

Shawnigan Focus

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December 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

MARY POLAK LET US GET BACK TO OUR LIVES!



Georgia Collins

So, the company admits that its water filtration and settling pond is not working the way it's supposed to.

Lucky for them and lucky for us, it's not raining today.

Observe the grass growing in the bottom of the settling 'pond' where water should be, or should have been. We should see silt or some standing water. There is none - it "infiltrates faster than it should"; in other words "it leaks."

Dysfunctional Settling Ponds – Where is the Water?

Standing at the site, you can hear and see water flowing underneath where they have piled rock and tried, unsuccessfully, to improve the settling pond. There is a steady stream of what can only be groundwater (coming from underneath the bottom of the pit year round...even during extreme drought).

Today, they had yet another pumper truck removing contaminated water/sludge from the upper part of their filtration system because it would not have been able to handle another rain (much like it appeared not to twice already this week).

Last night we had a meeting in Shawnigan. The SRA had their lawyer explain

where we are at in one of two Supreme Court of BC legal battles we are in.

It's going favourably, but the legal system is slow. While we wait for a court date, the trucks full of stinky, sludgy contaminated soil dump steadily. They're barging it from the mainland over to the island to dump above a community drinking watershed??? What could soon be illegal is still legal today because our government (specifically the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Mines) has allowed the professional reliance model to reign, and failed to effectively enforce ongoing non-compliance.

We know now that this is very much in our Minister of Environment, Mary Polak's hands. I find myself wishing desperately for her not to have backed herself into a corner by so vehemently defending this project.

There are a couple of reasons for a minister to step in, even if it's before the courts. One is non-compliance, and one is misrepresentation.

This project has failed technically; they cannot contain surface water runoff and will not even admit the presence of groundwater. And we continue to see more and more evidence of non-compliance. The company (and their business partner/profit sharing engineers) have misrepresented themselves in the permitting process so extensively, not only do I feel very free in using the words fraudulent and corrupt, but anyone who takes the time to read the evidence can plainly see that these people should not ever have been granted a permit.

It's Friday. At 4:30 pm today, the company will have responded to MoE's letter where Jennifer McGuire suggests that MoE is considering reducing or suspending operations. Presumably they won't be getting back to us on the weekend.

So... We wait. We protest. We wonder.

When will our government take action to protect our drinking water? When will Mary Polak exercise her power to do what is right for the community of Shawnigan Lake?

Mary Polak, we need you now. I would say more so than ever before, but really we've needed you all along and so now I'll just say, it's better late than never.

Please suspend operations and let us get back to our lives.



SHAWNIGAN FOCUS DECEMBER 2015

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear Honourable Pre- mier Christy Clarke and Honourable Mary Polak

It is with great sadness that I sit at the breakfast table this morning not being able to use the water in my own home and must tell my children may be unsafe. I had to go out and buy water and truck it in. Just down the road companies are trucking in toxic soil for profit. It is astonishing to me that this is allowed to occur. For one moment try and imagine yourself in the same situation. I am sure you would think twice about what is happening to this beautiful community and try everything in your power to stop it! I know you treasure your family and your safe drinking water as much as I do. My community bears 100% of the risk and endures a negative impact; there is zero benefit to Shawnigan residents and 100% benefit to a corporation. Now every time we have a storm in my area I have to worry about the quality of water I am drinking. My children were scared last night when they heard of the advisory. My son said he had four huge glasses of water that day ... "Was he going to be okay?" Why should a child have to worry in a Canadian city if the water coming out of his tap is okay? We are not a third world country! The horrific part of this whole

tragedy is that it is prevent-
able and stoppable!

Here we have a failure of the system just due to normal rainfall. If it were not for the people of Shawnigan testing the water and watching what is going on at the site we would not know anything. The company is responsible for self-monitoring and I do not trust them to do this as this was shown not to work (Mt Polley, for example), and the MOE has demonstrated over the last 14 years that they do not have the capacity to monitor or to enforce remediation. What happens when there is a serious breach at the SIA site years from now when the owners are long gone with their buckets of money? Engineering failures are commonplace and to be expected in a mining operation lasting 50 years. Who will pay to clean up the mess? Will we be able to clean it up?

Why can we not find a more suitable place, one that is not near a designated community watershed? It is a big country. It is unimaginable that truck upon truckload is traveling here even by ferry to get the toxic materials out of other Canadian communities to my drinking water. The process is flawed and does not serve the people of BC or protect the environ-

ment. All of the experts who testified during the hearings agreed that the site is not suitable for a contaminated soil dump. It is unheard of to dump contaminated soil on a site in a community watershed where no contamination exists and there is an active quarry with ongoing blasting. Victoria and Vancouver drinking watersheds are protected, as all drinking watersheds in BC should be. The Statutory Decision Maker erred in a number of ways in issuing the permit. They did not consider expertise, competency, ethical conduct, and financial viability of the company. They did not consider the financial impact on the community.

Please listen to our community, please save our water! CVRD offered to work together to find a suitable site in the region - this offer was ignored by the Ministry of Environment. It remains on the table as an honorable and practical alternative. The Tervita site is an example of an existing alternative dump site within the CRD. Please help us. Please let me nourish my family by turning on my water tap and not by trucking in safe water, while at the same time toxic materials are trucked into my backyard.

Yours Respectfully,

Marnie Hare & Jonathan Reis

What's Up?

Shawnigan Lake has a variety of issues to deal with but the most critical issue at the moment is the potential harm that may result from the contaminated soil dump on Stebbings Road. Write a letter to any level of government or a local newspaper to voice your concern. Or, join your neighbours at the peaceful protests at the SIA gates as trucks arrive every weekday starting at 7 a.m, or in court during legal proceedings

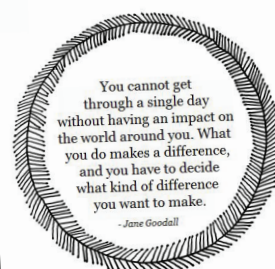
We wish
you a Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!



Forest to Foreshore
Public meeting
Dec. 2nd 7-10 p.m.
Shawnigan Lake
Community Centre
Shawnigan Basin Society

Christmas in the Village
December 6th
3:30-6:30

**Community Christmas
Carolling**
December 13th
4:00-5:00pm
Shawnigan Lake
Community Centre



Shawnigan Focus - Letters

They are wrecking the community over it!

Dear Editor,

I am writing about how hurt I am that The Shawnigan Lake Watch Group have moved forward with an initiative that is threatening the solidarity and unity that exists in the community right now. The issue of boat traffic on the lake is a very divisive one; everyone that lives in Shawnigan Lake is here for a reason and we all enjoy different aspects of its natural beauty. Whether we enjoy biking, hiking, motor biking, swimming, fishing, waterskiing, wake boarding, surfing or painting, we all love this lake and the community that surrounds it.

The only good thing about the controversial dump at SIA/SIRM is the sense of community and togetherness it has created. On Stebbings Rd, I meet and stand alongside many people that I would never have met otherwise. We respect and trust each other. It makes me really sad when I think about how some of these new friends and neighbours will be on the other side of the argument when it comes to boats.

The issue of boats is not about preventing pollution or protecting the natural shoreline. It is a problem for a couple of people with weak docks or renovated shorelines who would rather change the rules than restore their foreshore. As far as I can tell this is another case of someone who bought a house beside an airport (that only runs two months of the year) and now they are wrecking the community over it.

Sierra Acton

Do Not Use Water Advisory !!!

What the people of Shawnigan Lake warned would happen, has! It took less than a year of the *50 year permit* granted by the BC Government to dump contaminated waste at the South Island Aggregate/Cobble Hill Holdings site to reach the lake!! When will this insanity stop?

Why does the CVRD not halt *ALL* trucking on Stebbings Road past Goldstream Heights? It is after all their jurisdiction and time for the CVRD to take control of this blatant disregard of the wishes of the community. Is it not the people in the community that are in charge of their own destiny? The 'elected' officials of this BC Government have continued to ignore the constituents wishes to find another place for these

contaminants, somewhere that will not affect a drinking water supply! 'Elected by the people for the people'. What am I missing here?

As a 24 year Veteran, I have witnessed wars being fought over clean potable water sources (and will continue to be). Here in my own backyard, my government views them with complete disregard. Shame on the lot of you for allowing this permit! NOW, do the right thing and *revoke it* before the damage is too great to repair!

Steve B, Shawnigan Lake

Yes, it's like the wild, wild west some times up here in the summer!

Dear Shawnigan Focus / Shawnigan lake watch group

We are full time year round residents of Shawnigan lake and have lived on the west arm for the past 15 years. We have used the lake over the past 40 years with friends and family who also live on the lake.

