



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Six - Issue Two

February 2016

A Non-Profit Community Publication

BATTLE AGAINST CONTAMINATED WASTE ESCALATES!



SLS students and staff from the air.



Raffi understands



Peaceful Protest



Thank you Doug!

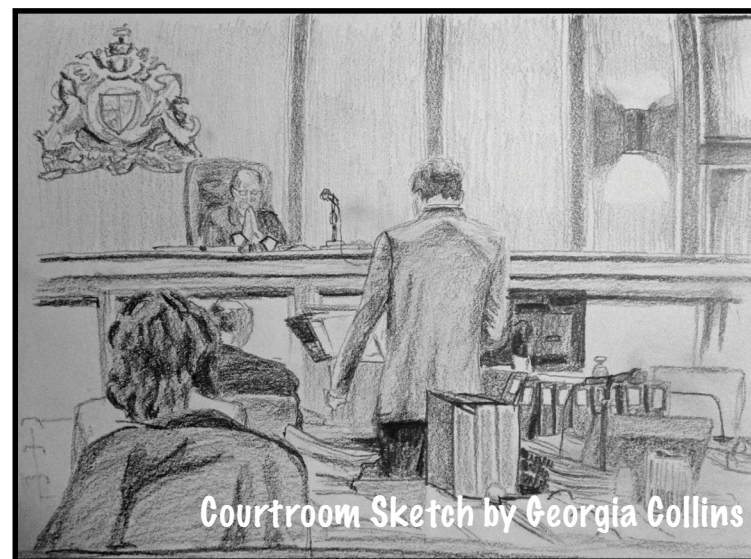
Photos above by Laura Colpitts (CopperBlue Photography)

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The Save Shawnigan Water Community Action Group and the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) have taken things to a new level. January 6 was "Media Day" where journalists, politicians and other public figures were able to view the SIA site from the air. This was synchronized with a "Peaceful Protest" of over 500 people on Stebbings Road, along with the entire campuses of both Shawnigan Lake School and Dwight International waving from the ground. It was remarkably well organized by dozens of volunteers, and was a great success.

The SRA application for a Judicial Review of the Environmental Appeal Board decision got underway on January 11. A packed public gallery listened attentively to incredible **allegations of fraud, perjury, secret deals, bribery, corruption, conflict of interest, and questionable engineering**. The Malahat First Nation is now supporting the SRA legal challenge. Justice Robert Sewell allowed an affidavit by Chief Caroline Harry to be included in the SRA stay application. The two weeks allocated were not sufficient for opposing counsel to complete their arguments so the case is scheduled to reconvene on February 15.

For much more detail on recent events please see: www.soniafurstenu.ca and www.thesra.ca



Courtroom Sketch by Georgia Collins

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS FEBRUARY 2016

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Shawnigan Focus endeav-
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Additional copies are
available in The Village.

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Shawnigan Moment



Bushcutter on the E&N Railway

Have you lost something...?

Over the past few years, the end of the West Arm has accumulated a collection of inflatables, small boats, dingys, and boat bumpers.

They are attached to or sitting on the docks. The boat bumpers are in the weeds.

If you lost something, come down and check it out...maybe yours is there.

Notice Board

Shawnigan Lake has a variety of issues to deal with...the most critical of which, at the moment, is the potential harm that may result from the contaminated soil dump on Stebbings Road.

To help write a letter to any level of government or to a local newspaper to voice your concern; join your neighbours at the peaceful protests at the SIA gates; donate to the SRA legal fund...or, be in court, starting Monday, Feb 15th at 10:00 a.m. to witness the legal proceedings.



[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=k_y0CjX7LY4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_y0CjX7LY4)

Bottle Drive Fundraiser:

Drop off your
bottles at:

'Island Return-It'

with locations at
1350 Fisher Rd and
6476 Norcross Rd.
Donate proceeds to:

SRA Legal
Action Fund

**The annual
community event,
"The Gathering"
has been postponed
until 2016.**

**Shawnigan Lake
Museum AGM
February 23rd at 7pm
at the museum
Everyone welcome.**

The Mill Bay Community League is holding a very important free information session with Dr. Eoin Finn to learn more about LNG and the negative impact the Malahat project would have on Saanich Inlet and our community.

Tuesday, February 16

@ 7:00pm

Mill Bay Community League Hall

♥ Roy Davies...



Will you be my
Valentine? ♥

Letters to the Editor:

Letter to Hon. Christy Clark

Premier of British Columbia

Dear Premier Clark,

On July 28, 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution # 64/292 which is titled "The human right to water and sanitation." In point #1, this resolution states that the UN ... "Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;"

Does our Provincial Government, and specifically the Ministry of Environment, recognize this human right? Does this right apply to the residents of Shawnigan Lake?

Thanks so much,

~Brian Costello

It's easy to spend other people's money

Dear Editor:

It's easy to spend other people's money and the CVRD are experts at doing that. The CVRD continues to waste millions every year on do-nothing departments like economic development even after they have been told about the mess there.

Planning for a 5% spending increase on their \$80 million budget in 2016 is obscene and another taxpayer rip-off because of the low inflation period we are in. These increases are simply to build the CVRD empire without any service improvement. Special interests get special attention and tax dollars from a CVRD board that rarely says NO, even for goofy ideas.

The Board could easily cut waste, spending and have a major reduction in taxes by simply representing taxpayers instead of the CVRD and special interests. The CVRD gives away most of its recreation and culture activities at way below cost.

