



Shawnigan Focus

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October 2016

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Milfoil in Shawnigan Lake

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Ecological Design Panel member for the Shawnigan
Basin Society

Shawnigan, you got a successful milfoil invasion!

A little history: In 1979 this problem was reported (Cowichan News Leader); the issue was brought up again to public attention in the Sep 2011 Shawnigan Focus (thanks to Dave Hutchinson for this information). In 2012, the CVRD authorized the Coastal Invasive Species Committee (CISC) to place Clean, Drain, Dry signs in three boat launches during the summer.

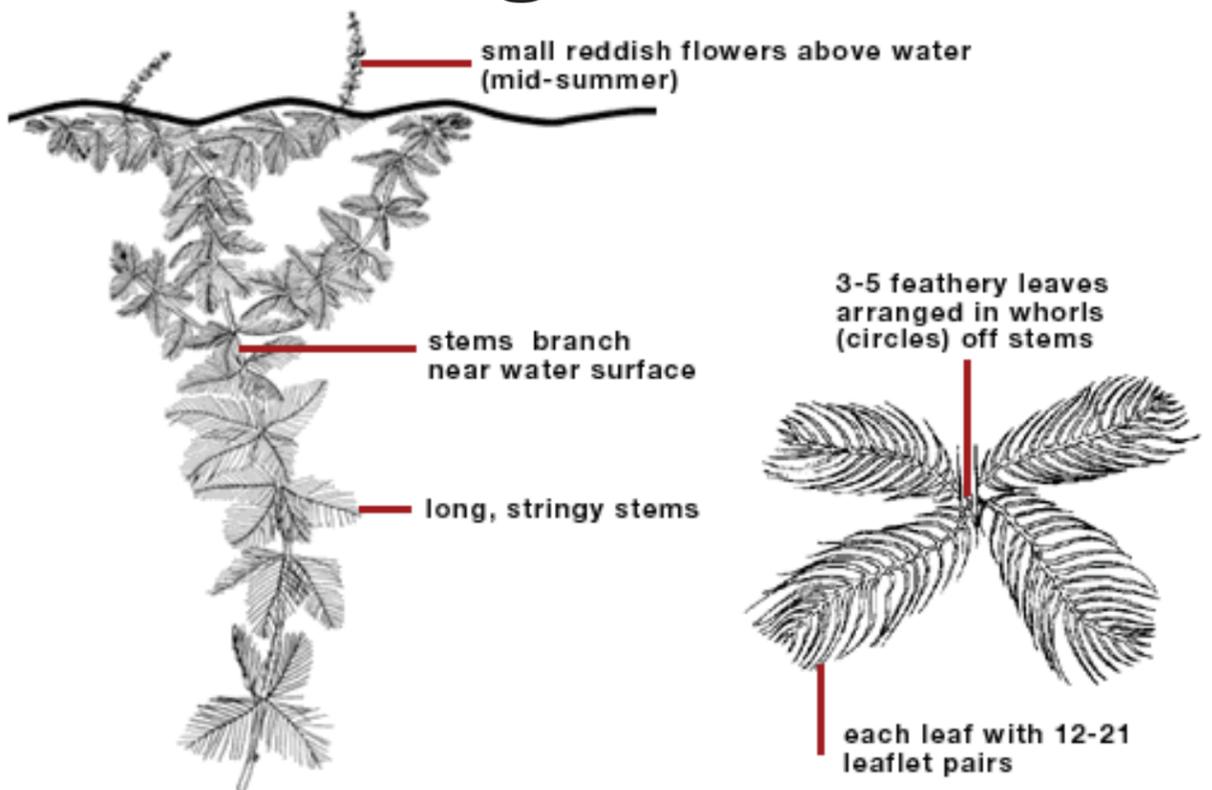
In August 2015, a small survey done by the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations in the north end of the lake estimated 41 hectares (approx. 100 acres) of milfoil coverage. Please note that neither of these two last operations were notified to any local Shawnigan groups. Information was acquired through communication with Rachelle McElroy (Exec. Director, CISC). All data sent by Ms. McElroy is available to anybody interested.

Some fun facts about invasive milfoil:

- ★ grows and spreads rapidly: a single fragment of the plant can infest an entire lake within 2 years (clogging a shallow lake in that time);
- ★ fragments can be churned up from boats or



Dense milfoil beds in Shawnigan Lake



swimmers, or even those trying to eradicate the weed;

dense mats can:

- ★ obstruct boating, waterskiing, fishing and swimming (each year there are a number of drowning deaths in other lakes attributed to swimmers becoming tangled in dense mats);
- ★ rob oxygen from the water by preventing the wind from mixing the oxygenated surface waters to deeper water, and can also increase the sedimentation rate by trapping sediments;
- ★ create ideal habitat for mosquitoes including *Culex* spp. (implicated in the spread of West Nile Virus in Manitoba);
- ★ Invasive milfoil gets cozy with native milfoil creating stronger hybrid plants that appear resistant to biological control agents

Milfoil is presently a serious problem – Can it continued to be ignored? At what cost? Unmanaged invasion of milfoil will reduce property values around the lake.

This problem might not be resolved, but it can be managed, like in the Okanagan and other lakes in Canada and USA. Leadership changes everything: To address this problem, the community has to have an organized response. Let's get together and talk about this.

How to identify milfoil:

A boat survey of the entire lake (other than areas too shallow to access), on 21 Sep 2016, was carried out by Grant Price (Shawnigan Residents Association), and Kelly Musselwhite and Mar Martínez (Shawnigan Basin Society). We found dense milfoil in about 70-80% of the sites visited.

- <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/watermilfoil#id>
- <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/greatlakes/Fact-Sheet.aspx?SpeciesID=237>
- <http://store.msueextension.org/publications/Agand-NaturalResources/EB0193.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlMMXwfSiVA>
- <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/myriophyllum-spicatum/>

Shawnigan Lake West Arm lands secured for park dedication

CVRD News posted September 21, 2016

The initiative of a Shawnigan Lake developer, Trestle Estates, has secured environmentally sensitive lands around the west arm of Shawnigan Lake as protected parkland by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD). The agreement will see 5.25 hectares (13 acres) of undeveloped forested and riparian area lands along the north and south side of the west arm dedicated to the CVRD for park, with 0.4 hectares (1 acre) retained by the developer for a residential lot.