Our family are members of the local ski club as well as being involved on the executive board. I also sit on the board of directors for waterski wakeboard BC as the director of the wakeboard team, and have sat on the board as vice president over the past years. I am also a NCCP watersport coach as well as a certified judge and driver. My youngest son is part of the BC 3-event waterski team and the BC wakeboard team as well as the Victoria aqua ski team.

To say the least we are very involved in towed watersports. We spend a average of about 200 hours on the lake per year 12 months a year. We use Shawnigan Lake as our year round training grounds. For both waterskiing and wake boarding. Believe me I have witnessed just about everything you can imagine on the lake.

I have several questions for the lake watch group.

Can you show me documented damage of the natural shore line and private property damage. Im not talking about your dock or your retaining wall or your grass that you planted to the waterline. That is not supposed to be altered. The natural shore line.

As you know as property owners we do not own the property to the lake edge and we also do not own the lake surface. Therefore any personal property we place on the lake surface we do at our own risk and assume the responsibility for any damage. We are also,

under the CVRD bylaws, only allowed a one metre path from our property to the lake edge.

I would also like to know how the lake watch group or the RCMP or the CVRD plan to police this. The RCMP are at their limits already patrolling the lake and they are also sometimes misinformed of the correct rules of the waterway. We have bylaws in place about loud music; towing a skier after sunset and speed. You are already responsible for any damage your wake does under the coast guard regulations and we can't seem to enforce this now. How will another bylaw that can't be properly enforced help us?

So under your plan I can waterski down the west arm in my 2011 200 Ski Nautique but I can't wake board behind it? A boat specifically designed for 3 event skiing and has the industry's smallest wake.

As lake front property owners I am faced with the same problems as every one else. Loud music through the night; boaters on the lake at all hours; large waves; wake surfers surfing down the arm in front of my place; large ocean type boats loaded with people, not just wake board boats, making large waves; annoying jet skis breaking the speed limit; boat loads of drunken partiers that are usually not residents and have probably rented a cabin for the week and are trying to get the most out of their money...or just up for a day of drinking on the lake.

Yes, it's like the wild, wild west some times up here in the summer.

How do we control this when the annoyance and damage comes from people who don't live here, don't know the rules of the waterway and don't care? At the end of the week they pack their gear up and go home only to make room for the next group of partiers. So who's responsibility is this the local residents, the RCMP, the CVRD or the cabin owner who rented it out in the first place.

I also take the steps necessary to protect my property. A dock that is built properly to take anything the lake has to throw at it, my boat sits on a lift and my shoreline is natural vegetation.

I do support wake boarding and other towed watersports on Shawnigan Lake. However I do not support disrespectful use of our lake or excessive waves in the tighter areas of our lake. In conclusion, I believe that

wake awareness education starts when a person purchases a boat and when they put it in the lake.

I look forward to working with the lake watch group on this matter, as do all of our friends that respectfully wake board on Shawnigan Lake.

Please feel free to contact me on this issue

Jim Lindsay

Resonse to letter from Jim Lindsay

Dear Mr. Lindsay,

Thank you for your letter. To answer your question about damage to the foreshore, you just need to look at the foreshore in any narrow waterway on the lake (particularly in the West Arm, or between the shore and the string of islands to the south), and there you will see the evidence which is mostly due to the wash caused by the endless parade of wake/surf boats that use these channels because the water is generally calmer.

We have had discussions with the RCMP and Transport Canada about the problem. Unless there are posted signs by the CVRD, restricting access to the areas within 100 metres from shore, there can be no enforcement unless the operators are violating the current 10 kph speed limit within 30 metres from shore.

At this time, we are open to suggestions for the signs in the proposed restricted zones, at boat launches, and perhaps replacing the old CVRD signs on all roads leading to Shawnigan Lake.

One idea is (as part of a designated lake map):

LOW WAKE ZONE!

UNDER 3 km/h

OR OVER 30 km/h

There needs to be an education process in order to let boat operators know what is acceptable on Shawnigan Lake.

Creating this by-law makes the most sense. Once it is in place, it can be enforced by the RCMP, so that when violators are fined a few times, maybe they will get the message!

Early in the new year we will be presenting the CVRD with an impressive number of letters from Shawnigan Lake residents in favour of our proposal, so we have time to hear any more ideas for the signs.

Best regards,

Shawnigan Lake Watch Group

It's time to shut this operation down before it's too late

Peter Fassbender is quoted in the Times Colonist (Wed Nov 18) as saying: "it is not the role or the intent of the government of B.C. to force anything on local communities that the local communities don't want themselves". We can only wish that were true!

My wife and I relocated from Nanaimo three years ago to Shawnigan Lake to enjoy the serenity of our retirement years near the village, only to find that our drinking water risks degradation from possible leachate created by the SIA contaminated soil treatment site. It was the B.C. Government that permitted this to happen, despite the objections by the vast majority of Shawnigan Lake homeowners.

Driving (carefully!) to Victoria, we meet at least ten huge trucks headed for Stebbings Road with their toxic burden. One news source claims we are expecting a shipment of sulphur-contaminated soil to arrive from Port Moody. We, the residents, take all the risks while SIA and Cobble Hill Holdings rakes in all the profit.

It's time to shut this operation down before it's too late. Peter, what was your government thinking? Tell Mary Polak of your enlightened philosophy.

Respectfully, Paul Schmidt



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Shawnigan's Apocalypse Now

SIA – The sordid saga continues

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The last few weeks have seen a major escalation of activity at the SIA/SIRM quarry site where contaminated waste is being dumped as sanctioned by a permit issued by the Ministry of Environment. The community's response has also intensified. Last August we printed "A Brief History of the SIA Permit". This article continues near where that piece left off and covers June to November, 2015.

Jun-Oct: South Island Resource Management Ltd (SIRM), an offspring of Allterra Ltd, is recently incorporated and is under contract to Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd (CHH) to operate the contaminated waste dump on Lot 23. CHH ownership includes Mike Kelly and Marty Block. CHH is the official owner of the MOE Permit.

There is a flurry of activity at the site as SIRM makes costly improvements. Industry professionals are employed and a website is published; they clearly want to prove they can do the job right. There is much at stake with pending CVRD

and SRA litigation. It also appears that SIRM wants to quickly be operational in order to offset expenditures and make it harder to undo what's been done.

The community pays close attention. There is a prevalent opinion that even though the SIRM operation is an improvement over SIA, they will never overcome an unacceptable site location nor the legacy of mistrust due to the actions and deceptions of SIA/CHH and Active Earth.

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

Jul 9: The SRA files an application with the Supreme Court for several actions based on apparent fraud and perjury revealed by the OPCO agreement and other documents.

Jul 23: Supreme Court Justice Keith Bracken orders that SIA/CHH and Active Earth provide access to computers so relevant documents can be obtained.

Aug 6: The Association of Professional Engineers &

Geoscientists of BC starts an investigation into complaints filed about the conduct of Active Earth engineers Matt Pye, David Kneale, Jeff Taylor and David Mitchell.

Sep 2: An RCMP investigation starts regarding the actions of Michael Harry, former Malahat First Nation Chief. Criminal Code Sections 122 and 426 may have been violated by Chief Harry's conduct in taking "commissions", and also by the landfill operators who offered them, in return for Malahat support of the SIA Permit.

Oct 4: Environment Minister Mary Polak states: "the ministry remains confident that the Permit and accompanying conditions make it perfectly safe."

Nov 2: The CVRD zoning challenge begins in Supreme Court. A CVRD news release says: "CVRD legal counsel will present arguments and evidence to support the CVRD's position that the facilities at the South Island Aggregates' quarry in Shawnigan Lake are not permitted uses under the zoning for the property." Unfinished at the end of the week, the case is rescheduled to continue Nov 23rd.

Nov 6: The SRA files another application with the Supreme Court seeking, among other things, a stay of the Permit. The initial application will be heard Dec 7. More court time is expected to be scheduled for two weeks in January. A 436 page affidavit is attached which contains some outrageous material. Examples include:

Dec 18, 2012 email from David Mitchell of Active Earth to Mike Kelly, Marty Block and other AE engineers:

"Heading into the final week before X-Mas, I thought we should touch base to see where MOE is at with everything. Has anybody talked with Luc or Hubert in the past week or so? Are we still on for a X-Mas present under the tree?"

Note that Luc Lachance and Hubert Bunce signed off on the Permit for the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Feb 5, 2014 email from Marty Block to Active Earth engineers (typos fixed):

"... I think we are also in agreement that the cost at the receiving site and fees to First Nations must also be

paid. I am hopeful that in the future we won't have to deal with First Nations but, that being said, we must be in agreement that they get paid first, in fact they normally hit us up before the damn job even starts, for example, we sent them to Vegas for New Years that was on the hope they would still allow us in, which they did of course and all is fine."