In 2014 they gave away in secret almost \$500,000 in severance and golden handshakes to employees who were also rewarded with generous, fully indexed pensions. The Board members collected close to \$450,000 in pay and expenses and that will jump significantly as the Board has now given themselves many benefits that most taxpayers can only dream about. Most of us have to pay our own medical premiums but now we are forced to pay these for CVRD directors. Its about time Directors were prohibited from directly giving themselves more taxpayers money.

The CVRD budget process is a Mickey-Mouse, old style, amateur approach that hasn't changed in decades. First they give themselves and their more than 200 employees a raise every year, and without fail, the salaries, benefits and expenses increase. They simply add more money to most departments and always increase overall spending. Almost every legal action they take on, they lose at huge cost to Cowichan taxpayers.

The staff prepare the budget and the CVRD board rubber stamps the spending with minimal oversight or genuine review. The public is kept out of the behind-closed-doors process. There are never any real priorities or performance measures identified. Taxpayers were hoping for real change after the last Board election but the same-old, same-old continues as usual.

The CVRD have doubled spending in less than 10 years while the local, real-world economy struggles and taxpayers never see a raise in their incomes. The CVRD pays its head bureaucrats extremely well and they are now in the top 5% of Canadian earners. Is that really necessary?

The CVRD anti-business attitude is well known and reflected by their cavalier approach to taxing and spending. The CVRD continually abuses the Alternate Approval Process (AAP) to sneak through even more tax increases when it knows

these increases would fail if the spending was put to a real referendum.

It's time the provincial government steps in and protects us from the CVRD, their poor management of public funds and their disrespect for taxpayers.

W.E.(Bill) Dumont

Residents of this neighbourhood are in despair



Dear Editor:

I am writing to bring your attention to the waste that is being dumped along the Gregory (Utility) Road in Shawnigan Beach Estates.

I have called and emailed the CVRD (which has

lease rights to the road) but nothing has been done in response to my concerns. This part of Gregory, a road that gives locals access to a few homes and numerous trails, is now covered in household waste.

People are coming in trucks and using this utility road as a dumping ground for everything from unwanted suitcases overflowing with trash, to whole couches, and, as of this morning, various bins of household waste scattered everywhere. Residents of this neighbourhood are in despair over this dumping situation. It is unhealthy, unsightly, and completely unnecessary. We would like two things to happen: for the CVRD to bring in a truck and haul out all this waste, and for people to stop treating this area as a dump for their unwanted materials.

It's bad enough that toxic waste is threatening our Shawnigan Lake drinking water. Now we are dealing with waste being dumped on the fringes of our neighbourhoods. As a community, we want everyone to live peacefully in a safe and respectful environment. I am sincerely hoping that by bringing the dumping issue to your attention, something will be done to clean up the roads and trails. The CVRD leases this road and CVRD trucks are seen regularly driving this road, so surely our tax dollars can be used towards a clean up.

Once that is in place, the next step will be to remind the public to use the recycling centres we have nearby for just that purpose. Nature is fragile. Neighbourhoods deserve respect.

Thank you, R. Gilker



All in good time: Shawnigan’s water still under assault

Mary Desmond
Shawnigan Resident

Another year has swung into view and the festering sore of the Stebbings Road dumpsite is still seeping into Fitzgerald Creek. That this travesty of democracy is still operating under the auspices of the provincial government characterises their callous disregard for the well-being of a small rural community. But, though the Plain People of Area B may not matter much in the political landscape, the Liberals’ uncaring attitude toward one of the only three viable sources of surface drinking water on southern Vancouver Island is as dangerous as it is puzzling in its short-sighted stupidity.

Of the other two repositories, Sooke Lake remains an exemplar of purity, whilst Cowichan Lake, despite having suffered some resource based and development incursions, is still in comparatively better shape than Shawnigan.

The decline in the quality of Shawnigan’s drinking water was noticed decades ago, with the alarm bells beginning to softly chime by the 1970s. But the warning being fairly mild

in tone, most were lulled into a false sense of complacency and failed to heed it. Time drifted by, and eventually, tangible evidence in the form of «aquatic macrophytes», commonly known as «weeds», started their slow insidious invasion of hitherto clear parts of the lake. Their visible manifestation by the early 1990s, coupled with the ever softening and sludgy lake bottom, signalled Shawnigan was creeping closer to a state of eutrophication [swampy-ness, a prevalence of weedy growth]. The weeds may mask harmful parasites, and one of the species identified is actually «anaerobic» [not requiring oxygen]. Long before the latest in a long line of bogeyman, the toxic soil dump, lumbered onto the scene, the rot was already underway.

Intensive research conducted first by Dr. Rick Nordin, and then Dr. Aziz Mazumdar, both associated with the University of Victoria, confirmed our suspicions that the lake was in jeopardy. In their opinion, Shawnigan’s water quality was still basically good, but action was needed to preserve the lake and to stave off the threat of decay. The chief culprit appeared to

be nutrient loading stemming from household detergents, fertilisers, septic systems, and storm water runoff.

Bolstered by their studies, SLWW sought and obtained the promise of a watershed management review from Nanaimo MOE [Ministry of Environment] in 2001. For a fleeting moment, official recognition of Shawnigan’s water crisis seemed at hand. Sadly, this triumph was short-lived as the incoming provincial government under Gordon Campbell soon cancelled it. Though we could hear the alarm bells ringing vigorously, our concerns were dismissed with a disquieting sense of ease. Besides, the process, approximately \$200,000, or thereabouts, was deemed «too expensive».