“The forested lands at the head of Shawnigan

Lake's west arm are a major contributor to the lake's ecological health,” explains Shawnigan Lake Area Director Sonia Furstenuau.

The residential lot will be located next to West Shawnigan Lake Road outside of the sensitive riparian area of the west arm. A site assessment by Polster Environmental Services confirmed development of the residential lot will have minimal environmental impact.

“We are pleased to be providing a development in our home community of Shawnigan Lake which will leave a legacy of park and protected areas for this and future generations,” said Craig Partridge,

an owner of Trestle Estates. “We appreciate the assistance of David Polster in selecting the site for the residential lot at the west arm and will ensure his recommendations for the dwelling construction are carried out.”

A further 30.8 hectares (76.1 acres) of wetlands and uplands will be transferred to the CVRD for park land by the developer as part of the Trestle Estates residential development underway further west on Renfrew Road. These wetlands and west arm of the lake are interconnected. The park dedication will provide lasting protection of an important ecological system supporting Shawnigan Lake.

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WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS... EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

CVRD wasting taxpayers money

Dear Sir:

I am not surprised, but quite disappointed, that the CVRD Board has once again chosen to waste more money rather than protect taxpayers with their decision to hire another over-paid Manager for Economic Development.

They have completely wasted the \$40,000 they paid their own consultant who strongly advised against filling this position and also paying the new Manager well in excess of \$100,000 a year plus a very rich benefit package.

The fact that 50 people applied for this job puts a lie to the usual CVRD rant they have to pay these inflated salaries to attract people to vacant positions.

Unlike other governments that require detailed service plans and performance indicators from staff, so they can be held accountable for the public money they spend, the CVRD does none of that. It's pretty clear that the CVRD board will again waste millions of our tax dollars on an ill-defined function with no real performance measures like actual jobs created. In the past, much of that money was hijacked by special interests that used the public trough to support and promote themselves and their causes.

My disappointment deepened after reading the comments in the Citizen from the new manager Amy Melmock blathering about

making friends and partnerships as though that is a performance measure. She didn't once mention that economic development for most businesses, and entrepreneurs, is encouraged by low taxes and minimal red tape - things that the 200 person + CVRD bureaucracy can't even comprehend. The strong anti-business attitude in the CVRD is well known and documented.

In fact, the first thing this new whiz kid has done is to recommend to the CVRD board to force all local businesses to register with the CVRD and pay a fat fee - a brand new tax on all businesses that will presumably justify her grossly high salary. Looks like another control mechanism by an out of control bureaucracy!! And what a way to make new friends in the business community, Amy!

It really is amateur hour at the CVRD with how they spend and waste a lot of the \$80 million taken from local taxpayers each year. Again, with no measureable results to justify pay raises this year they are already planning to reward themselves as Board members (up 19% last year) and their staff with pay increases in their new budget.

Are taxpayers and our job creating businesses better off or is life much better in the Valley because of what the CVRD did this past year or what it's planning for next year? I doubt it very much.

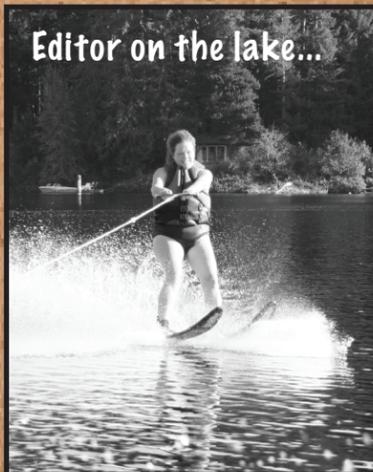
~W.E.(Bill) Dumont

Something to think about

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.

You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in...

Editor on the lake...

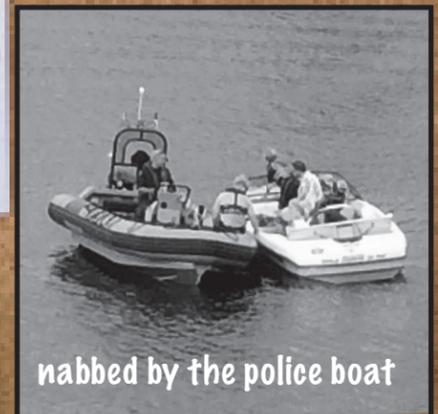


Time to clean your chimney!

Hallowe'en party
October 29th
S.L. Community Centre

Monday, Nov. 7th - 7pm
Director's Meeting
Recreational water use discussion

13 weeks until
The Shawnigan Shiver!



nabbed by the police boat

"Smile, breathe and go slowly" - Thich Nhat Hanh

Wild side: The goose problem appears to be getting worse

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Has anyone noticed the huge flocks of Canada Geese congregating on the lake recently? It can't be good for water quality. What is the solution? We would like to hear from you.

Three years ago we published the following article and think it deserves a reprint.

Canada Goose: Noble Emblem or Ecological Menace?

Though not an official national symbol, the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) is perceived to be one of Canada's emblems. In the early 1900s these handsome birds were seriously threatened due to over-hunting and loss of habitat. Enhancement programs, adaptation, and interbreeding with a non-migratory sub-species have resulted in large populations of resident birds that have become a

pest in many areas. Ecological damage to estuaries and other wetlands have prompted calls for a total eradication of the estimated 15,000 resident birds on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Apart from being a hazard to aircraft, no one seems to have a problem with their migratory cousins. The majestic V-formations of these birds are part of our national identity.

It is interesting to observe where the birds frequent around the lake. Their favourite places are man-made grassy areas like the Provincial Park on the west side. They are also a messy lesson for waterfront owners who replace natural lakeside vegetation with inappropriate lawns.