Nov 9: Activity at Lot 23 increases dramatically. Convoys of trucks are dumping material directly onto the liner from an embankment. Large excavators and a bulldozer are working the material with, what appears to be, significant risk to the integrity of the liner.

In response to protester activity CHH and SIRM file an application with the Supreme Court seeking restraining orders against Shelagh Bell-Irving, Shawna Green and Persons Unknown. A separate civil claim is also filed seeking damages and citing interference with commercial activities, nuisance, and civil conspiracy. From the associated affidavits it is revealed that SIRM has a major contract to receive 60,000 tonnes of contaminated material that is being barged to Nanaimo and then trucked to the SIRM site at 460 Stebbings Road.

Nov 12: In provincial Supreme Court, Justice Gaul and a packed gallery listened to several hours of argument from John Alexander (lawyer for CHH/SIRM) about what a serious threat the protesters were. Ms. Bell-Irving was singled out as a particular danger. Unrepresented, she asked for a two week adjournment in order to seek counsel. This was granted along with an interim injunction restraining the defendants. The case is scheduled to resume Dec 3rd.

Nov 13: Friday the 13th for SIRM – a cold and wet day - dump-trucks and protesters



Truck off the edge

Shawnigan Focus

arrive at the SIRM gates at first light. About 8:30am the RCMP arrest Jay Huumonen and Carolyn Dowell. They are released on a promise to appear in Duncan court on Jan 26th.

The first heavy (but not extreme) rain of the season has resulted in multiple problems with the site-design. A significant seep formed a new stream coming from the landfill area on Lot 23. This runoff looks like it is coming from the active landfill area and is flowing onto CVRD property and merging with runoff destined for Shawnigan Creek. Other concerns are noted. The settling ponds do not appear to be working as designed; any water collected quickly leaks out through the bottom; a significant flow of subsurface water is heard flowing from the site in a downslope direction.

As a result, Island Health issues an unprecedented DO-NOT-USE Water Advisory for the south end of the lake. The community is alarmed and there is considerable media attention.

Nov 16: The weekend has allowed time for the community to mobilize. A “Peaceful Protest” sees 100+ people at the SIRM entrance on another wet and cold Monday morning. No trucks though as the company is still scrambling to fix things from Friday and they also knew about the rally. MLAs Bill Routley and Andrew Weaver are present as is MP Alistair MacGregor. Soil dumping in the Shawnigan watershed makes for a lively afternoon debate in the Legislature.

Nov 17: Tuesday: A raging wind and rain storm; fewer protesters but still quite a few more than the “core” group; stalwart CHEK TV is there too. The issue is attracting mainstream folks who normally wouldn’t be braving another cold and extremely wet morning. Umbrellas are blown inside out and everyone is quickly soaked. A few trucks arrived at 6am and got inside the gates before the protesters arrived.

A group decides to walk the back perimeter to see how the water runoff issues are with the storm. They get to a viewpoint just in time to record a major

breach of contact water on the landfill. Pouring rain and strong winds are causing havoc while SIRM workers struggle unsuccessfully to put things right. Giant tanker trucks are called in an attempt to capture and remove the contaminated water. It is an apocalyptic scene. The second storm of the season has confirmed that there are major flaws in the engineered design that SIRM has inherited from Active Earth.

Island Health lifts the Water Advisory in response to MOE tests which reveal no serious levels of contaminants. MOE is strangely silent on the design flaws and other issues that have been revealed.

Nov 18: Things are settling into a pattern. Protesters arrive about 6:30. No trucks with PCT soil today though – there has been a tragic accident on the Malahat and southbound traffic is backed up to Mill Bay. SIRM is very busy attempting to fix things that have gone wrong.

It has become apparent that the 60,000 tonnes of contaminated material originates from land in Port Moody operated as a sulphur depot by Pacific Coast Terminals Ltd (PCT). It is being loaded onto barges and towed to berthing facilities at Duke Point operated by the Nanaimo Port Authority. Diana Dilworth, Community Relations Coordinator for PCT, issued a “clarification” stating: *“PCT has, and continues to meet, all legal requirements related to the transfer of non-toxic soil from its Port Moody terminal to the South Island Aggregates (SIA) site.”* She did not reply when asked to define “non-toxic”. The value of the contract is allegedly in the neighbourhood of \$5M. SIRM’s bid was evidently half that of the next most competitive tender. Ms. Dilworth also happens to be a councillor for the City of Port Moody. Social media has been buzzing with criticism about PCT unloading their dirty dirt in the Shawnigan watershed. One noteworthy fact: Active Earth engineer David Mitchell, the same fellow suggesting Xmas presents for MOE staff, is the Qualified Environmental Professional who signed the Waste Approval Application for the PCT deal.

The whole thing reeks of potential conflict-of-interest.

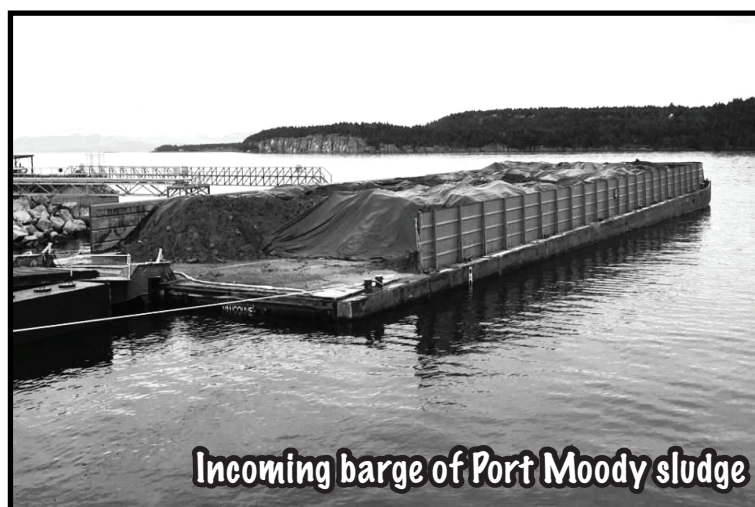
Nov 19: Bright and sunny for a change; protesters arrive early and block the entrance. A convoy of trucks arrive with loads of “non-toxic” Port Moody dirt. It seems odd that PCT is willing to pay millions to get rid of the stuff. The trucks are delayed for a few hours. Todd Mizuik, one of the Allterra/SIRM owners, attempts to “serve” targeted individuals with what appear to be copies of the interim injunction against Shelagh Bell-Irving. It is not clear what this implies, or if it is just posturing. The RCMP arrive and a long line of trucks begin to roll onto the site.

As usual, a group of protesters hikes up behind the site to see what is happening. It is a hive of activity with trucks backing up to the edge of the embankment to dump their sulphurous sludge. They all have pup trailers which must be jackknifed out of the way in order to dump the main box. One unfortunate driver has backed his pup off the edge where it sits dangling. The excavator working below (on top of the liner) has to claw its way up to push, while the truck pulls, and the trailer is rescued. Terms like snafu, fubar and gong-show come to mind.

Some good news for the protesters: MOE has sent a stern letter to CHH (owner of the Permit). Mike Kelly and Marty Block are given until 4:30pm Friday, November 20th to provide a response that *“demonstrates the Permittee’s immediate action and short term plans to ensure compliance ... specifically regarding water management and use of authorized works on the property.”* An unsatisfactory response may result in “reduction or suspension of operations.” This follows from an Inspection Record which cites numerous incidents of non-compliance resulting from events of Friday, November 13th. Meanwhile, Mary Polak is still giving the impression that all is fine!

Nov 20: The week concludes with another sunny day, committed protesters and blocked trucks. The established pattern continues; wait for the RCMP to arrive and then move when requested. The trucks are stalled for a while and arrests are avoided.

There is a lot of Port Moody sludge on site now. It is foul and very wet; excavators become stuck, worker’s boots are sucked off their feet. Questions are voiced about compliance; are they really allowed to receive stuff like this? Are they allowed to dump directly; shouldn’t it go through the soil management area first and be inspected? You can smell it as you stand above and look down



Incoming barge of Port Moody sludge

at the lake below – it makes you sad.

Nov 23-27: Another week of determined protesters. Trucks are stopped, the police arrive, the trucks eventually get through. You can sense growing anger and frustration on both sides.

On Monday, a barge from Port Moody has been orphaned. Only partially unloaded from the previous week, it has lost its berth in Nanaimo and is seen headed south in Saanich Inlet, presumably to dock at Bamberton, now owned by the Malahat First Nation. For some reason it is refused and turns away. A big thank-you to new Chief Caroline Harry may be in order! After many hours of wandering around in the rain with poorly covered soil seeping Port Moody pollutants into the ocean, the homeless barge ends up back in Nanaimo.