The years passed; reports of «brackish» water in the south end of the lake and a couple of algal blooms were reported. In 2008, Dr. Mazumdar presented his latest findings at a public meeting attended by Area Director Ken Cossey and MLA John Horgan. Our fears were amplified when Dr. Mazumdar stated he would rank Shawnigan’s drinking water a merely creditable 6 out of 10, whereas Sooke Lakes merited a perfect 10. As the causes of Shawnigan’s malaise, cited again as failing septs and inadequate storm water systems, plus pollution from certain powerboats and poor logging practices, continued unchecked, we could hardly expect things to have improved. Nevertheless, the distress expressed yet again by the Plain People of Shawnigan and their elected representatives fell on the habitually deaf provincial ears. When Dr. Mazumdar met with the then Minister of the Environment, Barry Penner, and argued that it would be much cheaper, as well as more sensible in the long run, to prevent futher harm to our

watershed than to eventually fork out \$200 million for a water filtration plant, the Right Honourable Mr. Penner barely blinked.

Since that time, the pattern has stayed the same: the «lords» and «ladies» of government, smug and secure within their bastion of wilful ignorance, administering their blighted domain with arrogant indifference to the suffering of the «serfs» below. Perhaps they wish they could simply bulldoze the protesting «peasants» into the toxic pits, thereby silencing their troublesome clamour.

But we must not allow them to bury us. If we have not yet reached the point of no return, we are perilously close. Dr. Mazumdar’s recent findings reveal that the lake continues on its gradual trajectory of deterioration. Further, we may anticipate a more dramatic decline with Shawnigan becoming a «green» [eutrophic] lake within as little as fifteen years. When this happens, algal blooms will become more frequent, the weeds will multiply, and the water quality will be beyond redemption. Alarm bells should now be clanging furiously; unless draconian steps are soon taken, we will lose the lake.

Like it nor not, this means senior levels of government must be brought on side, and as quickly as possible. A more daunting task - especially where the provincial government is concerned, with its penchant for recalcitrant oblivion - is difficult to imagine. This being so, it could be advantageous to seek increased support from their federal counterparts. Yes, community drinking water falls under provincial jurisdiction, but due to the presence of Kokanee, an indigenous land-locked salmon, the lake may be classified as «salmo-

nid», hence qualifying it for some level of consideration.

Most importantly, as 77% of rural Canadians lack access to decent drinking water, the lack of a national Drinking Water Act, and the accompanying legal measures to ensure the standards are enforced, is a national disgrace. A clear and compelling commitment to every citizen’s right to safe, clean, and convenient drinking water should be enshrined in the Charter of Rights. I would encourage all to follow Dr. Moulaison’s example and to convey your opinions not only to our prime minister, Justin Trudeau, but our MP, Alastair McGregor, and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. Ours is not the only community with drinking water at risk; surely we could form a strong alliance with others across the country.

In a similar vein, when applying pressure to shift the provincial powers-that-be from their unhelpful stance, support from other B.C. communities also afflicted with «dirty dirt»/sullied water issues might produce greater leverage. Even if the soil permit is defeated on legal grounds, we will still have a witches’ brew of other pollutants to vanquish, and an extensive network of provincial/federal allies could prove invaluable in this regard.

In numbers lies strength; and the presence of thousands, rather than hundreds, massed together on the Legislative lawn creates a much more compelling impression of political solidarity. Sooner or later, and in our case the former would be vastly preferable, our collective shouts will cause the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down. It might not be with a bellowing of brass nor a crashing of cymbals, but if enough of us shout long - and loudly! - enough, then fall they will.

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Photo by Laura Colpitts

One interview at a time...



Laura Colpitts
Shawnigan Resident

This is one part of how a small community spreads the word and starts to get the story out. One interview at a time. One story at a time. And you never say you're not ready.

Sonia Furstenau really is the public champion of this cause. But she hasn't done it alone. There are so many people behind her, people who are helping any and every way that they can. It's grown to be an entire community, well and truly, and it's expanding daily.

That's why it is so powerful.

What you're seeing is what happens when you have a strong moral compass. Something is wrong, and you take action to correct it. Hurray for all the people who stand up and let themselves be counted as part of the solution.

As much as it would be easy to typecast the current situation as a bunch of skuzzy business operators doing the wrong thing, to do so would miss the overarching issue: Why isn't the government doing what they are elected to do?

Off the top of my head, that would be:

- ★ Respecting the will of the people
- ★ Erring on the side of caution when dealing with irreparable environmental harm
- ★ Enforcing and/or creating laws that uphold the rights and values upon which our society is based. Laws that provide the ways and means to protect us and the world we live in from the Bad Guys - because, as Flint and Shawnigan Lake aptly demonstrate, they are everywhere.

I am so grateful that there is a break in the current court case (re-scheduled for Feb. 15.)

Listening to the lies and baffle-gab is draining and exhausting. One thing I have noted as peculiar: it seems you have to work a lot harder to tell the truth. The onus thus far has been on Shawnigan to prove how the other guy is lying - and not for the liar to prove they are truthful. Here's hoping that case law, based on 'Fraud Unravels All', holds up in court.

In the meantime, as the story marches on, here is a beautiful way of explaining why this situation isn't going anywhere quietly. It came from a conversation I was having with David Robertson, the headmaster at Shawnigan Lake School. He said these words, and I pounced on them because they ring so true:

"That's the problem with bureaucracy - the process becomes more important than the human values upon which we base the very structure of our society. Just as the law should never be a way around justice, bureaucracy should never be more important than right and wrong."

Do you get that, Mary Polak and Christy Clark? Let's spell that out one more time:

- ★ 'Process' cannot be more important than Human Values.
- ★ 'Law', in the duck-and-weave way we have witnessed so far in court, should never be a way around Justice.
- ★ 'Bureaucracy' should never be more important than Right and Wrong.