Resident geese were introduced to the island in the 1930s from a game farm near Victoria and, unlike Canada



Resident Canada Goose: An Ecological Menace

geese of wild origin; they do not migrate but reside year-round on Vancouver Island, feeding heavily on plants in estuaries.

"We messed up and it's urgent that we take action," said retired Canadian Wildlife Service biologist Neil Dawe in a 2010 *Globe and Mail* article. "You can cull the population, but that takes time, or you can eradicate the population ... rounding them up during the

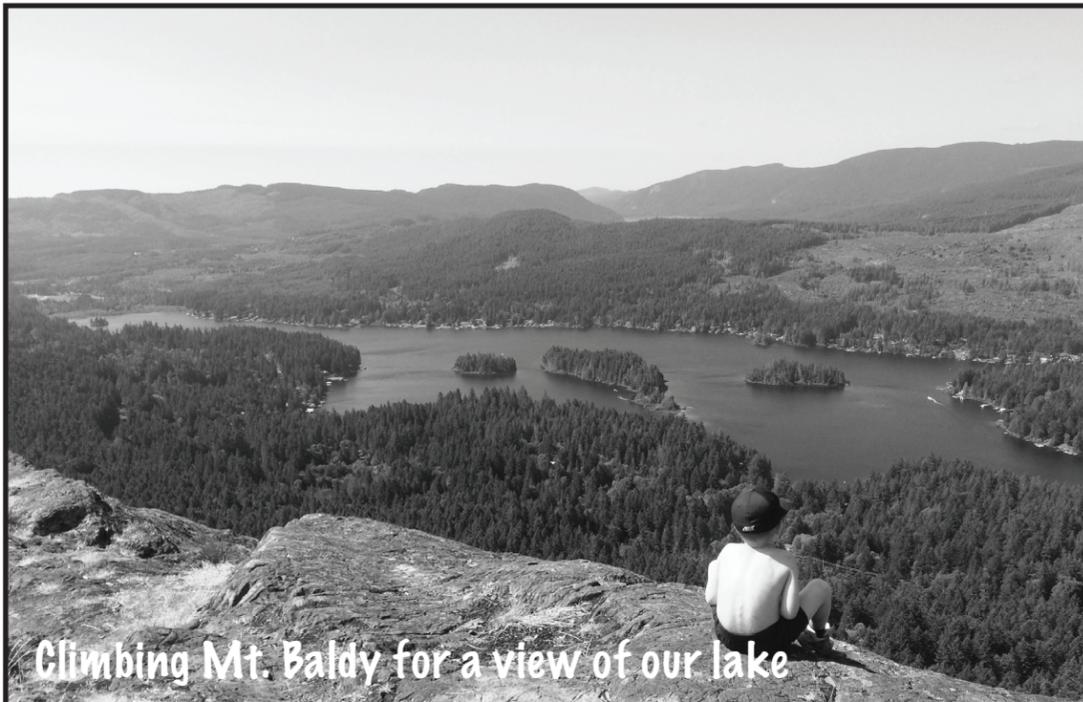
summer molt. Nobody likes talking about it, but it has to be addressed. They have exceeded the carrying capacity of the ecosystem."

The life span of geese that survive to adulthood ranges 10-24 years. During the second year of their lives, Canada Geese find a mate. They are monogamous, and most couples stay together all of their lives. Four to seven eggs make up a typical clutch and incubation is

done solely by the female. The male (gander) guards the nest and will attack intruders. Incubation takes 25 to 30 days and the goslings are led to water within a day after hatching.

Estimates vary, but a single goose produces between 1 and 3 pounds of poop per day. Fecal contamination from Canada geese is significant, including up to 94% of excrement comprising forms of *E. coli* and salmonella microbes.

Shawnigan summer fun...



Climbing Mt. Baldy for a view of our lake



kayaking



visiting the Kinsol Trestle



Cheering the skiers at Victoria Aquatic Ski Club

Shawnigan Basin Society

Kelly Musselwhite,
Executive Director

Ecological Restoration Workshop a HUGE Success!

On September 24 and 25, the Shawnigan Basin Society sponsored a FREE Ecological Restoration Workshop led by David Polster, a nationally acclaimed ecological restoration expert and our very own Carolyn Dowell, a bioremediation expert.

On Saturday, twenty-five Shawnigan Lake residents, including representation from Shawnigan Lake School and Dwight International School, as well as a host of foreshore and private property owners attended the theoretical component of the workshop and learned the power of assisting nature's process to aid in restoring ecological integrity. Specifically, they learned how wattle walls and live stakes created from willow branches, a native species, can mitigate foreshore erosion by absorbing and disbursing wave energy caused by motorized recreational activity.

On Sunday, sixteen people conducted field work toward the common cause of completing a restoration project at the West Shawnigan Provin-

cial Park. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors and the feeling of community was overwhelming!

The Basin Society invites you to view this work. It will be fully completed in early October with the addition of another fifty feet of snow fencing to keep animals from eating the plant growth. Waterfront property owners are also encouraged to consider having their property assessed for a similar project. Within the coming weeks, we will install an interpretative board on-site to explain this initiative. In the coming months, we aim to undertake three additional projects along the Park's foreshore to demonstrate the power of these simple, one-time, and inexpensive techniques. Nature's resilience will become clear as these restoration projects develop independently over a staggered period.

Whereas retaining walls are expensive, negatively impact riparian areas, and resist wave energy (which eventually causes them to be damaged), wattle walls and live stakes slow the flow of water and absorb energy as it makes its way to shore.

The Basin Society encourages ecologically sound solutions



when addressing the problem of foreshore erosion.

Additionally, following these techniques will act to protect overall ecological integrity at the lake's edge where root systems clean surface water entering the lake; enhance and protect a healthy plant and aquatic habitat; increase environmental biodiversity; restore ecological services which function to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into the water; enhance opportuni-

ties for privacy; and aesthetically enhance property value. Lakeside and water solutions become reciprocally possible: from the lake to the shore and conversely, from the shore to the lake at the same time!