People in Nanaimo are also becoming aware of the issue. After viewing one of the barges, Paul Manly writes: *“We don’t want the Port of Nanaimo facilitating the travesty in Shawnigan Lake. We are also concerned that the soil on the barge was not covered and we don’t want contaminated soil being unloaded at the port or trucked through the community.”* On Thursday a group of protesters attempted to stop trucks that were headed for Shawnigan.

Also on Thursday, Todd Mizuik tells a TV crew that what SIRM is doing is perfectly

safe. He says it is necessary so people in urban areas can have safe places to grow tomatoes and for their kids to play. It appears that it is okay to jeopardize Shawnigan water so that Port Moody residents can grow tomatoes!

On Friday morning, after several days of bright and cold weather, things took a nasty turn. A truck driver from Wee Bee Hauling Ltd began venting his frustration with a string of vulgar insults at various protesters. He then physically assaulted a woman who was recording the event on her cell-phone. Captured on video, the scene shows an out of control and violent bully. The majority of the drivers are professionals; some are sympathetic to the issue, while others believe Mary Polak when she claims we are just NIMBYs. This isn’t about the truck drivers though.

There has been no word from MOE on their ultimatum. The CVRD zoning case is in progress. The SRA case is coming up. The site continues to receive thousands of tonnes of contaminated material. SIRM scrambles to fix a site that may be unfixable. The community will not back down. No amount of intentional risk to their drinking water is acceptable. The site is wrong. It should never have been considered in the first place.

To be continued ...



Boot sucking poisonous bog

Water Quality Concerns?



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Shawnigan Focus

Area B Parks Report

Margaret Symon
Chair

A Wish List for our Parks

Thanks to all the terrific fundraising efforts. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see Baldy safely enconced in a new park?

- ★ Our current museum is bursting at its seams. How about a bigger and even better Shawnigan Museum in expanded premises – attached to a public washroom?
- ★ Ever tried finding Elsie Miles on the CVRD website? How about a link on the website – in addition to signage in our community directing us

to Elsie Miles Park?

- ★ Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park yearns to be used – more. Let's fill it with sports bookings – soccer, football, softball, lacrosse, etc.
- ★ Now that we have a long-term lease on West Shawnigan Lake Park, let's plan how to make better use of this under-utilized park. What would you like to see at West Shawnigan Park – a tent-site (next to the Trans Canada Trail?), a boat launch? (safer location than at the Government Dock), a nature playground for kids? What else?
- ★ ...no more vandalism to parks?
- ★ We have very limited public access to Shawnigan

Lake and yet there are more than 70 gazetted public accesses to the lake. Let's work together to develop trail accesses to our lake.

- ★ Let's help our fire department by ensuring crucial fire department accesses to the lake are kept clear of obstructions.
- ★ If the "holly and the ivy" could stay with Christmas tunes, and out of our parks, we would be spared the effort of removing these and other invasive plants from our parks.
- ★ A completed TransCanada Trail...linking Canada coast to coast to coast.

Wishing you and yours all the best of this holiday

Great news for the Shawnigan Lake Business Association

With our 2015 AGM and new Board voted in - SLBA is off to a great next year! A strong commitment to local business success, community service, and economic vitality is the main conversation of this great core of our community. If you are a local business owner (home-based or storefront) you have the opportunity to become a member; participate in showcasing your business; networking, sharing resources; mixers and socials, and now some new and surprising opportuni-

ties...call us to find out more. AND - we know we will see you at the Shawnigan Light Up Event on December 6th... ask around see who you can spot that is already a SLBA member and, if they are not, ask them to become one!

New Board - Bonnie Cuthbertson, Brandy Gallagher, Patty Oldfield, Kathy Paton, Trina Burns, Dewar McCarthy, Sarah Davidge, Andy Cook, Alice Baal

Contact: (250) 480-8037
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New SRA Board for 2015-2016

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The Shawnigan Residents Association hosted its Annual General Meeting at Shawnigan Lake School on November 19th. A large audience turned out for the event.

The keynote speech was an update on the SRA legal battle against South Island Aggregates. Sean Hearn, lawyer for the SRA, gave an encouraging account of the next steps. They are attempting to schedule court time and anticipate two weeks in January. The legal documents are on the SRA website at www.thesra.ca in the Legal Action Archive. They contain very interesting and concerning details which are well worth reading.

A new board was also ushered in:

- ★ **Calvin Cook:** Continuing as President and chair of the Legal Action

Committee; 5th term.

- ★ **Al Brunet:** Liaison with the Municipal Status Committee; 6th term.
- ★ **Grant Price:** Continuing as Chair of Water Committee; 5th term.
- ★ **Dewar McCarthy:** Continuing as Chair of the Finance Committee; 5th term.
- ★ **Garry Horwood:** Past president; 8th term.

There are six new board members who will be serving their first term:

- ★ **Trent Abbott, Earl Belcourt, Brandon Foreman, Rod Garbutt, Rod Macintosh, and Jerrod Pinder.**

Two Shawnigan Lake School students are also on the board:

- ★ **Megan Cholack-Briand** (serving her 2nd term) and **Declan Powell** (serving his 1st).

Full biographies will be available on the SRA website at www.thesra.ca

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Shawnigan Creek Coho update



Ken Gray
Mill Bay & District Conservation Society

It is done!

After a busy few weeks, the trap has been closed down for another year. The final numbers of fish captured

and moved this year are as follows:

- ★ Adults- 1648
- ★ Jacks- 677
- ★ Total- 2325

Of that total, 115 Adults and 60 jacks were transported to Goldstream Hatchery to bolster their brood stock numbers. A special thanks from them, to all who helped on the moves down there. They had a very poor return this year, so we are glad that we were able to help them out.

Some spawners will be coming back to Shawnigan Lake School for their hatchery, from Goldstream, where they are being held until they reach

their full ripeness. This year’s return is down significantly from 3 years ago, but this seems to be the case for the entire BC coast. Ocean conditions and climatic influences seem to be the main reason behind the decline.

The ongoing battle to keep contaminated soil out of our watershed is another issue that we hope our salmon don’t have to deal with in the years to come. Please voice your opposition against the dumping of this material in the Shawnigan watershed.

Shawnigan Creek Coho returning home after three years.

In January, there will be at least 5000 smolts from Goldstream, released into

the creek to help bolster the small return last year. This is the first year, since 2007, that we have had a downturn in numbers from its mother’s run, 3 years previous. The large numbers of Jacks that returned this fall was very encouraging, and hopefully that will be an indicator of a strong return next year.

We, the Mill Bay & District Conservation Society, would like to thank all of you who contributed time to make this another successful year for the Shawnigan Creek Coho project. Without your dedication, this run would become non-existent within 3 years.

Well Done.

Landmarks

Elijah Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

As one community landmark comes down piece by piece, with a few last expression of surprise, regret, and sadness, another of Shawnigan Lake’s historic buildings faces an uncertain future. The original Malahat School (later renamed Shawnigan Lake Elementary), and more recently Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Church building, where a teacher named Elsie Miles once taught, has for the last few

months stood vacant.

The building located near the Black Swan Pub on Shawnigan-Cobble Hill road was built as Shawnigan’s first school in 1893. With plans to build a new church in Mill Bay, the Catholic Diocese sold the property earlier this year to its current owner. With expansion plans for his business Mark Osmond, the owner of the Black Swan, has offered the building for sale for one dollar to a new owner who will move the building off its original site.

Approached by members of the community who are concerned with the preservation of the building, Osmond has agreed to remain open to the possibility of preserving it at its historic location should the site be able to also accommodate his expansion plans.

With a large gathering space on the main floor, a kitchen, bathrooms, storage and a large meeting room on the ground floor, the building holds promise to continue serving the community. Indeed over the past year community

groups looking for a more permanent home, and individuals with ideas for possible use have expressed interest.

Landmarks anchor our community to our history through our collective memories. It would seem that the final opportunity to preserve one of the remaining few might be now. If you are interested and joining or supporting a small group of community volunteers in turning ideas into plans and action, please contact: malahatschool1893@gmail.com



Original school and annex



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Stop a bully

Ortana Parker
*South Cowichan
Community Policing*

There are some heartbreaking stories on victims of bullying in the paper recently. I too have a few personal stories relating to my children regarding bullying. One evening I found my daughter Sarah to be extremely agitated and depressed. Tearfully she lamented about going to school the next day. Illness is how she described her unwillingness to show up for class. I had a hunch it was something deeper. Her nervousness was so out of character. I noticed

that she was hovering over the computer so I decided to check it out.

It was the year 1998, Sarah and friends were instant messaging over ICQ. It didn't take me long to figure out the problem. Her best friend Sam had sent her a hateful message threatening her life if she showed up for school. I screenshotted it and brought it to the school. The principal was notified and Sam and parents were summoned. They were informed that this type of bullying would not be tolerated and if it happened again Sam would

be severely reprimanded.

