boost self-confidence.

Danna came to the GLA from Lima, Peru with a passion for social services and helping others. For her, the highlight of the week was the special guest speaker, Gerald Hartwig, president and CEO of Hartwig Industries. His message is one of endless possibilities; of conquering fears and being willing to take that first step into the unknown. “He inspired me to believe in myself.” Danna says. “To try. To find a space for myself in the world, and to be happy.”

James, from Beijing, China, is a student of Dwight School Canada. Among many fun tasks and assignments, the highlight for James came during the

Service Challenge. His team chose to raise money for Ryan’s Well Foundation, a charitable organization working to provide sustainable solutions for clean drinking water in developing countries. “I think people are generally nice,” James says, “but they’re busy, or they don’t understand us. I asked a lot of people to donate, and they say ‘no’, or ‘I don’t have change’, but then that first person said ‘yes’. That was my highlight.” James’ team collected over \$200 for their charity.

The spark of fresh possibilities shines through in their voices as these teens share how much they’ve learned over the past two weeks; how being a leader is more than telling people what to do. It’s about figuring out how to be constructive, to work together and encourage each other, and to understand other cultures and ideas.

The June and July sessions of the GLA saw youth from around the world working together in a spirit of community. The third and final program of the summer runs from August 9-22. If you see these young leaders out working to raise money for their chosen cause, be sure to stop and encourage them, perhaps you’ll be their first ‘yes’ of the day.

## Book Reviews

**Marcy Green**

### **The Girl on the Train** *-by Paula Hawkins*

This psychological thriller has been hyped as the new “Gone Girl” (Gillian Flynn’s bestseller of last year). One could say the characters are similar in that they are dysfunctional, unsympathetic and, in the case of Rachel, our main character and narrator, a hot mess. Indeed, her actions are so cringe-producing that this is not a relaxing summer book.

Rachel has been dumped by her husband for another woman, who now rears a child she longed to have. She spirals down into alcohol, black-outs, unemployment and a sketchy existence, renting a room from a good-hearted friend to whom

she habitually lies. Her life consists of riding the same train “to work” every morning and making up back stories for an attractive couple she observes through the windows of their house at a scheduled stop. Eventually she discovers that the woman has gone missing and decides that she has an important clue for the police. This is where one might be tempted to compare the plot to Hitchcock’s “Rear Window”. In this case, Rachel is labeled as an unreliable witness and, as such, is discounted.

The pace accelerates as the story gets taken up by two other narrators: Anna, the second wife, and, Megan, the missing woman. There are enough red herrings, twists, turns and suspicious actions to point the finger

to any number of characters. The ending is suspenseful and a ripping good ride as we discover the identity of the murderer.

Did I enjoy this book? That might be too strong a word. But I was absorbed enough to finish the story and understand why it’s generating such interest. I would call this latest mystery genre, “Miserably Flawed Protagonists”.

**Rating: 3/5 stars**

### **Hannah and the Spindle Whorl** *-by Carol Anne Shaw*

### **Hannah and the Salish Sea** *-by Carol Anne Shaw*

This local and award-winning author has achieved something unique in recent Young Adult

fiction. There are no wizards, werewolves or dystopian communities to attract or shock the reader. Instead, Shaw has written two charming books that combine a strong sense of place, appealing characters and a powerful thread of Coast Salish history. The scenery and people feel authentic and there are enough puzzles to be solved and villains to be brought to justice to hold one’s attention.

Cowichan Bay, Salt Spring Island and the southern part of Vancouver Island are described in lush detail. The misty rain-forest and ocean are integral to the mysterious time travel in the first book while a sunny Cow Bay, derelict boats and poachers figure in the second. Friendships develop, family conflict is examined and there

is just enough magic realism in both to provide mystery and dynamic tension. Raven, the trickster, plays an important role in both books.

The author has worked with middle school children as an art teacher for enough years to capture their idioms and humour. She also demonstrates a fine and delicate touch in describing their emotional states. Adults and young people alike will enjoy her well-written stories. While I found the first book delightful, I thought the second was even stronger, and am looking forward to the third of the trilogy. The author and her books can be found at a local second-hand book store.