If you are interested in having your property assessed or require further information, please visit the Shawnigan Basin Society's website at shawniganwater.org or send an email to info@shawniganwater.org.

TOGETHER, we can reduce our ecological footprint with cost effective, environmentally safe, and long-term solutions!

Please, do your part, to help keep Shawnigan Lake clean!

Lastly, please support our \$100,000 grant submission to Aviva by remembering to REGISTER and VOTE beginning October 11, 2016 at www.avivacommunity-fund.org

Shawnigan

HALLOWE'EN HOEDOWN

Saturday, October 29 6:30-8:30 pm - Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

Free Admission - Family Fun For All



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Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association and the BC Gaming Commission

Community Meeting: Respectful use of the lake

7 PM - November 7th

at the S.L. Community Centre

Meeting for public comments,
questions and concerns

As a follow up to the October meeting in which there was a discussion about Road Safety Issues, Sonia Furstenu, Area Director, has agreed to do a similar discussion/presentation about Lake Surface Use issues for the November 7th Director's meeting.

We are hoping to have a panel discussion/presentation with potential involvement from the Ski Club (VASC), a Wake/Surf Representative, Shawnigan Waterwatch Group, Waterbasin Society, Shawnigan Residents' Association, RCMP, and Shawnigan Parks Commission.

The focus will be on respectful use of the lake by all recreational users, including powered and non-powered watercraft, swimmers, lakefront owners, visitors, etc. and to use this discussion and feedback to share with the CVRD and Ministry of Transport.

Comments, questions, concerns and feedback from the residents of Shawnigan are welcomed. If you cannot attend the meeting, please forward any comments or questions to sfurstenu@cvrld.bc.ca.

Director's Report - Area B

Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

Last week I attended the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the second time. UBCM is an annual gathering of locally elected officials from all over BC – mayors, councillors, and area directors – all hoping to achieve as much as they can for their communities and for the province in 5 intense days.

UBCM has many aspects to it – there are workshops, panels, plenary sessions, resolution sessions, ministerial meetings, speeches, lunches, and receptions – all of which offer the possibility for serendipitous meetings with the people who are in a position to help with issues or dreams that you have for your community.

For me, it's a non-stop lobbying session for Shawnigan. Here are a few highlights.

On Monday, I attended a session on forestry practices in BC, based on a survey conducted by UBCM. The results of the survey showed consistent concerns and issues from around the province, with 85% of respondents expressing that they do not feel that there is adequate consultation of local communities around forestry practices. We have a significant amount of forestry land in Shawnigan, and I have heard many concerns from residents that echo this sentiment, and in particular concerns about impacts to water quality from logging in our watershed. I raised these concerns with the assembled panel, which included BC's chief forester and several FLNRO employees. It was interesting to see consistency from local governments around the province on this issue, and the ultimate question from the session was, "How does local government get recognized as a legitimate force that actually knows what's needed in our communities." It was good to see representatives of the timber companies on hand, particularly Timberwest, and I appreciated the thoughtful discussion all around.

On Monday evening I went to the Forest Futures event, where we heard about the significant loss of old growth on Vancouver Island. On Tuesday I spoke at a rally for old growth, which was a way to raise awareness about a resolution that came to UBCM on Wednesday, which called for the protection of old growth forest on the island. The resolution made it to the floor, and was passed with a strong majority.

Meetings with ministers are an important component of UBCM – an opportunity for local government representatives to speak directly with ministers about concerns or visions they have for their communities. On Tuesday morning, we had a meeting with Minister Polak, attended by Chair Lefebure and four CVRD directors. I raised our ongoing concerns about the contaminated landfill site in our watershed, including the non-compliance issues identified by Ministry of Environment. Minister Polak's responses were the same as they have ever been. I didn't expect much more, but at the same time I think it is important that we continue to convey our deep disappointment with the provincial government on this issue.

On Tuesday afternoon, there was a session called "Soil Movement: Contamination and Invasive Species". Ministry of Environment staff reported on their proposals for addressing these challenges. CVRD had already formally submitted a report identifying our concerns with the proposed changes to the rules and regulations around the movement of contaminated soil in BC, and I reiterated these to the panel and had a follow-up conversation with MoE staffer Kerri Skelly.

On Wednesday morning we heard a keynote speech from Dr Samantha Nutt, who founded the charity War Child. She was one of the most inspiring speakers I've heard in a very long time, and she had all of us riveted as she told us her "why": stories of children living in war-torn regions who suffer in ways that none of us ever want to imagine. Then she brought it home. In the areas where mining is happening in regions of war-torn Africa, and in particular the mining of coltan (a conductive mineral that all of us have in our phones and computers), the incidences of violent rape are clustered around those mines, which are often controlled by warlords. The abuse of the mine workers (who are often children) translates to abuse of the girls and women who live in those regions. Dr Nutt reminded all of us that working for positive change is necessary in this world that is so replete with injustice.

On Wednesday afternoon I attended the "Panel on Responsible Resource Development", which included Ministers Polak, Bennett, Coleman, Letnick, and Thomson. As I did the year before, I asked



the ministers to do a review of the professional reliance model, given what we have seen play out in Shawnigan. And just like last year, they dodged the question. Afterwards, the mayor and councillors from Spallumcheen asked to speak with me – they have had similarly frustrating experiences with MoE, and were keen to discuss our shared issues.

Thursday morning I met with Line Roberts from Island Coastal Economic Trust to discuss potential economic opportunities for Shawnigan, and then it was back to the resolutions session, where we debated and endorsed a

number of interesting proposals from local governments all over the province.