I volunteered at the school and supervised lunch so as to keep an eye on what was happening. The second incident involved my son Scott, his classmates and friends Sandra and Christie and a deer leg. This is truly a bizarre story. It seems that Christie was very possessive of Scott's friendship and didn't like him chatting with neighbour and classmate Sandra. Christie was a bit of a bully and enjoyed verbally abusing and harassing Sandra. Early one morning I looked out my front window and saw Christie dragging a

long deer leg along the sidewalk towards Sandra's house. I immediately put on my coat and followed her. She threw the leg at the front door and was about to make a fast exit except that I intercepted her. She was laughing hysterically and thought it a brilliant idea to take the deer leg from her father's garage and deposit it at the front door. She was sending Sandra a message. I knocked on the door and had Christie apologize to Sandra. We all had a little chat and that seemed to clear the air.

I thought I would share these two stories because I know that

neither Sam nor Christie were terrible people. They behaved badly and were not aware of how their actions affected and hurt other people.

Today victims of bullying are no longer alone. STOP A BULLY is a registered national charity and Canada-wide anti-bullying program developed in 2009 by B.C. teacher Trevor Knowlton. It allows any student who is a victim or a witness of bullying and cyberbullying to be able to safely report the details to school officials. For more information contact: <http://www.stopabully.ca/>

International Fair boasts exotic culinary fare

L. Petersen
Dwight International School

Every year Dwight School Canada hosts an International Fair, where students from near and far have the opportunity to showcase the things that make their homeland unique. This year students from eight of the fifteen countries represented at Dwight organized a booth. The offerings were varied and met with enthusiasm.

The group from Mexico had a boisterous booth, where they offered Tostados with Chilaquiles and attracted customers

with party horns and festive pinwheels. Japan was represented in style with Takoyaki, made with octopus, and a sweet rice dish. The table from Germany offered homemade bread and informed us that, at 475, "Berlin has more museums than rainy days". The interns from New Zealand baked Afghan Biscuits and challenged students to pronounce "Aotearoa", which is the traditional Maori name for the island nation. The table for Jordan displayed an amazingly beautiful silver coffee service and offered phyllo pastries. The Canada booth had Timbits, naturally. China had a lively booth,

offering Coke Chicken Wings and Hot Pot, with customers getting into the spirit by calling and jostling for orders just like a street market.

The Hong Kong booth brought Vitasoy, a popular protein drink, and the table from Korea offered Kimchijeon that smelled heavenly.

Faculty and students purchased tickets to be traded for items to taste, and the delectable morsels swiftly disappeared. The fair was organized by the Interact Club, with money being raised to support the upcoming International Formal Dinner and other student-led activities.



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Our very own “Half Walkerton”: Day two, breach two

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Resident

The entirely predictable result of Shawnigan lake water testing by the MOE will be that there is little to no evidence yet of dump contaminants in the creek or lake water. It has been announced triumphantly that most of what is there is transported sediment from a number of sources, not the anticipated metals, hydrocarbons, chemicals or sulphur from the first lot of dumped material. That is, until the breach of a contaminant containment cell on day two of the current rainstorm and analyses yet to come. The MOE will hide behind this apparent short-term reprieve to suggest that the Island Health advisory was just a cautionary warning and that people can cease worrying about the safety of their lake water. The Minister of Environment will continue to insist that she is only following the science, not the actual evidence that every independent eye can see perfectly well for themselves. Only the quarry owners will believe the Minister or have any trust in her judgment or pronouncements. All of this will of course miss the point entirely. This is about a government's willingness to risk the safety of a public water supply long into the future, not what might have been narrowly missed in the very first rainstorm that the site owners experienced and failed to manage effectively.

The Minister of Environ-

ment, in response to questions, put by opposition members in the legislature, said that it was scientific bureaucrats who issued the permit and vouched for its ultimate safety. She steadfastly upheld the contaminated soil permit while the breach of a contaminated soil cell was at that very moment happening out there in the real world. She said that her scientific staff alone will determine if the permit is being adhered to in practice. She went on to say, yet again, that this provided for “no interference from politicians”. Presumably this might also apply to the Island Health bureaucrats that issued the “don't use the water advisory” and indemnifies the equally impotent Minister of Health, recently of the Environment portfolio, where he presided over a similar set of empty responses. Translated this means that the bureaucrats “following orders” contained in the legislation created by the sitting government, make the decisions, showing that the Ministers are actually unnecessary to govern, only to rubber stamp the decisions of their employees who of course can later be blamed if something goes wrong. Ahoy, Madame Minister, it just went wrong! Is it possible that you, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mines could muster the gumption to govern?

The Account

- ★ First: Management of water flow on the quarry site is not effective,

even in the face of an unexceptional winter storm, two breaches in two days is recorded fact not prediction

- ★ Second: The engineering system permitted by the MOE did not work in practice and it was community members who filmed and reported the breach, not the company and not the MOE
- ★ Third: This is just the very beginning. The risk to the lake of such failures grows with each allocation of dumped material and the growing likelihood of greater rainstorms in the future. Island Health acted properly, in a cautionary manner, so as to avoid the potential liability of being seen to do nothing about a threat to public health.
- ★ Fourth: Damage has already occurred to the community – property values, public perception of the state of the lake, impact on tourism, recreation, international school reputations and the sense of security of an entire community are all affected negatively. This will be very hard to dispel both economically and socially and raises the spectre of class action lawsuits to follow the million already spent by the community and the regional district in court actions.
- ★ Fifth: This is not just about the MOE's unwavering

faith in the engineering technology that allowed the permit to be issued, it is about their unshakable willingness to impose significant long term risks on the ecological integrity of a heavily committed domestic watershed while serving the exclusive interests of a private corporation.

- ★ Sixth: The ministry of Mines appears to be absent without leave and silent but should be front and center in dealing with a mine failure before they have a Mt. Polley situation on their hands in a much more densely populated area
- ★ Seventh: Citizens of the area are likely to block the arrival of trucks to the site thus risking arrest for civil disobedience. This will escalate community anger and damage individuals who genuinely believe that a contaminated soil site in their community watershed is simply wrong. Nothing will be gained by government in this process, but the loss of trust will be acute and prolonged.

The Bottom Line

When a health authority believes it necessary to issue a warning that is so drastic as to advise against even “touching” the water, let alone drinking it, government is put on notice that the risks are real enough and must be taken seriously. The current breach is a cogent

warning and its immediate social and economic consequences illustrate exactly what the community has feared all along. They were right. The provincial government was wrong. An apology and correction is required.

Heal it Now, before more damage is done

The credible response of government at this juncture is:

- ★ Don't double down on the discredited excuses that supported the original decision
- ★ Admit that issuing the permit was a miscarriage of process, a mistake
- ★ Apologize to the Community for harms already done
- ★ Fix it by revoking the permit before things get much worse
- ★ Compensate those whose interests have been damaged.

Failure to take immediate remedial action will be seen as a classic case history of avoiding leadership and abdicating responsive governance, not a matter of “avoiding political interference”. What is a democratically elected senior government for if not to respond to the strongly articulated interests of an entire community? Local government has shown appropriately responsive leadership. It is now, Ministers, your turn.



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Shawnigan Focus

Malahat Legion Branch 134

Comrade Win Teague
Public Relations Coordinator

Our Poppy Drive Coordinator Denise Holloway has already thanked the volunteers who stood outside the many venues in the south Cowichan area to sell poppies and the wristbands, which were new for us this year. The response from the many people that donated at each of these sites was truly amazing.

We had another large group that stuffed envelopes with poppies for our mail out campaign. Over 6000 envelopes were taken to the area Post Offices so that

everyone would receive 2 poppies in the mail. Responses to this campaign was excellent and are still coming in. Thank you all very much.

Last, but not least, a very special thank you goes out to the organizations, schools and stores and individual businesses that supported the Poppy Drive. This group always ensures the success off the Poppy Drive. As an ex-sailor, I would like to say “Bravo Zulu”, which when translated into English means “Well Done”.