**Rating: 4/5 and 5/5 stars**



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# Amateur radio in the Cowichan Valley

**Les Dawes - VA7CBN**  
*Vice President, Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society*

Some say that amateur radio, or ham radio as it is commonly known, is a thing of the past. I often hear comments from people such as “does anyone do that anymore?”

It is true that ham radio was a popular hobby many years ago and took a small down turn in that popularity with the explosion of cell phones. Many people thought that amateur radio was no longer something that was needed, as one could simply pick up their cell phone or telephone and call or text someone. Today, with the use of the internet and social media even talking on the phone seems to have diminished.

In recent years however, that outlook has been changing. People are beginning to understand that their now normal means of communication is not truly reliable in times of community distress or simply system stress from community events. It does not take much effort to discover, with a little research, that these systems are the first to fail when they are most needed such as after an earthquake, tsunami or hurricane.

Ham radio on the other hand has shown to be the system that is used in those early days following such an event, worldwide. I do not expect our community to be any different when it happens here. With the real prospect of a significant earthquake on the horizon in western Canada, ham radio is again growing in popularity in the Cowichan Valley. People seem eager to get trained and certified to be able to use this means of communication.

Amateur radio technology today allows for voice communications locally and over long distances to other parts of the province, Canada and around the world. The old reliable Morse Code is still actively used today but is no longer a requirement for certification in Canada. Radio technology allows for things like sending email over radio, texting over radio, sending photos over radio and much more. Did you know that the International Space station has an amateur radio onboard and the astronauts often talk to operators as they pass over?

Amateur radio operators are prepared to use their equipment and skills during emergency situations in their communities as well as organized events needing safety communications. Supporting Amateur



Radio locally is the Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society (CVARS). This group of volunteers is actively involved with safety communication throughout the Cowichan Valley.

Many of the Societies’ members participate as volunteers in supporting events such as the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon, Tzouhalem Gutbuster, Ladysmith Gutbuster, Ladysmith Festival of Lights and the Swiftsure Yacht Race. The Society also supports local Search and

Rescue organizations by providing communications services to assist them with their search efforts. A number of members are also part of the CVRDs Emergency Communications Team.

One of the mandates of the CVARS is to provide training to anyone interested in amateur radio. The Society hosts several training courses each year, free of charge. The Basic course is designed to help you learn the information needed to pass an

Industry Canada exam and become a certified amateur radio operator in Canada. The next one is scheduled to begin in mid-September 2015. Anyone interested in one of these courses is encouraged to email [va7cbn@cvars.com](mailto:va7cbn@cvars.com).

Amateur radio is more than just a hobby. To many it may be a lifeline when nothing else is working. Amateur Radio in the Cowichan Valley is growing and has room for you if you are interested.

## Shawnigan Focus... Please participate!

The Shawnigan Focus is a not-profit newspaper, produced by volunteers, for the benefit of the community.

Its purpose is to inform, involve and connect community.

We need the support of the community to create and to fund the Focus. We encourage your submissions of articles, reports and pictures. We also encourage businesses to place ads. In general, the percentage of ad space is less than 25%, which means that your ad will be very visible and that most of the paper is filled with meaningful content.

*Thank you for your support.*

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FireSmart your property now

Oriana Parker  
South Cowichan  
Community Policing

As you are aware it's been a rather devastating summer for fires in British Columbia. Firefighter crews have responded to over 1,083 forest fires this summer, more than double from last year, and we are just about to begin the month of August. The Government of British Columbia issued a press release stating that it is considering harsher penalties for those individuals who are careless and start wildfires. Throwing a lit cigarette out of your car window can mean having your car impounded.

The Press Release states: "We must send a clear message to those that carelessly start wildfires that their behaviour will not be tolerated." It goes on to say, "Naturally occurring fires from sources like lightning are difficult enough for our dedicated firefighters to handle. If we're going to continue to ask them to put their lives on the line to keep people and property safe, we need to do everything we can

to end behaviours that lead to needless wildfires." To view the Press Release in full go to the following:

- ★ [BC Government News @ BCGovNews](#)
- ★ Flick your butt out the window, possibly lose your car [#BCWildfire 9:34 AM - 16 Jul 2015](http://ow.ly/PHKvc)

The ongoing drought means that residents must be vigilant about fire safety both at home and in nature. The Ministry of Forests and Range have put together a FireSmart Manual (Protect Your Home from Wildfire) which can be downloaded by going to the following websites:

- ★ [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)
- ★ [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)

The manual points out that "wildland forest fires are capable of spreading at an astonishing rate.