By this point, after four 15-hour days, I was starting to lose my voice. Fortunately, I wasn't too hoarse on Friday morning to speak to the resolution brought forward by CVRD to call for a review of professional reliance in BC – I shared with the assembled delegates our four-year nightmare in Shawnigan, and the blatant conflicts of interest that have underpinned the entire process that has resulted in a contaminated landfill in our watershed. The resolution got resounding support,

and will be sent to the provincial government along with all of the other endorsed resolutions of this year's UBCM.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to attend UBCM each year, and to be there as a champion for Shawnigan. I am hoping to see some extraordinarily positive developments emerge from some contacts and conversations at this year's conference – as things develop, I will keep everyone posted.

I have returned home exhausted but optimistic, and excited for the incredible future we have as a community.



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Take A Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

I wouldn't call it a hike really, but it involves big beautiful trees and walking – so it counts as a major point of interest in my book! Approximately 2 kilometres from Ucluelet and 41 from Tofino, just a stones throw from the 'T' junction between the two, exists an adorable, hidden and easily missed trail called the Ancient Cedars Loop.

The Ancient Cedars Loop was originally shaped in 1997 yet it sadly fell to the wayside and into disrepair. Then along came The Central Westcoast Forest Society who have been revitalizing it since 2013 creating a tenderly formed trail throughout big beautiful cedars, hemlocks and Sitka spruce that are hundreds of years old, some of the oldest trees of the Ucluelet peninsula actually. There are two trees in particular that have been estimated to be over 800 years old, one having a base of more than 12 metres around the base. The Society

continues to nurse this second growth forest back to health after the damages faced from the logging of years passed.

Interpretive signage throughout the area is strategically placed to educate and inform us of the surrounding environment. The Ancient Cedars Loop is not only about trees however, but also about the splendour of lichens, ferns, fungi, and mosses that Mother Nature has laid out for us - a lot of them live right on the trees themselves.

Nearly 100% of the trail is comprised of boardwalks with a few dirt patches here and there. The trail has a few slight inclines and descents, and depending on the weather, the boardwalk can be a bit slippery – careful foot placement is a made must for any of the temperate rainforest trails that are subject to the moist atmosphere of the West Coast.

The length of time your visit will take depends primarily on how fast you walk, gaze and photograph all there is to



see. This easily navigated, yet fruitful for the eyes, one kilometre looped adventure can take you as little as 15 minutes or as long as 40 minutes to complete. Perhaps one could even bring along a small snack and linger about at the viewing platform of the Lost Shoe

Creek or one of the charming benches along the pathway.

As an added bonus, and unlike of lot of the other trails in the area of the Pacific Rim National Park, the trail and parking is free, free, free! Storm watching weather is

approaching and a lot of us will be flocking to view the spectacular sights, but take a moment and stop in to see the Ancient Cedars Loop!

JOIN US! Find photos of this adventure and more Facebook at The Om Tree.

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www.theclayhubcollective.weebly.com

Barnyard Surgery

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Resident

Miss Blue, the late bloomer Ameraucana hen that had surprised Riverpool with the first light blue eggs, had slowly

retreated from polite society as her beak progressively malformed. When all the others leapt into the yard when the coop door was opened, she always hung on the top rung of the roost all alone. She had acquired the hooked overbeak of an old crone, for which she was much too young. She was smaller and lighter than her coopmates and tended to avoid the feeding frenzy at scratch and vegetable time in the mornings. Miss Blue was always a bit shy, but lately even more so.

A little research on the hen 'sites' led us to the conclusion that her accentuated overbite was a common enough condition and simply required a little beak surgery to correct the condition. OK, just imagine the consternation in the Riverpool household as chicken surgery was being contemplated. "Just clip the excess off with a clipper, the kind you use for the dog toenails and everything will be fine" – says the 'net' advice. Sure, just clip off the end of the beak, but avoid the sensitive part, wherever that is, and have an astringent solution ready to stop the bleeding if you go too far. Reassuring in the extreme was that happy advice!

another to put over her eyes; clipper and beaker of astringent in hand; we approached the coop. "Miss Blue, where are you, we're from the farmhouse and we're here to help you." Most of the other hens got the heck out of there in short order, perhaps believing that having relatively normal beaks got them a free pass from the surgery ward. Miss Blue was easily captured, gave a small bleat as was her custom and was easily ensconced in the covering of towels. No struggle, no screeching – she might just have known that she was in good hands, though the amount of surgery training of the humans was equivalent to about five minutes on the web.

A quick clip or two followed and behold, a beak worthy of a fully competent hen. Miss Blue was unwrapped from her surgical gown, placed down in front of the feed tray and immediately scarfed two days of layer crumble in the first minute. Then she celebrated the successful nose job by vigorously pecking the coop floor, something she had never been able to do before. Miss Blue was left in the recovery room to luxuriate in her new capacity.

Ok Miss Blue, now we expect you to resume the production of light blue eggs.

So, with towels to wrap her;

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Area B Parks Commission

Margaret Symon

Past Chair, Shawnigan Parks Commission

On September 15, 2016, the Area B Parks Commission was pleased to host a joint meeting with the Shawnigan Village Community association and CVRD Parks Department to review draft plans for Elsie Miles Park. Tanya Soroka from CVRD Parks Dept. presented two design options incorporating concepts garnered from earlier sessions. Please be sure to add your input into the Elsie Miles Park design at an open house scheduled for November at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

It was with regret we learnt at the September meeting that a long-standing member of the Parks Commission, Al Brunet, is resigning. Al is active in many spheres of the Shawnigan community, and provided a valuable liaison between the park commission and the Shawnigan Residents Association. We wish Al continued success with his community endeavors.

After serving on the Shawnigan Parks Commis-

sion for ten years, it is with much regret that I too must step down. It has been an immense privilege to serve on the Commission and to serve with such an outstanding team of Commission members, "public members," and community volunteers. In my ten years tenure as Chair, I have worked with three different Area Directors, all of whom were strong supporters of parks at Shawnigan. As I leave the Commission, I am confident in the abilities of Vice Chair, Gaileen Flaman to take over as chair. The team is solid.