The following is a list of this group that is not in any particular order:

MILL BAY - COBBLE HILL	★ Cobblestone Liquor	★ Country Grocer	★ Pharmasave	★ Acacia Lodge
★ Mill Bay Auto	★ Liquor Plus	★ Drumroaster Coffee	★ Liquor Store	★ Save on Gas
★ Serious Coffee	★ Pier 66	★ A & W	★ Thrifty Foods	★ RCMP Detachment
★ Rusticana Coffee	★ Rock Cod Café	★ Tim Hortons	★ Mill Bay Mall	SCHOOLS
★ CIBC	★ Valley View Gym	★ McDonalds	SHAWNIGAN LAKE	★ Brentwood College
★ CO-OP	★ Cobble Hill Post Office	★ Shell Gas	★ Post Office	★ Shawnigan Lake
★ Malahat Post Office	★ Arbutus Ridge Activity Centre	★ Whiskey Grill	★ Subway	★ École Cobble Hill
★ Laughing Lama	★ Ocean View Suites	★ Royal Bank	★ Rexall Drugstore	★ Bench Elementary
★ Rona	★ Great Greens	★ Subway	★ Chippery	★ George Bonner
★ Cobble Hill Market		★ Honey Pot	★ Aiken & Fraser	★ Francis Kelsey
★ Petro Can		★ Island Savings	★ Masons Store	★ Evergreen
			★ Black Swan	★ Discovery

Just a reminder to all: the money raised from this poppy drive will be used within our District to benefit Veterans and their families.

Old Hall Demo



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

A CHRISTMAS INVITATION

Come just as you are!

December 13th 4:00-5:00
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

by Donation

Young Seniors Action Group Society

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

To celebrate Christmas present there will be a Bake Sale and Raffle prizes in conjunction with the Legion’s Meat Draw on December 12.

Celebrating Christmas

When you read this article in the Shawnigan Focus, you will see that we seniors are a bit like Mr. Scrooge. We celebrate Christmas past (but only in a good way), Christmas present, and look forward to celebrate Christmas future.

We will have celebrated Christmas past by having participated in the Ladysmith Light-up on November 26. We will also have had a great time taking two buses to accommodate all of us to the Butchart Gardens to enjoy the great Christmas scenes there on December 5.

And then, on December 8, we will have had a great dinner with turkey, and full menu, including trimmings and desert. Volunteer Legion members will serve the meal and entertainment will follow.

The celebration of Christmas future is reserved for our families. This is the time to get together with our sons, daughters, grandchildren and friends.

We trust that you all will do the same and from all of us to all of you, MERRY CHRISTMAS and, of course, A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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

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Director's Report - Area B



Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

After what can only be described as a truly frantic last couple of weeks, I took time out with my family this morning to hike up an ice crystal-kissed Mt Baldy. We've been climbing Mt Baldy as a family ever since we started coming up to Shawnigan for our summer holidays, 13 years ago. Like many times before, we lost our way (for a little while) before we eventually found our way to the summit and drank in the spectacular views. Today the light, low in the southern sky, was shining off the golden lake beneath us and highlighting the mediterranean colours of the arbutus trees, hanging off the cliffs like acrobats. Today the sunshine at the summit was warm enough to evoke memories of summer, while the ice on the pond was thick enough to bounce even the biggest rocks we could find to toss onto it.

It was, like so many other hikes on Baldy, picture perfect. But there was one significant difference: we were not trespassing. What was until recently private property, owned by an investment group based in Alberta, is now Shawnigan's very own 250-acre community park.

Let me step aside from this story for a moment, and take you to Friday, November 13th. A small group of us went up to the park adjacent to the SIA site and found a fast-flowing stream of water coming off the quarry area and flowing down the slope and into the so-called "ephemeral stream". (I say so-called because "ephemeral" suggests that the stream only flows at certain times of the year, however we have found water in that stream year round, even at the height of last summer's drought.)

CVRD bylaw officers came to the site and submitted reports to staff at Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Mines. As everyone in Shawnigan is aware, this water flowing off the SIA site, bypassing its "water contain-

ment system" has resulted in numerous subsequent events. VIHA issued a do-not use water advisory that lasted five days, protests have taken place at the site every weekday since, media attention has increased enormously, and the Ministry of Environment issued a letter that stated they were considering reducing or suspending activity at the site.

Now we wait, and hope against hope that the Ministry of Environment will finally take action and suspend this permit. But we remember that this is the Ministry that allowed this process to start, this is the Ministry that has for years ignored our deepening concerns and ever-growing evidence that nothing about this site is acceptable, and this is the Ministry that has an extraordinary capacity to turn its back on our community.

Now allow me to jump ahead to Monday, November 23rd, when the first of four days of CVRD budget meetings was scheduled to begin at 9:00 am. Over the four days, we spent over 20 hours discussing and debating the 2016 draft budget. Each of the more than 170 functions was presented to us for approval, and some of these discussions took quite a bit longer than others.

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Like many of my fellow Directors, I was keen to find ways to decreases to the requisition, and we were successful on a number of fronts. Some of the reductions we made included: \$90,000 decrease to Solid Waste, \$238,000 decrease to Economic Development, \$97,938 decrease to Kerry Park Recreation, and a \$46,932 decrease to South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan.

But there was one significant increase for Shawnigan, and that is to Community Parks. This increase was necessary to ensure the purchase of Mt Baldy.

I had hoped to raise enough funds to be able to secure this land without having to impact the requisition – to do that we needed to raise \$500,000, which was 1/3 of the purchase price. But with all that has been happening these last few months, and with the very real need for the SRA to be raising funds for their legal efforts, it was a challenging proposition.

Two families made extraordinarily generous donations of \$50,000 each (one of the families donated a lump sum, the

second is donating \$10,000 per year for five years). We had a fundraiser in October that brought in nearly \$9,000, thanks to the generosity of so many local businesses that provided amazing silent auction items, and to the generosity of those who came out. And over \$6,000 in donations have come in to the CVRD over the last month.

I had to make a choice. After I initiated communications with the owners of Mt Baldy nearly a year ago, CVRD staff engaged into negotiations and eventually entered into a purchase agreement. As the closing date drew near, based on the positive response from the Shawnigan community and the long-term goal of acquiring this mountain as a park, I believed that committing to this purchase was the right thing to do.

The increase to the Area B Community Parks requisition is higher than I had hoped, but donations are still coming in. I hope that people can agree that preserving and protecting Mt Baldy forever is worth it.

This number will decrease each year, as more donations

come in and as other costs – the loan for the Elsie Miles property, for example – are alleviated. After five years, the loan will be fully paid, and the Community Parks budget will be reduced to its previous level.

Two other interested buyers approached the owners after we had entered into a purchase agreement. The land was zoned F1, which means that it could have been further logged. Or the owner could have fenced off the entire property, restricting access to the public.

Now, this mountain belongs to our community in perpetuity. It is our Beacon Hill, our Stanley Park. It is the legacy we leave to all future generations of Shawnigan Lake.

And in the midst of what can seem like an endless nightmare, I believe that we have to continue to dream big dreams, and we must continue to work towards the future that we truly want. Mt Baldy is an integral part of that future – a stunning mountain that brings ecological, social, and recreational value to our wonderful community.


FRACKING UP OUR COAST:

THE MALAHAT LNG PROJECT RECONSIDERED


Wednesday, December 9th
7:30-9pm

STEELHEAD LNG is heavily promoting its proposed Malahat LNG project, which would process 900-million cubic feet of fracked natural gas per day and store it in a massive floating offshore facility at Bamberton.


Join us for this FREE town hall meeting to hear some alternate points of view. Speakers will discuss the overall need to divest from fossil fuel projects, specific concerns regarding this project, and alternatives for the future.



GUY DAUNCEY
author, founder of the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association, co-founder of the national organization Prevent Cancer Now, and co-founder of the Victoria Car Share Cooperative
earthfuture.com



ADAM OLSEN
B.C. Green Party interim leader and founder of the Saanich Inlet Network
greenparty.bc.ca/meet_adam
saanichinlet.net






LAUREL COLLINS
UVIC instructor and Divest Victoria organizer
divestvictoria.org

SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE
2804 SHAWNIGAN LAKE ROAD

#FossilFree #NoConsentNoLNG #KeepItInTheGround #RenewablesNow #Divest

special thanks to our local community sponsors:
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Unwavering community support

Sally Davies
Shawnigan Focus

On Nov. 12, Shelagh Bell-Irving appeared before Judge Gaul for what was a chambers application to place an injunction upon her and Shawna Green by Cobble Hill Holdings to prevent them from demonstrating on a public road or posting a “call to action or criticism of SIA” on social media. Shawna Green was not present.

Shelagh spoke in her own defense and requested an adjournment to seek legal counsel and prepare her defense. The case was adjourned to Dec. 3. Judge Gaul stated that he would not be seized with the case because of scheduling constraints, meaning that another judge could possibly be sitting for the next court date.

A temporary order “by agreement” with Shelagh was reached prohibiting her from blocking, stopping, or impeding with, or without, a motor vehicle truck traffic on Stebbings

Road. The courtroom was almost full with observers, a fact that did not go unnoticed by the judge who said, “I’m assuming the gallery is not here just to listen to me”. John Alexander, the lawyer for SIA, was uncharacteristically subdued and non-combative when asked by the judge to source and refine his arguments.