Step up to the plate, ministers. It's past time to do your job.

Learn.

Act.

Pull the permit.

*Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates.
At the first gate, ask yourself, "Is it true?"
At the second ask, "Is it necessary?"
At the third gate ask, "Is it kind?" - Sufi Saying*

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SIGN UP to GET INVOLVED

Please contact Kelly Musselwhite at luvlife@shaw.ca



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Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Lake Curator

A museum is not just about the past. It is as much about informing the future.

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society is a not-for-profit, charitable organization established by volunteers, in 1977, to protect and promote the history of Shawnigan Lake and surrounding area. This dedicated group immediately began collecting artifacts and archival material that represented the stories of the area. They also took workshops and museum related courses to prepare themselves for the day that they would open a museum.

In 1983, opportunity knocked. The volunteer firemen had outgrown their fire hall in the village and built a new one down the road. The historical society took over the redundant building with enthusiasm. Garth Harvey, who helped to shape the old fire hall into a museum, said that, "For a while, we will rattle around like a few peas in a saucepan." Thirty-three years later the Shawnigan Lake Museum is still in the same building (which is now on the CVRD

Heritage Registry) and "packed like sardines" would be a more apt description.

After decades of donations of artifacts, and archival material from the Shawnigan community, and nearby communities in the region, we have outgrown the space. This hampers our ability to provide the programming and service to the community that we feel is part of our mandate.

We are proposing an expansion to the museum that adds a new building of roughly 2500 square feet, with a basement, next to the current building. There would be two access points from the new space through to the old – one to access the current display gallery and one to access the archives and research room.

This project will offer many benefits to the community, and region as a whole, which include a new public washroom for the village that will be integrated into the new space; a new courtyard/plaza space that would serve as a welcoming access to Elsie Miles Park; a new entrance to the museum that would allow visitors and groups to

assemble safely, and under shelter, rather than gather on the road allowance; space to adequately offer regular school programming; space to engage visitors through community outreach with events and speakers; an increased gift shop area to attract residents and visitors; more volunteer and summer student opportunities; a much needed transfusion of energy for the Village of Shawnigan Lake, and a museum that will flourish as a heritage attraction/destination.

More information will be provided over the next few months.

To offer comments, or ask questions about this project, please email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

If you think you might be interested in volunteering at the museum, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us by email or drop in to discuss what might interest you...research; chatting with visitors; administration; gift shop development etc. In particular, we are always looking a volunteer with some experience or interest in graphic design.



Site of the old 'hall'



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Cooling Off
17 1/2" x 25"
Mason's Beach



Lake Reflections
17 1/2" x 19 1/4"
View from "the Gov"



Missed the Boat
17" x 12"
Private Dock



FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

The first thirty people to **donate \$100.00** to the SRA will receive all three prints shown above, valued at \$400.00. This **set of three** is limited to thirty sets simply because I only have thirty "Cooling Off" left.

The first forty people to **donate \$50.00** to the SRA will receive "Lake Reflections" and "Missed the Boat," valued at over \$200.00. The **set of two** is limited to forty sets.

And so we have it: 30 sets @ \$100 = \$3000.00
40 sets @ \$ 50 = \$2000.00

for a total of \$5,000.00 to pay for the cost of another day in Court.

EMAIL:
[A DAY IN COURT \(adayincourt@shaw.ca\)](mailto:adayincourt@shaw.ca)
or visit Shawnigan House Coffee & Chocolate in Shawnigan Lake to pledge today and reserve your set, or sets, of prints.

Why am I doing this? As some of you know, before I moved to Cowichan Bay, I lived in Shawnigan Lake for over twenty years. During that time I painted more than my share of images representative of life at the lake, and eventually published the three limited edition prints shown above: "Cooling Off" at Mason's Beach, "Lake Reflections" viewed from the government wharf, and my boat that "Missed the Boat."

I enjoyed many walks to Mason's Beach with my dog Molly and would often continue along the tracks to the government wharf, and further still to the Old Mill Park. In summer, you couldn't keep us out of the lake.

NOW ALL OF THIS and more is being threatened by toxins including corporate greed and government complacency. The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) continues its ongoing battle to "Save Our Water," and the fight is now being fought in the Courts. Unfortunately, those with the deepest pockets tend to win by delaying/outplaying and outlasting...sounds more like the reality TV show *Survivor*, doesn't it? Court fees alone can cost up to \$5000.00 per day.

And that is why I feel impelled to enter the game and do my part by mounting a little campaign of my own to raise "A DAY IN COURT."

Shawnigan Residents Association: News & Events

#SaveShawniganWater Judicial Review:

The Judicial Review is scheduled to start again on Monday, February 15 at 10am through to February 26, 2016 at the Victoria Court House, 810 Burdett Street. Please consider attending to show your support for the SRA and Malahat First Nation

Fundraising:

As we proceed with these hearings, we are carrying a large legal bill. Please consider making a contribution to our Legal Action Fund. If you have already given, please consider making another contribution or challenging your friends and family to contribute. Fundraising plans are under way but we need your help now.

Contributions can be made online at www.thesra.ca

thesra.ca or cheques can be made payable to the Shawnigan Residents Association and mailed to PO Box 443, Shawnigan Lake, BC, V0R2W0.

Bottle Drive Fundraiser:

Drop off your bottles at ‘Island Return-It’ with locations at 1350 Fisher Rd and 6476 Norcross Rd. Donate proceeds to SRA Legal Action Fund.