I am very proud of the efforts of the Shawnigan Parks Commission over the last decade, including these community legacies:

- ★ Development of the first Parks and Trails Master Plan in the CVRD
- ★ Implementation of the first invasive plant inventory in the CVRD (including invasive removal)
- ★ Fruition of the Kinsol Trestle dream, thanks to enormous efforts from all of Cowichan

- ★ Awareness of the importance of lakeside access for soft recreation, wildlife, water quality, and fire protection
- ★ Wheelchair access at popularly-used parks
- ★ Collaboration on the Village Core design, including Elsie Miles Park
- ★ Expanded network of public walking/hiking trails
- ★ and, after many challenges, establishment of Old Baldy Mountain as a park

None of these initiatives would have occurred without the dedication of community volunteers. For me, the crowning jewel of all these wonderful volunteer efforts was the acquisition of Old Baldy Mountain for a park. As one of my sons said, "Now no one can take it away." As such a prominent landmark at Shawnigan, it is a fitting legacy for all generations. "Old Baldy" – like Shawnigan – will always hold a special place in my heart..

Thank-you, Shawnigan, it was indeed an honour to serve this community.

With thanks...

The Area B Parks and Recreation Commission would like to acknowledge Margaret Symon, who recently stepped down as Chair of the board, for 10 years of dedicated and passionate service.

During her years in the lead role, Margaret supported many Parks initiatives including the Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park (SHAP) development and the acquisition of Mt. Baldy.

Board members recall particular moments of encouragement and inspiration from Margaret, such as donning her BC Parks costume of Bucky the Beaver from days gone by, to welcome families to the inaugural Mothers Day Picnic-in-the-Park. Former member Bill Savage reflects, Margaret "has volunteered and sacrificed more hours to this commu-

nity than anyone I know and she has always been a joy to work with. I am happy and honoured to call her a friend and have many great memories of the time I spent working with her on the behalf of our community".

Gratitude is further extended to Al Brunet having recently concluded his time with the board after seven years of service. Al served on the commission while also volunteering with the Shawnigan Resident's Association.

The board would also liked to recognize Margaret's and Al's families for sharing these remarkable people with the community these past many years. As the Board says "farewell" to both members, the community can be assured their legacy of insight, wisdom, energy and humour will inform our activities as we move forward.



Shawnigan Weather August & September

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

Weather Icon	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Average High	23.1	26.7	26.4	25.3	24.8	25.7	25.4	25.9	25.3
Average Low	11.9	13.3	13.2	12.8	12.2	13.9	13.4	13.1	12.9
Extreme High	36.1	34.9	33.2	34.5	32.4	35.1	33.1	34.5	32.5
Extreme Low	3.3	10.5	10.1	9.6	7.7	11.1	10.8	10	10
Precipitation	29.3	4.7	30.4	6.2	26.7	4.2	20.2	5.4	27.6
Days w precip	6	5	6	6	6	5	6	5	7
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	720.8	729.1	588.7	761.1	557.8	645.7	488.4	750.0	544.8
Since 1914: 5th warmest, 18th driest									
Lake Temperature:	Aug 7th: 21°	Aug 14th: 24°	Aug 21st: 25°	Aug 28th: 22°					
Lake Level Change:	Aug 7th: -2.5cm	Aug 14th: -2.5cm	Aug 21st: -2.5cm	Aug 28th: -5cm					
Weather Icon	September Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Average High	20.2	20.4	19.4	19.6	18.8	20.2	19.5	19.9	19.1
Average Low	9.2	9.7	9.2	8.9	8.2	9.9	9.4	9.1	8.8
Extreme High	33.5	26.4	28.7	25.6	27.6	26.4	28.9	25	27
Extreme Low	-3.9	5.1	4.4	3.7	3.6	5.9	5.3	5	5
Precipitation	37.6	46.2	83.6	48.8	76.2	43.1	69.9	44	75.2
Days w precip	9	14	15	14	16	12	16	12	14
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	720.8	775.3	672.3	634	634	558.3	558.3	794.0	620.0
Since 1914: 51st coldest, warmest, 45th wettest									
Lake Temperature:	Sept 4th: 20°	Sept 11th: 21°	Sept 18th: 19°	Sept 25th: 18°					
Lake Level Change:	Sept 4th: 0cm	Sept 11th: -2.5cm	Sept 18th: -1cm	Sept 25th: -1cm					



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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Sully

(Previously published as Highest Duty)
by Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III
with Jeffrey Zaslow
Published by William Morrow
Copyright 2009 by Chesley B. Sullenberger III

Most of us saw it on the news, the miraculous landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River on a cold winter's day. The heroic actions of the pilot, Sully Sullenberger, and his crew were credited for saving the lives of all 155 passengers on board. The emergency response from nearby ferries was quick. The pilot and co-pilot stayed until water was up to their knees, going up and down the aisles checking that no one remained on board. Finally, they joined the rest of the passengers on the wings, waiting for rescue.

The plane had hit a flock of Canadian Geese on take-off, shredding the engines. The flight crew had about four minutes to work with the traffic controller and identify whether the plane was capable of an emergency landing. The pilot's decision was based

on his vast experience and his one word response to various suggestions was decisive: unable.

Most of this book is a recounting of the author's lifelong love affair with flying, from his first pilot's license as a teen, in Texas, through his Air Force Academy and military training. He then describes his long commercial pilot's career and his ongoing study of safety procedures and investigations. Fortunately for the passengers of that airliner, they were saved by the very best.

Sullenberger was no hotshot flyboy. While many of his test pilot friends died in accidents he was careful and cautious, and is very modest in describing his achievements. What emerges is that this man is not only committed to his profession but is almost a throw-back to simpler times when values like hard work, dedication and devotion to country and family were considered paramount. He is very humble and, after the incident, consistently shared the credit and publicity with his flight crew. He would only accept President Obama's invitation to the White House if his crew and their families were included.

Sully is, by his own definition, an introvert. Had he not been thrown into the role of saviour he would have remained in the background, doing his work

diligently. Some might even say he was a bit boring. But fate in a moment of crisis intervened, and so a modern day hero emerged from terrifying circumstances that included the possibility of almost certain death.