In my opinion, this action is a gift, elegant in its simplicity, to those of us fighting for our watershed. All we have to do is “show up” to quietly and respectfully observe the court proceedings. In so doing, we convey to the courts and the government that we do not take this threat to our civil liberties lightly.

As we live in the shadow of Bill C51, a product of a deposed Federal Govt., paranoid and suspicious in the extreme, a Provincial Govt. who appear to be in collusion with corporate interests, and a main-stream media that is largely indifferent to our plight we must step up and let the powers



that be, know that we are watching and committed to protecting our watershed.

Let’s overflow the courtroom, for this and the other two proceedings against SIA.

I hope to take my grandchildren out of school for this lesson in democracy.

Please spread the word - It was made clear that the lawyers for SIA closely monitor Facebook and Twitter, so be careful what you say.

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

(data to Nov 29)	November Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014
Average High	8.3	8.6	9.1	8.8	9.3	9.7	10.1	9.4	9.2
Average Low	2.4	1.6	2.0	0.3	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.8	2.2
Extreme High	20.0	13.2	15.1	13.4	15.0	13.5	15.8	13.5	15.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	-3.6	-7.2	-5.4	-8.2	-4.4	-7.7	-4.5	-7.5
Precipitation	214.6	170.7	130.7	191.5	155.5	156.5	132.5	177.8	141.6
Days w precip	21	16	18	16	19	16	22	14	16
Year Precip	935.4	932.6	1168.4	948.4	1122.6	825.2	985.1	910.0	1062.0
Rank since 1914: 51 st coldest/warmest, 49 th wettest									
Lake Temperature:	Nov 1 st : 13°	Nov 8 th : 11°	Nov 15 th : 10°	Nov 22 nd : 8°	Nov 29 th : 6°				
Lake Level Change:	Nov 1 st : +14cm	Nov 8 th : +15 cm	Nov 15 th : +39cm	Nov 22 nd : +19cm	Nov 29 th : -28cm				



Advent(ure)
Feastival
December 5th

Brandy Gallagher
O.U.R. EcoVillage
www.ourecoVillage.org

Come one - come all...this local Community Dinner is a great way to celebrate the adventure of the season in what ever way you like to celebrate. With incredible community music, storytelling and just plain good old fashioned and down home local food feasting. We put on all the wild turkeys and free range domestic duck - you bring the sides... and maybe your guitar; your best song to share; poetry; stand up comedy; you name it and OUR team will spin it with you. We have dessert making coop-ition, some prizes, and libations.

OUR ECOVILLAGE open house day with beautiful tours and fun...for each and everyone!

CELEBRATE the winter holi-

days and close out the events of the year.

This community event has all kinds of ‘value-added’ entertainment and features a delicious collaborative dinner—we provide the mains, you bring the sides. Tickets are \$20+ your potluck contribution and are free for our Straw-level (\$20/month) Sustainers (though please register to ensure your seat).

While we are still finalizing our schedule for 2015, 2014’s event featured a native plant medicine and bow drill workshop, apple crumble making in the kitchen, clothing swap, tour of the Village, live music, storytelling, DJ, singing bowls performance, dancing, an overnight option, brunch, yoga, sauna, breathwork, and more! Check back closer to the time to see what 2015’s Adventure Feast will entail.

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Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

For the past few months I've been trekking around Ladysmith not only because it's close, but also because it's quite lovely! Back in October I decided the family needed an exploration and off to Transfer Beach in search of the Marine Trail we went.

The starting point was at the main Transfer Beach parking lot by the cute splash park that overlooks Holland Bank. We ran around the field to the left of the park, climbed onto old logs and went around to the Amphitheatre. Apparently the Amphitheatre often hosts events such as musical concerts, logger sports and other such fun things throughout the year. And I can see why as it's a wonderful place and I am inspired to put one of these events on my 'list to do'.

After the climb over built in cement bleachers take a spy with your little eye to a gate to the right. This gate marks the entrance to the trail that takes you down to a cool eclectic charcoaled beach at Slack Point, complete with a burnt boat (at the time we were there), a cabin poking out from a sunken boat and a charming seating area created by a creative soul!

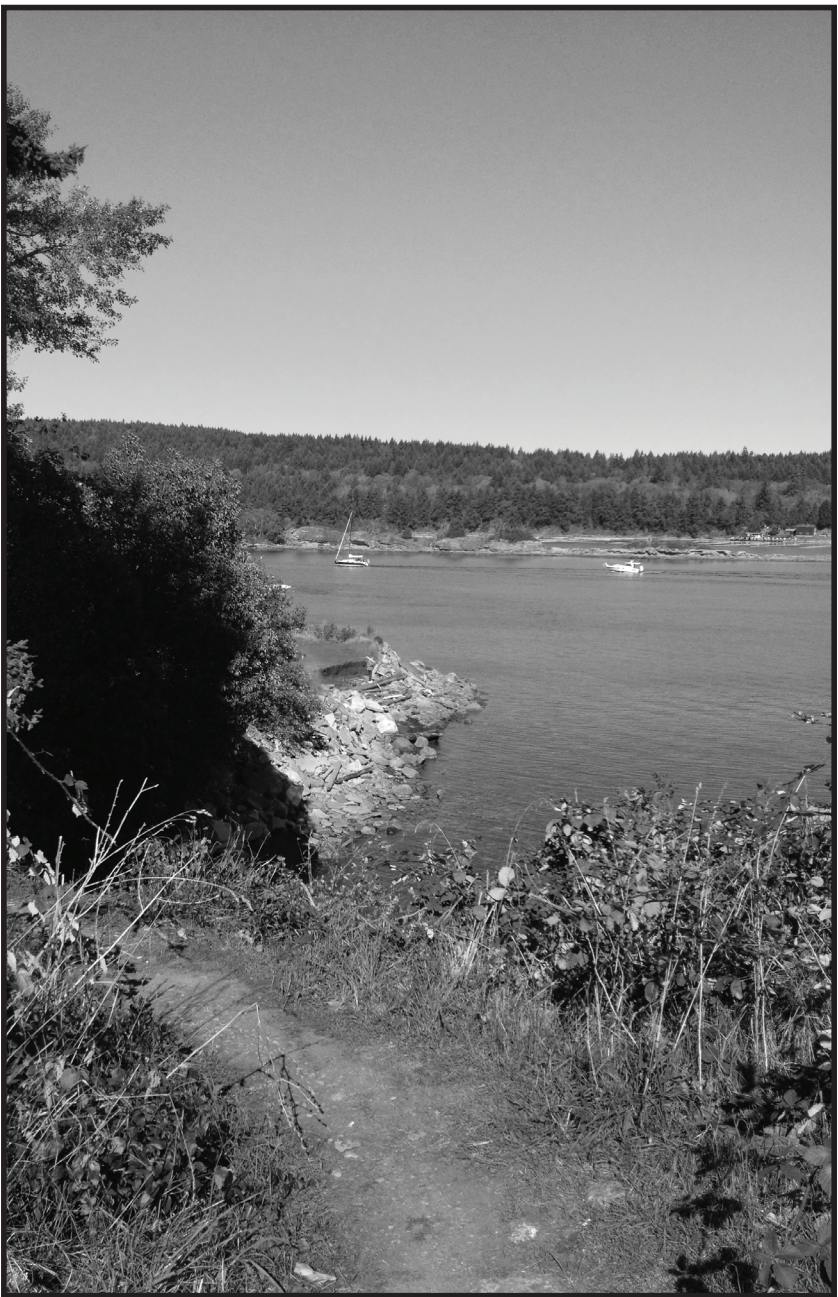
At this point you have two choices -

you can either walk the shoreline (if tide permits) or you may pop back onto the main trail (which is an oldish broken road) through a subtle path in the forest at the left end of the beach. The Marine Trail is a 2-3 km walk for all fitness levels. Along the way you will see petroglyphs, old boats and equipment, and it also takes you to Fisherman's Wharf and the Maritime Society. Once at the Museum and the Lumberyard shortly after, you can turn up and head back along the road and past the heritage rail equipment OR head down to the right to the road around the bend and up the hill watching for the trail posts to cross the highway to find the Heritage Walk Trail (which returns to Transfer Beach).

While at Transfer Beach, also check out Ladysmith's Arboretum Park, which is just past the beach and is rumored to have over 25 species of trees, both mature and newly planted. The trees include Pine, Cedar, Dogwood, Garry Oak and Sequoia. Here there are also adorable picnic areas, a little bridge and gorgeous flowers and foliage to enjoy.

We all had a wonderful time on this easy-peasy trail, and I think you will too!