In British Columbia, an average 48% of all wildfires are caused by human activity. If you live in or near a forested region of our province, sooner or later you may have

to contend with the spread of a wildfire. The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention."

Among the advice in the manual is "A Well Thought Out FireSmart Protection Plan" which is as follows:

- ★ Prune tree branches to a height of 2 metres or more
- ★ Store fire wood 10 metres or more from the house (avoid downslope location)
- ★ Remove all trees, long grass, shrubs, logs, branches, twigs and needles within 10 metres of house
- ★ Thin trees (with 3 - 6 metres between crowns) for at least 30 metres from the house
- ★ Contact your utility company if trees or branches are not clear of power lines
- ★ Grass within 10 metres of buildings should be mowed and watered
- ★ Address, fire or lot number clearly signed for quick identification by fire service
- ★ Driveway is wide

enough to accommodate emergency vehicles

- ★ Try to provide an alternate emergency access route to your property
- ★ Pond or tank with emergency water supply
- ★ A FireSmart burning barrel
- ★ Driveway clear of trees to a distance of at least 3 or 4 metres
- ★ Chimney installed to code complete with spark arrestor screens
- ★ All eaves enclosed and screen all vents including soffits
- ★ Undersides of balconies, decks and crawlspaces sheathed in with flame resistant materials
- ★ Propane tanks located at least 10m from building - clear all vegetation within 3 metres
- ★ Use only fire retardant roofing rated Class A, B or C and fire resistant exterior siding
- ★ Solid shutters or metal firescreens will provide increased fire protection for windows and doors

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Department Members  
Attended 26 Calls in July

- ★ Wednesday, July 1 – Burning Complaint in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Wednesday, July 1- 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 2 – Burning Complaint in the Beach Estates
- ★ Saturday, July 4 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 4 – MVI on Thain Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 7 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Tuesday, July 7 – Unknown Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 10 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 11 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Sunday, July 12 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Sunday, July 12 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 12 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, July 13 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 14 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 20 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 20 – 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 21 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Tuesday, July 21 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Wednesday, July 22 – Hydro Lines on Dunwick & Kews Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 23 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 24 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 24 – MVI on Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 26 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 28 – MVI on Renfrew & Worthington Rds
- ★ Tuesday, July 28 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd

Shawnigan Weather July 2015

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Trelor

	July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Average High	22.9	27.6	26.8	26.5	25.8	26.9	26.7	26.7	25.8
Average Low	11.7	14.1	13.1	13.3	12.7	14.4	13.7	13.9	13.3
Extreme High	37.2	34.7	34.1	32.9	34.6	34.5	35.8	33.0	33.5
Extreme Low	3.9	10.2	8.4	9.3	8.4	11.5	10.8	10.5	10.0
Precipitation	24.7	25.4	9.4	24.2	7.8	19.5	6.4	23.8	9.2
Days w precip	6	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	4

Since 1914: 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest, 36<sup>th</sup> wettest

Lake Temperature: July 5<sup>th</sup>: 26° July 12<sup>th</sup>: 24° July 19<sup>th</sup>: 25° July 26<sup>th</sup>: 21°  
Lake Level Change: July 5<sup>th</sup>:-4cm July 12<sup>th</sup>:-2.5cm July 19<sup>th</sup>:-2.5cm July 26<sup>th</sup>:-5cm



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**  
*Office hours* (Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 to 11:30), and *Director's Meetings* (First Monday of the month at 7:00) *will resume in September*. For summer updates: check [www.soniafurstenau.ca](http://www.soniafurstenau.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**  
1st Thursday of month. Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Third Thursday in September. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**  
Sept. 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**  
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**  
for summer info: check [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**  
2 meetings per month. Contact [info@slba](mailto:info@slba) for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**  
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
1st Tuesday of September 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Info at: [www.ysag.ca](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Thurs, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10:30-4. [www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com)  
\*looking for a retired bookkeeper or accountant (volunteer) to help with financials