Beer & Burger Night:

Join us at the Black Swan on Feb 20 for a great night of fundraising. Your \$25 ticket will get you a delicious Swan Burger (beef, chicken or veg) and a nice cold sleeve of beer. We will be holding a silent auction and 50/50 draw. Silent auction donations are welcome and details should be emailed to shawniganresident@sassociation@gmail.com

sassociation@gmail.com.

All contributions acknowledged on our Facebook page.

Tickets on sale now at Subway in the Shawnigan Lake Village. All proceeds to the SRA Legal Action Fund.

Raffi Concert at Island Savings Centre:

Thank you again to Raffi for being such a great supporter of #SaveShawniganWater through social media and now by holding a benefit concert. The concert will be held on Sunday, April 24th at 1:00pm at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre in Duncan.

Tickets are on sale online at www.cowichanpac.ca now or by telephone at 250.748.7529.

This is an event that the whole family will enjoy. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!



SIA Graffiti – Offensive or effective?

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The anti-SIA graffiti on the cement blocks near Mason’s Beach Parking area has caused a bit of a controversy. There appear to be three main opinions:

- 1) It is a good thing; irritatingly in your face; makes people aware so they can’t ignore the issue.
- 2) The message is warranted

but the aesthetics could certainly be better.

- 3) It is distasteful and illegal. It reduces credibility and helps the other side.

As a form of expression, graffiti is a complex topic, subject to strong opinion. With respect to this particular instance, it might be worthwhile to consider the following.

There has been at least one

groundless claim that the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) is responsible. It is not. Anyone familiar with the organization would know that the SRA does not condone or sanction this type of behavior.

“Adversity makes for strange bedfellows” is a classic quote stemming from Shakespeare. It is quite true for the “Save Shawnigan Water” coalition. The common cause to protect our watershed has brought

together a diverse assortment of groups and individuals. A significant side benefit is that it has strengthened our collective identity and resolve. Yes, there are mavericks, but we must remember who is willing to be out at dawn in the freezing rain, day after day.

While the lettering is primitive and does offend some sensibilities, it will eventually disappear. On the other hand, the contaminated

landfill will not disappear if the community allows petty disagreements to become rifts which interfere with the main objective.

There have been offers to clean up the existing lettering and replace it with proper signage. This remains an option and seems a more productive avenue of endeavour than complaining. Perhaps we should collectively make it happen!

OUR Ecovillage Notices:

- ★ Get in early for your ‘local persons designation’ which allows folks in the Cowichan area to do a full “skill-trade” for their \$2K education program in “Ecological Learning”, or “Permaculture Design/ Earth Activist Training” (with Starhawk and other international teachers/trainers/facilitators). Early registration: February 2016
- ★ “What the heck goes on up there on Baldy Mountain?” Come up for a tour and walk through OUR earthen/ straw-bale buildings. See many technical systems for ecological design, alternative energy, etc. Hear an educational presentation, and also a talk about Baldy Mountain becoming a park.
- ★ Call OUR office to learn more at 250-743-3067, or email info@ourecoovillage.org



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The Shawnigan Basin Society

Kelly Musselwhite
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Shawnigan Basin Society in partnership with The Shawnigan Resident’s Association invites YOU to a FREE Workshop on March 12 and 13. Help Spend \$5000 on Fore-shore Restoration!

Thanks to your local support in the Aviva Community Funding Cam-paign, the Shawnigan Basin Society has been awarded a \$5000 grant to move forward with foreshore restora-tion projects around Shawnigan Lake. Specifically, these projects can:

- ★ Enhance plant and aquatic habitat
- ★ Increase environmental biodiversity
- ★ Reduce sediment runoff - keep lake water clean
- ★ Mitigate the problem of erosion
- ★ Absorb and dissipate wave energy
- ★ Increase the aesthetic conditions of your property
- ★ Enhance opportunities for privacy
- ★ Protect overall ecological integrity
- ★ Restore ecological services at the micro scale

- ★ Please join us in a FREE two-day Foreshore Restoration Workshop.
- Day One – March 12th will feature experts on bioengineering/bioreme-diation for a day of theory. Come meet David Polster, an expert in en-vironmental restoration and member of our local Ecological Design Panel, and Carolyn Dowell, a Shawnigan resident, permaculturist, and organic master gardener, who will give presen-tations in their respective fields. Ask questions and get informed.
- Day two – March 13th will feature fieldwork for the hands-on training

with our leading experts who will oversee the implementation of a small project. At the end of this weekend you will know the tools, techniques, and materials used to transform locally vulnerable shorelines to more resilient lakeside properties. Put on your gloves and help build community!

Seats are limited so please register by emailing Kelly Musselwhite, Execu-tive Director for the Shawnigan Basin Society. For further information or if you would like to have your lakeside property evaluated for a future restora-tion project, please also contact me at luvlife@shaw.ca



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Wild in You

Text by Lorna Crozier
Photographs by Ian McAllister
Published by Greystone Books
Copyright 2015 by Lorna Crozier and Ian McAllister

I have been a fan of Lorna Crozier’s poetry for years and just recently discovered the wildlife photography of Ian McAllister. Both are very talented artists and so what a treat to have them brought together to create this little gem of a book.

The subtitle is Where the Forest and the Sea Meet, and the photographs, which are striking, are of bears, wolves, fish, ravens and whales. All of these creatures are shot in their natural setting of westcoast ocean and moss-laden rain forest. Each is worth a few minutes contem- plation to marvel at the beauty and mystery caught by the patient camera’s lens. One of my favourites is a wolf standing in the fore- ground, gazing out to the ocean and headland with the light coming through the dark clouds.

