

Shawnigan FOCUS

Volume Eight- Issue Three

March 2017

A Non-Profit Community Publication

WE WON

Thank you Shawnigan for never giving up!



Sonia Furstenau,
CVRD Area Director

It was the Easter weekend in March 2013, and our family had planned for a getaway to Tofino, where we could enjoy the beaches and hikes, slow mornings with long coffees, and sitting by a cozy fire playing a game or reading books.

Instead, we spent much of the weekend in disbelief, reading over and over again the draft permit that Ministry of Environment had issued to Cobble Hill Holdings. We could not wrap our heads around the one paragraph that listed the allowable toxins: dioxins, furans, hydro-

carbons, heavy metals. What kind of government would allow material laden with those poisonous substances to be dumped in a community drinking watershed?

And here we are, 47 months later, and the stupid permit (is there any other word that's more appropriate? Mind-boggling? Outrageous? Logic-defying?) has finally been canceled by BC's Minister of Environment, Mary Polak.

Minister Polak invoked section 18 of the Environmental Management Act to cancel the permit – something that has never happened once in the history of BC.

People are weighing in about why Polak has canceled the permit, but I truly believe that it has been the relentless efforts of the Shawnigan community that has brought about this outcome. What have we done these last 47 months to bring about this outcome? Everything and anything we possibly could.

The CVRD and the Shawnigan Residents Associa-

tion fought the permit in front of the Environmental Appeal Board (along with John and Lois Hayes and Rick Sanders), and then continued to the BC Supreme Court, where both won their cases. After a defeat at the Court of Appeal, the CVRD has filed to be heard at the Supreme Court of Canada – a case we still hope will go forward because of the province-wide implications of the Appeal Court decision.

The community held fundraisers, letter-writing events, rallies, ceremonies, and stood up on Stebbings Road for weeks and weeks on end trying to stop the flow of contaminants. We came together over and over at meetings, and then got organized into teams, which allowed us to work incredibly effectively. We punched way above our weight, garnering provincial and national attention, and telling our story so many times that it reached people all the way on the other side of Canada.

The tireless watchers documented what was happening

at the site nearly every single day since November 2015, and the tireless research team was the engine that never stopped humming for over a year, digging for information, analyzing the photos and videos from the site, and holding the Ministry of Environment's feet to the fire. (Indeed, the research team continues to work steadily – even as I write this, emails from the team are popping into my inbox.)

There have been so many songs written about our fight, we could cut an entire Save Shawnigan Water album (and I'm expecting we probably will).

From bottle drives to galas, the fundraising efforts have been extraordinary. The rallies have been historic. The commitment of the Shawnigan community is, I believe, unparalleled.

And throughout it all, we managed to fall more in love with our home, with our lake, with our community, and with each other. What held us together and kept us going was

the kindness, compassion, and caring that we felt for each other, and our determination to stand up for our community and each other.

I got home on Thursday evening, after celebrating in the village, and I found two emails from people I didn't know – both from people in other communities in BC who are also fighting to protect their environment and their future, and asking for my help and advice.

This is one of the crucial things that I have learned from these last four years: that what has happened to us – a government ignoring evidence and pushing forward with a terrible decision – is happening to communities all over BC. We stood up and fought back, and now others are looking to us for guidance and help – and we must, in whatever way we can, support these other communities in their efforts to protect their futures.

Thank you, Shawnigan, for never giving up.

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS MARCH 2017

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

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

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

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Curve of Time

M. Wylie Blanchet
Published by Gray's Publishing Ltd.
Copyright 1968 by the estate of the late Muriel Wylie Blanchet

I have a handful of beloved books that I return to read every few years. The Curve of Time is now fifty years old and never disappoints or grows dated for me. It is the amazing true story of a widowed Vancouver Island woman, who, after the death of her husband in 1927, takes a 25-foot boat, fills it with her five children and a dog, and ventures fearlessly up the wild coast of British Columbia. Rather than writing a journal or log, she spins vignettes of endless summers on the water, "where time does not exist."

Our world then was both wide and narrow—wide in the immensity of sea and mountain; narrow in that the boat was very small, and we lived and camped, explored and swam in a little realm of our own making.

And so begins the author's story... As a boater who has been up much of the BC coast, I fully appreciate the overwhelming combination of tides, currents, weather, reefs and fog that mariners must face moving through these sometimes peaceful, often unpredictable waters. All she had was a copy of Coastal Pilot and some charts. At one point she tells of losing their compass into the sea - a complete disaster as, without one, the boat is indeed lost.