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## 3RD ANNUAL HERITAGE FAIR

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**DRESS UP WITH YOUR FAMILY** - we provide the costumes, the props & take the photos

**WATCH DEMONSTRATIONS** of spinning, weaving, carving and more..

**CHECK OUT THE VINTAGE VEHICLES:** cars; a railway hand car; and a classic boat

**JOIN IN THE FAMILY RACES** - sack race; egg and spoon and others

**VISIT THE MEMORY TENT** and chat about Shawnigan. Visit the museum

**AUGUST 16TH FROM 10:30-2:30. ELSIE MILES PARK (NEXT TO THE MUSEUM)**

## Classifieds

### WANTED

#### LAKEFRONT EASEMENT

Shawnigan lakefront easement wanted (either to purchase or to rent) – we need parking for one car with easy access from parking to the Lake shore where we would keep one small boat. This easement is needed near the South end of Shawnigan Lake for access to our small Island which is located not far from Memory Island. Please contact  
**John/Lois - 250-598-3590** or  
Email - [newportrpm@gmail.com](mailto:newportrpm@gmail.com)

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### EMPLOYMENT

### AUTOMOTIVE

### RENTALS

### HOME SERVICES

### GENERAL INTEREST

## 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.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for July was submitted by **Amia & Isaac**. They were quick to identify the water fountain at Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park. These two are keen respondents to our "What Is It" contest and we thank them for reading the Focus!

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Phone: 250-743-0511





## A brief history of the SIA Permit

**Dave Hutchinson**

*Shawnigan Focus*

**Oct 4, 2006** - South Island Aggregates Ltd (SIA) receives a Quarry Permit (Q-8-094) from the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) for Lot 23, a property on Stebbings Road, owned by Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd (CHH). Both SIA and CHH are owned and managed by Mike Kelly and Marty Block.

**Mar, Apr, 2007** - SIA receives letters from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) stating violations of the Environmental Management Act and CVRD bylaws with regard to receiving, stockpiling and burning large piles of land clearing debris at the Stebbings Road location.

**Jul 15, 2008** - SIA applies for another MEM Quarry Permit (G-8-331) for Lot 21, the parcel immediately to the north of Lot 23. This property is owned by a numbered company (0782484 BC Ltd) also owned and managed by Mike Kelly and Marty Block.

**Apr 9, 2009** - CVRD receives complaints about illegal dumping, encroachment onto CVRD parkland, and violation of the restrictive covenant protecting Shawnigan Creek.

**Oct 29, 2010** - Highly toxic soil laced with perchloroethylene (PERC) is illegally dumped on Lot 21. Active Earth is consulted with regards to resolving the problem. Over the next two years there are numerous letters from the Province and the CVRD requiring SIA/CHH to deal with the PERC material which is in gross violation of MOE, MEM and CVRD regulations. In April 2012, the PERC soil was relocated to Lot 23 where it still sits, a few metres from Shawnigan Creek.

**Oct 12, 2011** - SIA submits a "pre-application" to MOE for a Permit to receive contaminated waste on Lot 23. A draft Technical Assessment Report is provided by Active Earth. This starts a six month dialogue between MOE, SIA and Active Earth with no public consultation.

**May 9, 2012** - Public Notice of formal application to MOE with an interim Technical Assessment Report provided by Active Earth.

**May, Jun, 2012** - Shawnigan Creek Protection Association and other groups start public awareness campaign.

**Jun 21, 2012** - SIA President, Mike Kelly, and Malahat Chief, Michael Harry, sign confidential agreement where Malahat First Nation will support SIA application in return for SIA favours.

**May 31, 2012** - SIA and Active Earth host an Open House at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

**Jul 12, 2012** - The CVRD hosts a Public Meeting at Kerry Park with MOE, MEM, SIA and Active Earth.

**Sep 11, 2012** - OPCO (0949812 BC Ltd) is incorporated with Michael Kelly, Martin Block, Mathew Pye and David Mitchell as Directors.