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



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Road to Little Dribbling

by **Bill Bryson**

Published by Doubleday Canada

Copyright 2015 Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson has been a favourite author of mine for years and his first book about travelling around Britain, "Notes from a Small Island", is a treasure. Too bad this sequel is not. Having

said that, I must admit that my copy is dog-eared with pages turned down at the funny bits. Bryson can still have me in stitches as he sees the absurdities of the world and delights in the recounting of them. He describes his enjoyment of a pork pie, saying, "The British are surely the only people in the world who have made a culinary feature of boiled cartilage and phlegm."

Or, in talking about the weights and measures system he says, "But it's full of mean-

ingless units like bushels and firkins and kilderkins."

You point out, "They make no sense". "Of course they make sense," the British person will sniff. "Half a firkin is a jug, half a jug is a tot, half a tot is a titter, half a titter is a cock-droplet. What's not logical about that?" And on and on he goes, making the person reading beside you in bed half mad as you snort and giggle and read all the silly parts aloud.

However, Bill has become, like many of us, older and

crankier, and, as he travels around Britain twenty years after writing his first book, he sees that the changes are, for the most part, not for the best. Some of the towns have become shabby and depressed, while development encroaches on the beautiful green belts that have made the country so enchanting. He mourns for what has been and rails at the short-sightedness of town planners. We can all relate. Change does not usually respect the beauty of natural surroundings. His beloved countryside

is being pillaged.

Still, there are wonderful accolades to towns that work, museums that enlighten and views that lift the spirit. I'm just not sure that they balance the grumblings that permeate the book. I also can't help but think that an editor might have demanded more and helped him tighten some of the chapters. If you're a fan, you'll overlook the short-comings. Otherwise, let his earlier books be your introduction.

Rating: 3/5 stars



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Take charge of your holidays!



Anne Morrison
Counsellor and Therapist

As Christmas approaches, we often feel swept into a kind of frenzy as we look for the perfect gift, plan the perfect meal, get those Christmas cards out, and host the perfect Christmas gathering etc. Such expectations can be so wearing!

Let's pause for a moment and reflect on our best memories from Christmastime. For me, it was one Christmas morning when I woke up to the sound of bells ringing and looked out the window to see my older brother dressed up as Santa Claus and dashing across our lawn to the tune of

"Here Comes Santa Claus!" The magic of that moment, carefully orchestrated by my mother, brought me such joy as I exclaimed "I just SAW Santa!"

That memory has nothing to do with perfect meals or gifts or entertaining – it was created out of love for me and my other believing-in-Santa Claus, brother. Thank you Mom!

So I look at the holidays as a time to really reign in any impossible expectations which can suck the joy out of Christmas. Let's intentionally think about the kind of holidays we want to create so we can experience what we really yearn for inside.

I yearn for connection, peace, and a sense of belonging, that I matter to someone, I also yearn for time for my spiritual practice, giving thanks for all that I have been given and letting those I love know how much they mean to me. Not through the hundreds of Christmas cards I used to send out, but more through personal messages, such as a telephone call to my dear friend who was widowed last summer, visiting lonely folks who live in facilities, and creating special handmade cards for my grandchildren living in New York and Australia.

And the centre of my Christmas joy is music! I love all the choir music that I get to sing; it is so comforting, glorious, soothing and exquisite. We become one as we sing; it puts everything into perspective!

What do YOU want to experience this Christmastime? Here are a few gift ideas you can give yourself:

Pamper yourself every day and bask in what you love: a good read, music, a nature walk, tea with a friend, visit someone who is lonely. Have you ever tried adult colouring books?

Pace your socializing so that you do not exhaust yourself. Plan ahead for family gatherings.

What kind of contact works best?

- ★ Shop intentionally. Take your time. Give yourself the breathing room to make each purchase very personal.
- ★ If you find this is a particularly heart wrenching time, seek out a friend or counsellor who can be there for you.

Wishing you all peace within, between, and amongst us all – especially during this holiday period.

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Fax: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030
Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

*Department Members
Attended 22 calls in November*



- ★ Sunday, Nov 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 1 - 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Sunday, Nov 1 – MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday Nov 1 – MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 2 – Lift Assist in the Village
- ★ Monday, Nov 2 - 1st Responder off Baldy Mountain Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 5 – Burning Complaint on Wooden Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 10 – MVI on Meadowview Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 12 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 13 – Burning Complaint on West Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 14 – Burning Complaint on Elford Rd
- ★ Sunday, Nov 15 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 17 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 17 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 17 – Hydro Lines on Filgate Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 17 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 19 - 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Thursday, Nov 19 - 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Friday, Nov 20 - 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Sunday, Nov 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 24 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 24 – Chimney Fire on Morningstar Rd

Holiday Tuesdays for Children

Family Storytime:

Puppet Show:

Will Santa cure his cold in time for Christmas?

December 15

10:30 – 11:30

Musical children's time with Cheryl Baudin

December 22

10:30-11:15

South Cowichan Library

(Mill Bay Centre)

743-5436

all ages



Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

presents its annual

SANTA RUN

Wednesday, December 23rd

6 pm to 9 pm

Santa visits the Beach Estates starting at Ceylon Road, making his way to Linden Lane.

On the East side, Santa starts in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnum Park area.



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CLOSED : Christmas Day & New Year's Day

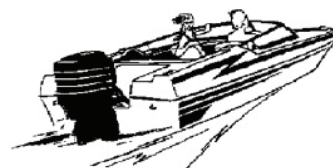


250-743-2122
At the 4-way stop in Shawnigan Lake Village

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenau@cvrld.bc.ca No Director's meeting in December. For updates: check www.soniafurstenau.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
No meeting in December. Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
No meeting in December
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
No meeting in December
- ★ **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)**
Village Light Up December 6th. Contact info@slba for information
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Public Meeting: Results of Herb Hammond's study - Wednesday, Dec. 2 nd 7-10 at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Everyone welcome.
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday. 11:00-4. Closed from Dec 21, 2015-Jan 28, 2016. Re-open Friday, Jan 29th. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for November was submitted by Lonnie Campbell who identified the sign at Acacia Ty Mawr.

Apologies to all for neglecting to put the return email (editor@shawniganfocus.ca).

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Shawnigan Focus

Join us for the 3rd Annual Shawnigan Shiver



January 1st at Government Wharf Park

- Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. - if possible, fill out the form below and bring it January 1st - a waiver is included.
- Take the 'plunge' at noon.
- \$5 Entry fee - Hat, hot drink, cookie and fun included
- Annual 'Shiver' button for swimmers that get wet to waist
- Sponsored by the Shawnigan Focus and Friends

More info: email editor@shawniganfocus.ca



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Shiver 2015

3rd ANNUAL SHAWNIGAN SHIVER

JANUARY 1, 2016

ENTRY FORM & LIABILITY WAIVER

NAME: _____ ENTRY NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ AGE: _____

RULES/GUIDELINES

- ANYONE WITH HEART PROBLEMS – JUST WATCH PLEASE!!
- FOOTWEAR IS REQUIRED due to safety concerns and the fact that numb feet may not feel objects in the water.
- SWIMMERS 7 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times.
- SWIM WITHIN DESIGNATED BOUNDARIES. NO JUMPING OFF DOCK.
- NO WET SUITS.
- DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL – it accelerates hypothermia.
- DON'T STAY IN THE WATER LONGER THAN 15 MINUTES. Body heat is lost 25 times faster in water than in air.
- DON'T REMOVE YOUR OUTER CLOTHING UNTIL SWIM TIME.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND INDEMNITY:

In consideration of the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization accepting this entry, I hereby acknowledge the inherent risk, hazards and dangers involved in participating in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim, including loss of consciousness, hypothermia, heart attacks and other life-threatening conditions due to large and sudden changes in environmental temperature. I hereby assume and accept any and all risk of my injury, paralysis or death and agree to abide by all Shawnigan Shiver Swim rules, regulations and guidelines. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors and administrators, hereby waive and release, indemnify and hold harmless the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization, their sponsors and any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits, expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care and negligence of any kind or nature, whether foreseen or unforeseen, arising directly or indirectly out of any damage, loss, injury paralysis or death to me or my property arising out of my participation in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN BELOW:

In consideration of the above minor being permitted to participate in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim, I, the undersigned parent and/or guardian of the above minor, or himself/herself and on behalf of said minor, hereby join in the foregoing release, waiver, assumption of risks and indemnity, and hereby agree to save and hold harmless and indemnify the Shawnigan Shiver Swim Organization, their sponsors and any volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, suits expenses, breaches of statutory duty of care and negligence made or brought by said minor or by anyone on behalf of said minor, as a result of said minor's participation of the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

Name of Guardian: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby confirm that I am in good physical condition and do not suffer from any disabilities or physical conditions that places me at risk or

otherwise should prohibit my participation in the Shawnigan Shiver Swim.

I hereby affirm that I fully understand the preceding paragraphs and volunteer to participate at my own risk.

Participant: _____ Signature: _____

Witness: _____ Signature: _____

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