Here is what the poet Crozier does with this image:

Rain

A week of sun. Now the great spruce
sniffs the air. Rain is coming from far off.
Their branches stretch to meet it; the sound
rain makes when it runnels down the bark
is song to them, melody and naming.
Sniff the air. What moves towards you,
what black clouds ride the wind,
unraveling? Stand tall to meet it, this
opposite of light, this dark shining.

Does this partnership work? Absolutely, yes, it does. Crozier meets the magic of the photog- raphy with her own special enchantment of words.

I bought two copies, one for myself and one as a gift for a friend. I expect I’ll be buying more. You’ll find copies at your local independent book store.

Rating: 5/5 stars



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SLBA Mission

The mission of the Shawni- gan Lake Business Asso- ciation is to increase the profile of Shawnigan Lake businesses

and to support the community. Within this mandate, the SLBA works to achieve the following Strategic Goals:

- ★ Provide networking opportunities for Shawnigan Lake businesses
- ★ Increase public awareness of businesses in Shawnigan Lake
- ★ Increase Shawnigan Lake Business Association membership

Support initiatives that enhance the Shawnigan Lake community

- ★ Values
- ★ Respect
- ★ Community
- ★ Support
- ★ Commitment
- ★ Consistency
- ★ Guidelines
- ★ Support the community
- ★ Support the businesses
- ★ Having commitment and consistency
- ★ Holding ourselves to a certain standard

SLBA Initiatives

The following are some SLBA initiatives that sup- port local businesses and the community:

- ★ Shawnigan Lake Online website
- ★ Shawnigan Lake map - New Map coming soon!
- ★ Membership networking events
- ★ SLBA street hockey rink, used at many community events
- ★ Business seminars and workshops
- ★ Sponsorship of the Christmas in the Village, and other community events
- ★ Membership E-News
- ★ Cairn Park development (with the Rotary Club)

ShawniganLakeOnline.com
contact: info@slba.com

Love is a Powerful Force

Oriana Parker
YSAGS

Love can be a powerful force at any age. However, young love considered to be a mixture of naivety and fierce passion, can be all consuming. I'm sure you have heard skeptics say that romantic love will eventually fade away. But in the case of Helen and Denis Lainchbury, this Valentine's Day, they will be celebrating 58 years of lives well loved. Their story started after Denis joined the Navy. As destiny would have it, a ship was a necessity if he was to find the love of his life. It doesn't matter that he arrived on a navy ship HMS James Bay! He arrived!

While touring the northern islands of Canada's west coast the ship tied up at a pier in the Gorge at Cortes Island. Smiling, Denis recalls, "We were not long in port when we got word that there was a dance in the church hall. Three of us jumped off the ship. We happen to meet a little old lady by the name of Peggy who offered to give us a ride to the church hall." In the hall that evening was Helen's dad Herb playing the

violin and her cousin Ron on the saxophone. On this small island with a population of 300 everyone knew one another. As Denis walked through the door he recalls that feeling of being swept off his feet, "There she was with such a beautiful smile and long curly hair. I was entranced at first sight. She was 17 years old." Helen too found him to be irresistible in his uniform. When Denis returned to Vancouver, the couple began corresponding by letter. After his tour, Denis gained employment as a Radio Communicator for the Navy working for Aldergrove Radio Station.

Back in blissful Squirrel Cove, Helen would occasionally make the tedious eleven hour journey to Vancouver by freight boat to see him. Denis, on the other hand, would drive to Campbell River and charter a plane to Cortes Island. The long distance relationship proved to be unsatisfactory and the couple were married in 1960. The entire village were invited. "We didn't have to send out invitations, people knew they were invited" says Helen. The little church that, today, is a historical site, was located in Whaletown while the reception took place at Gorge Harbour. As



Denis put it "I whipped her off the island to a new life in Aldergrove!"

The couple lived in Halifax before being posted to Victoria where they had two children, a son Herb and daughter Katherine. They developed a lot and built a home on Shawnigan Lake. Denis also worked with the school board in Duncan as a bus driver. After downsizing and selling their home they moved to Kerry Village in 1996. Both he and Helen became active members of YSAGS and have enjoyed a variety of activities. They are excellent line dancers.

For more information on YSAGS (Young Seniors Action Group Society), and the programs they offer, you may reach Ed at 250-743-8344 or by email: ysagssl@gmail.com

Take A Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

I was feeling adventurous one Sunday morning in Victoria while my son was playing Lacrosse. Not that I don't enjoy watching games, but with two back to back - these feet get a little jittery!

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park was just around the corner and was at the top of my wish list, so off I went. Elk Lake and Beaver Lake is a two-part lake. However, at one time the two were distinctly separate lakes until a dam and filter beds were built creating a rise in the water level at Beaver Lake to match Elk Lake's producing one big body of water.

My access was the most visibly noticeable from the Pat Bay Highway for me. The Beaver Lake entrance has

ample parking, washrooms and a Nature Centre where volunteers are often available to answer any questions you may have about the park. Additionally, there are plenty of map boards, trailmarkers and brochures to guide you along with interpretive signs throughout for the inquisitive types.

Mentally, I decided to do half of the trail and double back due to time constraints. But as I trudged along and reached the half way point I reassessed and thought.... I can do this (even if I have to run)! And I'm happy to say that I do not regret that impulsive decision whatsoever.

The view from Pat Bay highway is absolutely picturesque indeed, but the real beauty is within its trails, trees, plants and terrain. The Regional

Park is a protected space and known for its vast multi-usages - from family friendly swimmable beaches, picnic areas, an equestrian centre, hiking/running/walking trails, of course, and also home to the Victoria City Rowing Club. Whether it's the rowers, wind surfers, fisherman or the many birds that inhabit the area, there is always something to spy on the water.