This is a fascinating read as the dramatic description of the landing and rescue is saved until the end of the book. Sully makes the point that it was a lifetime of learning and experience that prepared him for that frigid day in January. It is reassuring to hear of the focus on safety that his profession embraces, in spite of the many cuts the airlines have made in order to remain competitive. Pilots have had their hours and salaries reduced and their working conditions have gotten steadily worse over the years, which seems counter-intuitive in this age of increased airline travel.

Sullenberger has gone on to be a speaker and consultant on safety in aviation. Wouldn't it be reassuring to hear, "This is your Captain, Sully Sullenberger", speaking over the intercom on your next flight over water? While this pilot may have retired, Tom Hanks will be playing our hero in a movie entitled "Sully", already coming to a theatre near you. So fasten your seatbelts!

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

YSAGS: An Officer and a Sportsman

Oriana Parker
Shawnigan Focus

Ray Bootland had an illustrious career in the Royal Canadian Navy that spanned 34 years. As an Ordinary Seaman he spent time learning the ship's maintenance, taking on a variety of jobs from painting to tying down the ship. Over the years he progressed through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer becoming a technical expert and taking on leadership roles training newly commissioned junior officers.

Ray's field of expertise was physical fitness. As a boxer,

in 1957 he won the title of Light Heavyweight Champion on HMCS Magnificent. An avid sportsman, Ray played football, basketball, volleyball, squash, tennis and badminton while in the Navy. As well, he coached university basketball at the Royal Military College in Kingston.

Describing it as "an experience of a lifetime", he literally sailed into the history books in 1959. Chosen before many others for his dashing good looks and intellectual prowess he was among nine Royal Canadian Navy sailors to serve on the Royal Yacht Britannia. He flew from Halifax

to Ireland and then took the train to Portsmouth to join the Royal Yacht Britannia with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip. He recalls, "I spent 4 months studying Canadian history just in case one of the Royals or dignitaries asked me a question. I had to have all the answers and they had to be impressive." As well, he was groomed on Royal protocol and dining etiquette. The Royal Yacht Britannia crossed the Atlantic, and once in Canada, together with President Eisenhower, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, the Queen and Prince Philip, the St. Lawrence Seaway was officially opened on June 26, 1959.

That same year, Ray and Marg (a former Calgary Stampette cheerleader) were married and, as is the case, their military life had them relocate across Canada. While stationed in Shilo, Manitoba Ray acted as Liaison Officer Tank Regiment with the German Army who were in training. After retiring from the military as Physical Training Officer, Ray went on to teach officer cadets at Royal Roads Military College.

As a young man Ray had been involved with modelling, and if you happened to be passing by the corner window

of Eaton's Victoria store in 1957 you might have caught a glimpse of handsome Ray in a bathing suit. The City of Victoria also employed Ray as a tennis and badminton instructor. He taught swimming at all levels and was a national swimming examiner

and instructor. Presently, he and his wife Marg live off the Shawnigan Lake Mill Bay Road. They have been members of YSAG for the past 10 years. They are both passionate about line dancing which they also taught for some time in Arizona.



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Shawnigan Lake Museum



Lori Treloar Museum Curator

The museum was a busy place this summer with a record number of visitors in both July and August. With funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program, we were able to hire two local students, Owen Cook and Teagan West, each with a 10 week contract. Both were kept busy with visitors, research projects and basic museum work. It is a pleasure to be able to offer job opportunities to local youth.

Through the summer, we offered six presentations in our Summer Speaker Series with wonderful range of topics including Early Landowners in the area by Jim Ward; Vancouver Island Fossils by Chris Rutan; Bruce Hutchison at Shawnigan by Owen Cook; Geology around us by Neil Bonner; Minna Gildea of Strathcona School by Teagan West and The eye in the sky doesn't lie...Mapping change with remote sensing by Mar Martinez de Saavedra Alvarez. We truly appreciate the time and energy that each of these speakers, as volunteers, gave to our audiences.

We participated in the Canada Day parade and festivities. That day is traditionally one of our busiest days of the year and this year was no

different with 175 visitors to the museum.

August is a big month for the board and volunteers as we host our biggest event of the year – Heritage Fair and Family Picnic. This unplugged, and free, family event has a wonderful old fashioned feel to it with demonstrations of spinning, weaving, lace-making, carving and quilting; old railway handcars; an old fashioned dress up booth; family races and games; a memory tent and so much more. This year we added a line up of 20 vintage vehicles that can be summed up in two words – eye candy. It was a lovely and festive event. If you missed it, mark your calendar for next year so you don't miss it – Sunday, August 13, 2017. (While you are at it, why not add our Family Day event as well - Monday, February 13th).

In 2017, the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society will celebrate its 40th Anniversary. For 40 years the community has supported the efforts of the Society. The museum collection has been donated by the community, over this time, and we are now bursting at the seams. The building may look small, but the collection is significant.

For the past several months, have been working with

an architect and the CVRD to develop plans for an addition to the museum that would provide us with space to offer more community programming.

Our future looks bright! We hope that the community will continue to support the efforts of the society and museum by volunteering; donating Shawnigan related photos and artifacts; visiting and promoting the museum and participating in future fundraisers for the expansion. Together we can protect our amazing collection and the story of this wonderful community.



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South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS)

Greer Stewart,
President

A Message from the New President of South

It's been a long, dry summer in the south Cowichan Valley with the fire risk listed as extreme! Kudos to the Mill Bay firefighters brilliantly led by Chief Ron Beck, with crews from the Malahat, Cowichan Bay and Shawnigan Lake and from the Ministry of Forests' Coastal Fire Centre for their combined effort in extinguishing the Bamberton wildfire. The fire was burning on both sides of the highway and spreading southwards. It led to the closure of a portion of the Malahat Highway and traffic travelling north was redirected off the highway onto Shawnigan Lake Road. It was a frightful time for residents in the vicinity of the fire and they were thankful that the wind didn't pick up - otherwise it could

have been disastrous.