**Sep 23, 2012** - The "Lowen Report" is released which questions the credibility of Active Earth's technical assessment of with regard to site suitability and hydrogeology.

**Nov 29, 2012** - Dennis Lowen presents his report at the SRA AGM Meeting.

**Jan 3, 2013** - Jeff Taylor of Active Earth sends an email to Mike Kelly and Marty Block which references those opposed to the SIA Permit as "a small vocal group of f\*cking retards".

**Feb 14, 2013** - The undisclosed OPCO profit sharing agreement is signed by Mike Kelly of SIA/CHH and Matthew Pye of Active Earth. Profits are to be split 50/50. The MOE Permit is to be issued to CHH but will be owned by OPCO.

**Mar 19, 2013** - MOE issues a Draft Permit which is the first time the public is informed of the wide array of highly toxic contaminants that will be permitted.

**Aug 21, 2013** - MOE issues the final Permit (PR-105809).

**Aug, Sep, 2013** - SRA, CVRD, and others file Notices of Appeal to the Environmental

Appeal Board.

**Sep, Oct, 2013** - SRA and CVRD file for a Stay of the Permit.

**Nov 15, 2013** - EAB grants the Stay.

**Dec 24, 2013** - SIA/CHH apply to vary the Stay in order to fulfill four contracts to accept contaminated material.

**Feb 11, 2014** - EAB grants the application to vary the Stay.

**Mar 3, 2014** - EAB Hearing on the merits of the appeals commences.

**Jul 26, 2014** - EAB Hearing ends.

**Mar 20, 2015** - EAB decision dismisses appeals and upholds SIA/CHH Permit.

**Apr, 2015** - Public scrutiny focusses on the remarkable history of SIA/CHH violations and non-compliance. There is particular interest in contaminants on Lot 21 and encroachment onto CVRD parkland from both Lot 21 and Lot 23.

**Apr 16, 2015** - A delegation (Sonia Furstenu, Calvin Cook, Steve Housser, David Robertson, Dr. Bill Moulaison, Rod MacIntosh) visits Minister Polak. The Ministry agrees to sample the SIA/CHH site for existing contaminants.

**Apr 18, 2015** - Dr. Andrew Weaver releases results of water analysis leaching from Lot 21. Alarming levels of iron and manganese are found.

**Apr 20, 2015** - South Island Resource Management (SIRM) is incorporated. This entity is evidently intended to carry out operational management on Lot 23. Resources, personnel and equipment from Allterra Construction appear to be involved.

**May 13, 2015** - A public rally is held at the Legislature to oppose the Permit and the EAB decision. A 15,000 signature petition is presented to the Legislative Assembly.

**May 19, 2015** - The SRA files an application with the Supreme Court for a Judicial Review of the EAB decision.

**May 20, 2015** - The CVRD announces it will be proceeding

with its petition to the BC Supreme Court to enforce Zoning Bylaw 985 against SIA.

**Jun 16, 2015** - A protest rally is held on Stebbings Road, near the SIA entrance, with Elizabeth May and other notable politicians in attendance.

**Jul 7, 2015** - An anonymous whistleblower provides a copy of the secret OPCO profit-sharing agreement between SIA/CHH and Active Earth.

**Jul 9, 2015** - The SRA files an application with the Supreme Court for several actions based on apparent fraud and perjury revealed by the OPCO agreement.

**Jul 16, 2015** - Dr. Andrew Weaver releases his results of sediment analysis leaching from

Lot 21. Serious concerns about thorium, lead and other heavy metals are identified.

**Jul 16, 2015** - The CVRD hosts a Public Meeting at Kerry Park where MOE presents their analysis of surficial sampling on both Lot 21 and Lot 23. No serious problems were identified. There are calls for more comprehensive testing. The Ministry agrees to look at Dr. Weaver's results and decide whether more testing is warranted.

**Jul 23, 2015** - Supreme Court Justice Keith Bracken orders SIA/CHH and Active Earth provide access to computers so hard-drives can be copied. Remainder of ruling scheduled for Aug 14.

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