There are several access points. However, an illustrious kind of place is the Filter Beds Parking lot. These sandy lined filter beds (now under the parking area) were once constructed by the city to help purify the water supply following residential complaints of small fish and tadpoles coming from their taps. Can you imagine?!

There are some pretty great

spots on the trail, from windy swamp paths to wooded boardwalks along the concrete wall parallel to the highway. The trail grade is considered easy with very little incline or decline mak-

ing it a pretty mild, but very beautiful, walk in the park!

Park Map: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/maps/parks-trails/clk-beaver-lake-regional-park.pdf?sfvrsn=4>





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Money Transfer Scam

Oriana Parker,
South Cowichan
Community Policing

Be aware and not sorry

This month we will look at the Money Transfer Scam, which includes the Inheritance Scam. I have been a target of the inheritance scam on more than one occasion. But what made this last scam a little more convincing was that it was written from a region of Italy where I do have relatives. It was written by a lawyer, and it was in Italian. I must admit that it did catch my attention but I would never respond to an email that advises me that I am entitled to a small fortune. Here is some very helpful information from the RCMP first Canadian edition of The Little Black Book of Scams.

Money transfer scams are on the rise. Be very careful when someone offers you money to help transfer their funds. Once you send money to someone, it can be very difficult, if not impossible, to get it back.

What to Look For

The **Nigerian** scam (also

called the 419 fraud) has been on the rise since the early-to-mid 1990s in Canada. Although many of these sorts of scams originated in Nigeria, similar scams have been started all over the world (particularly in other parts of West Africa and in Asia). These scams are increasingly referred to as "**advance fee fraud**".

In the classic Nigerian scam, you receive an email or letter from a scammer asking your help to transfer a large amount of money overseas. You are then offered a share of the money if you agree to give them your bank account details to help with the transfer. They will then ask you to pay all kinds of taxes and fees before you can receive your "reward". You will never be sent any of the money, and will lose the fees you paid.

Then there is the scam email that claims to be from a lawyer or bank representative advising that a long-lost relative of yours has died and left you a huge inheritance. Scammers can tell such genuine sounding stories that you could be tricked into

providing personal documents and bank account details so that you can confirm their identity and claim your inheritance. The "inheritance" is likely to be non-existent and, as well as losing any money you might have paid to the scammer in fees and taxes, you could also risk having your identity stolen.

If you, or your business, is selling products or services online or through newspaper classifieds, you may be targeted by an overpayment scam. In response to your advertisement, you might receive a generous offer from a potential buyer and accept it. You receive payment by cheque or money order, but the amount you receive is more than the agreed price. The buyer may tell you that the overpayment was simply a mistake or they may invent an excuse, such as extra money to cover delivery charges. If you are asked to refund the excess amount by money transfer, be suspicious. The scammer is hoping that you will transfer the refund before you discover that their cheque or money order was counterfeit. You will lose the transferred money as well

as the item if you have already sent it.

Protect Yourself Remember

- ★ If you have been approached by someone asking you to transfer money for him or her, it is probably a scam.

Caution

- ★ Never send money, or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.

Think

- ★ Don't accept a cheque or money order for payment for goods that is more than what you agreed upon. Send it back and ask the buyer to send you payment for the agreed amount before you deliver the goods or services.

Investigate

- ★ Examine the information on the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website for information on how to protect yourself against money transfer scams.

Ask yourself

- ★ Is it really safe to transfer money for someone I do not know?

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

*Department Members
Attended 19 calls in January*



- ★ Friday, January 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 2 – Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 7 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, January 8 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 10 – MVI on Ingot Rd
- ★ Monday, January 11 - 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, January 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 14 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, January 14 – Chimney Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, January 15 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, January 20 – Rope Rescue on Stebbings Rd
- ★ Wednesday, January 20 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, January 22 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, January 23 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 24 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, January 24 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, January 25 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, January 25 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd

Malahat Legion Branch 134

February Activities

1625 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W2
Phone:(250) 743-4621

- ★ Meat draws are every Saturday. The first draw starts at 3pm (until 5 pm)
- ★ Food will be served - hamburgers and fries, as well as hot dogs. Take out orders are available.
- ★ Double meat draw on Saturday, February

13th Mark this on your calendar and bring a friend.

- ★ Dinner and Jam – Friday, February 5th from 5:00 to 7:30 (while quantities last)
- ★ Shepherds pie and salad for \$11.00 includes taxes
- ★ Music follows dinner
- ★ Take out are available.

Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance on Friday, February 12th

- ★ Dinner from 5:00 to 6:30

- \$15.00 a ticket (tickets are available at the bar)

- ★ BBQ chicken, macaroni salad and Caesar salad
- ★ Dance starts at 7 pm to 11 pm - Loose Change Band

Dinner and Jam Friday, February 19th from 5:00 to 7:30 (while quantities last)

- ★ Lasagna and Caesar salad with garlic bread.
- ★ cost \$11.00 includes taxes

- ★ Music follows dinner.
- ★ Take out are available.

The Wounded Warriors run will be passing thru Che-mainus, Crofton, Duncan, Cowichan Bay, Shawnigan Lake and Mill Bay in the latter part of February. The run is to raise money to help soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other related disorders.