This year has brought amazing opportunities and challenges to our community, as it changes and expands. My name is Greer Stewart. I am the President of the South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society. My roots are firmly entrenched in this beautiful community that I have called home for 30 years. I have raised my three children here and they have been pupils of the following schools: Elise Miles, Discovery, George Bonner, Frances Kelsey and Brentwood College. I have volunteered at the school level, coached field hockey, developed the track and field program and then tribal journeys. I was an active ball player for years and saw the fields change from the former Copley's property to the amazing fields at Kerry Park. I managed a successful business in Mill Bay for a number of years but today I am playing an active role in a foundation that I founded some time ago. I



believe in empowering women and this foundation does so by helping women dealing with adversity and challenges to move on with their lives. I also give my time to the Kinsol Trestle, Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill Mountain & Dog Park, as well as the Mill Bay Waterfront.

Shirley Walker, the outgoing president, is a well known and well respected member of our

community. As the incoming President of SCCPAS, I am aware of the legacy of her commitment and service, bar none. Check out some of our programmes such as Block Watch, Friendly Phones, Speed Watch and much more.

Drop into our office at the Mill Bay Centre and get involved in your community. It's safe and well taken care of by community members like you!

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department Members Attended 19 incidents in September

- ★ Thursday, Sept 1 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 3 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Sept 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 4 – Burning Complaint on Knappett Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 4 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, Sept 5 – Structure Fire on Heald Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 7 - 1st Responder off McKernan Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 9 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 9 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 16 – Assistance off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 18 - 1st Responder off Wright Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 21 – Assistance in the Beach Estates
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 21 – Burning Complaint on Ingot Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 25 – Burning Complaint on Ivanhoe Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 25 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 28 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd

Royal Canadian Legion - 134

Comrade Win Teague
PR Coordinator

Reminder to all Veterans:

The Annual Veterans Dinner is on the 25th of October 2016.

There is no cost for the dinner for any Veteran and you do not have to be a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in

order to attend. Call the Malahat Legion or drop-in and add your name to the list.

- ★ Cocktails at 5 PM
- ★ Dinner at 6 PM
- ★ A spouse will have to purchase a ticket from the Legion.

We had a great time last year and we are looking forward to seeing some of the real Vets back again.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenuau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenuau@cvrd.bc.ca For meeting updates check www.soniafurstenuau.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Meeting Thursday, Sept. 6th at 7:00pm at Watershed office: #4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd. **Contact: grtreloar@shaw.ca**
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Next meeting:
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Shawnigan Lake Community Centre - as called
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
Contact: info@slba.ca for information
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Meetings held first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. **Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca**
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Fri-Sun 10:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca

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HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

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Healthy Beginnings is a friendly, relaxed group for moms and dads with babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age. There is no registration required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack. We will be discussing a wide range of topics. Gathering every Thursday morning except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

Toddler Group starts at 9:30 AM | Infant Group starts at 11:00 AM

INFORMATION : Rhoda - 250 709 3050
EMAIL : rhoda.taylor@viha.ca
FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan

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Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

No Winner for September

The photo for SEPTEMBER showed the head of "Geraldine", a life-size Holstein cow replica who was used as an exhibit at this year's Cobble Hill Fair. She normally lives at Sunny Vale farm near Bench School but the owners kindly brought her to the fair where she was a crowd favourite.

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Wake wild



Jim Lindsay
Shawnigan Lake Resident

Tyler Lindsay is a local wake boarder that grew up on Shawnigan Lake. He attended Elsie Miles Elementary, Discovery Elementary and is now in his Grad year at Francis Kelsey Secondary.

Ty has an incredible respect and love for the lake, and for local and summer residents' property. You will not see Ty out riding in crowded or congested areas of the lake, disrespecting people's property, damaging people's docks with a large boat wake, or having loud music blaring obscenities from this boat. For the most part, you probably won't even notice he's out there.

He's a member of the Victoria Aqua Ski Club; a National Coaching Certified Program (NCCP) trained wake board and waterski coach; a member of the BC Waterski wakeboard team and also a Wake Canada development team rider.

Shawnigan Lake is not the only place Ty trains and spends his time on the water. He has spent six weeks in Florida training with Trevor

Hansen this last season.

Some of Ty's accomplishments this year are: 4th place in the World Wakeboard Association (WWA) wake open in Orlando Florida; 4th place in the Covert Wake Jam in North Vancouver; 5th place in the Wake Cable Provincials Abbotsford BC; 3 gold medals in wake board, trick ski and wake skate provincials; 3rd place in boat, 2nd place in rails at the BC Summer Games, 8th place in boat at the Canadian Nationals and 14th place at the WWA world championships in Toronto.

Ty takes the values and respect he has learned from family and friends on Shawnigan Lake and passes them on to everyone he meets along the way.

I would like to ask all residents of Shawnigan, when you see a wake boarder on the lake, please don't yell at him or give him rude hand signals. This could be Ty or another developing Canadian athlete out training, chasing his, or her, dream.

Shawnigan Lake residents should be proud to support local athletes - not discourage them.

Recipe: **Curried Halibut Patty Cakes**

Recipe from Patty Oldfield at the Village Chippery

First Bowl:
8 cups cooked and flaked halibut
2 cups of breadcrumbs
1 cup diced onions
1 cup diced bell peppers
1 bunch cilantro - chopped fine
½ tsp garlic powder

Second Bowl:
4 beaten eggs
1 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup madras curry powder

Instructions:
Mix halibut, crumbs, onions, peppers, cilantro and garlic into first bowl.
Mix eggs, mayonnaise and curry powder in the second bowl. Add the second bowl to the first bowl and mix thoroughly. Form 12 balls. Add these balls one at a time to a lightly oiled frying pan. Press down with the back of a wide flipper making the balls into patties. Handle gently as the mixture can be crumbly.
Grill for approximately 4 minutes each side. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and a wedge of lemon.
Coleslaw or a seasonal salad is a great side dish.

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