For further information go to Wounded Warriors Run BC



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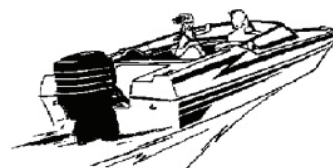
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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenau@cprd.bc.ca Next Director's meeting March 7th at 7 pm. . For updates: check www.soniafurstenau.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Feb 7th and Feb 9th Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of the month - Jan 18th - 7pm at S.L. Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
No meeting in February
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
Board meetings: for info: check www.thesra.ca The **SRA legal action** starts again Monday, Jan. 15th at the Victoria Courthouse. Please attend if you can.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
Meetings are the 1st Monday of the month at the Village Chipperry. Email: info@slba.ca for information
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Tuesday February 2nd at 7 pm. Watershed office: Unit 4-17760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Fri-Sun 11-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com AGM Feb. 23rd at 7 pm. Everyone welcome. Email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

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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.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for January was submitted by Bruce Stevens who cleverly identified the antique Fire Siren used to officially end the Shawnigan Shiver. Can you believe a few exceptional individuals managed to stay in the water for a full 5 minutes!

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Animal farm

Bruce Fraser

It seemed like a neat idea to interview our animals about the state of affairs in our human world, what with the grumbling going on about terrorism, refugees and contaminated soil dumps in watersheds. They do a lot of observing but don't usually comment, knowing full well that we will not understand, either their language or their take on things. So, I decided to use my new google creature- translator program to ask them what they really think...

Alice the Nubian was anxious to be the first. She began, diplomatically enough, with a comment on the quality of local hay and expressed a touch of concern about the dwindling supply of alfalfa pellets, albeit with a winsome grimace and a self-conscious bob of her head. Then she unloaded. "Bruce, how dare you put our poop pile right where we walk to the water trough, can't you think of a better place?" I almost abandoned the project at that point.

Amber the diminutive Nigerian was next, bleating softly in her quiet goatly voice. "The way I see it from down here in the real world you humans spend an awful lot of time monitoring and not much time enforcing. If I were in charge of the farm I would be consulting the masses before putting the poop in the garden, I mean the chickens of course, they are the most vulnerable but they just get ignored while those dogs and that overbearing fat cat get all the attention." I

began to suspect an "occupy" style revolt was brewing.

I took Amber's advice and drifted over to the chicken coop for a focus group consultation with the hens. At first they thought that I was bringing scratch to sweet talk them, or perhaps was going to announce a new roundabout to the water tank. "So what will the big man farmer do for us today," they cackled, looking knowingly at each other. I didn't know that chickens could roll their eyes. "All we get in this farm is chicken feed", says Cruella Ameraucana, where did we go wrong, vote for the wrong farmer?" Miss Orpington, fluffing her comely brown feathers, chimes in with "We are the most numerous folks in this farmyard, but all of the real affection is lavished on those barking mad dogs, you'd think they were humans. Why do they get all the goodies, do they have secret lobbyists or something?"

It was time to have an in-camera meeting with the one percent. Islay and Zaya, the Shiloh Shepherds, were lounging in front of the stove, playing a paw of biscuit poker, groaning a little from overfilled dishes they were accustomed to having each evening. I prevailed upon them to open up about the accusations circulating that they were getting more than their share by secret deals with the Koksilah

Farmers Institute. Islay belched and then growled "Look Bruce, we are the most intelligent creatures on this farm, we went to the best private school, we have friends in

high places and we can afford to hire the best lawyers. Of course we get the goods, what planet are you from?" Zaya just stuck out her tongue and rolled over to have her belly rubbed. "You should talk to catface over there in your favorite chair," she said, "she'll tell you how the barnyard really works."

I had arrived at the top. The Empress Quidi Vidi herself opened one eye, then the other, yawned and said "What the hell do you want, I'm sleeping." I told her politely that I wanted to know why the farm was separating into factions, why the chickens were becoming impoverished while she and the dogs were growing fat. She sighed and replied, "When I was elected head of state in the farmyard it was my time to rule, time to get the pyramid the right way up, time to place my friends in the best chairs, time to visit foreign places to sell eggs, time to collect dues from the top dogs. It was time to get the poop out of the house and into the goat pasture where they would hardly notice it. Oh I pretend to listen to those goats and chickens, but they have no power. I get my real influence from letting loose the dogs and taxing the crap out of the hens. If the goats get in my way, I'll just get an injunction and have them locked out of their barn. Now go away, I have a catinet meeting to attend."

I'm still processing this discussion. I'll give it more thought tomorrow, check the

Charter of Animal Rights and Freedoms, but right now I have to go to the market to fill the cat food order.

Shawnigan Weather January 2016

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ complied by Grant Treloar

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Average High	6.3	5.7	7.7	6.5	7.9	6.6	8.3	6.4	8.3
Average Low	0.5	1.3	2.8	0.8	2.0	1.1	2.8	0.8	2.0
Extreme High	15.0	11.1	13.2	11.1	13.2	11.3	13.8	11.5	13.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-4.7	-2.2	-6.0	-3.4	-5.2	-2.5	-5.5	-4.0
Precipitation (mm)	215.3	240.3	161.8	241.6	161.2	215.3	135.4	241.0	156.6
Days w precip	19	21	19	21	19	21	18	20	18
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	215.3	240.3	161.8	241.6	161.2	215.3	135.4	241.0	156.6
January 2015: 28 th warmest 29 th wettest since 1914									
Lake Temperature: Jan 3 rd : 3° Jan 10 th : 3° Jan 17 th : 4° Jan 24 th : 4° Jan 31 st : 4°									
Lake Level Change: Jan 3 rd : -50cm Jan 10 th : -20cm Jan 17 th : +28cm Jan 24 th : +36cm Jan 31 st : +8cm									

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