But, by some miracle, they survived all of their adventures,

each one more astounding than the last. Black bears and cougars stalking the children on the beach, hiking down a treacherous mountain in a whiteout fog and taking a concussed child to a doctor through bad weather, all make for a heart-stopping read. But it is the ongoing search for safe anchorages in the various storms that I found the most harrowing. How fortunate "Capi" (the author's nickname) was to survive these voyages without loss of boat or lives.

However, there are many golden passages, too, as they meandered through the beautiful islands and inlets, sunning like seals on the hot rocks, spraying phosphorescence in the swims at night and eating freshly caught fish, grilled on beach fires. They met some fascinating coastal characters: logger-philosophers, helpful fishermen, people of the land and a few hermits who had fled civilization but were happy to exchange their freshly grown food for a visit with the outsiders. Some great ongoing friendships developed over time, thanks to the little boat "Caprice" returning to the same places, year after year.

As Capi writes her stories, she traces the routes of the early explorers, both British and Spanish, and makes notes of their observations as she seeks out the same landmarks. For example, beautiful Desolation Sound did not appear quite as idyllic in the winter rain to these explorers, hence its choice of name by Captain Vancouver's crew.

The writer is enthralled by the

silent coastal Indian villages with their brooding totems and burial islands. This, of course, was well before the current system of First Nations Guardians who patrol the beaches, greeting visitors and protecting the sacred sites.

Capi manages to recreate the sense of awe and respect she feels walking through them. And we feel our hair rise on the back of our necks as she describes the mystical sense of Something Old being there, watching her and her children. The photographs of the original totems are remarkable and one guesses that they have since fallen into ruin, as they are meant to do.

The Curve of Time is also the story of a tough and resourceful mother who did not overprotect her children but, rather, gave them the experiences that few children would have today. These young ones were independent and fully respected crew members, often with unique and humorous observations. As a family they created precious memories, which must have sustained the children as they grew up and left home, seeking their own adventures throughout the world. How wonderful it is to read about a strong, independent woman in charge of her life well before it was acceptable to do so. Muriel (Capi) Wylie Blanchet stands as a role model for women of all times and ages. Her brave spirit infuses the book, as does her dry sense of humour.

Do read or revisit this Canadian classic. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Rating: 5/5 stars

Do you want to get involved? Become a reporter or writer with the Focus - Editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Upcoming Community Events

March 6th - Director's Meeting

- ★ At the 7 PM March 6th Director's meeting, there will be an opportunity for you to discuss and have input on Shawnigan Lake Surface Use issues.
- ★ 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.
- ★ There will be a panel discussion/presentation from the Ski Club (VASC), a Wake/Surf Representative, Shawnigan Waterwatch Group, Waterbasin Society, Shawnigan Residents' Association, RCMP, and Shawnigan Parks Commission.
- ★ Comments, questions, concerns and feedback from the residents of Shawnigan will be welcomed.
- ★ If you cannot attend the meeting, please forward any comments or questions to sfurstenau@cvrd.bc.ca.
- ★ **Respectful Use of the Lake** - Meeting for Public Comments, Questions and Concerns

March 17th - South Cowichan Library

- ★ March Break Puppet Show: The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark
- ★ Who's afraid of the big bad shark? Join us for an underwater twist on

the Three Little Pigs based on the book by Ken Geist. Suitable for kids of all ages.

- ★ South Cowichan Library - Friday March 17, 11-11:45am
- ★ 250-743-5436 - Judy Baxter BA MLIS - Library Manager, South Cowichan and Bella Coola Branches - jbaxter@virl.bc.ca

April 4th - All Candidates Meeting

- ★ April 4, 2017, 6:00 pm. to 8:00 pm at Cobble Hill Hall
- ★ "What will you do for Seniors when elected?"
- ★ Young Seniors Action Group Society (YSAGS), Shawnigan Lake
- ★ South Cowichan Seniors, Cobble Hill, South End Seniors. Mill Bay, Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute providing the Hall Facility
- ★ Candidates: Liberal, Steve Housser, NDP, Lori Iannidinaro, Green, Sonia Furstenau, Independent, Ian Morrison, Libertarian, James Anderson
- ★ This meeting will follow the usual format of an all candidates meeting with a focus on topics of specific concern to seniors, but also open to other questions.
- ★ Since seniors may have difficulties with transportation, a pick up service will be organized for rides within the South Cowichan area.
- ★ For more information phone: 250 743 8344 or email wiebeis@shaw.ca

Unsung heroes of snow, ice and wind

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Early February ushered in one of those severe weather events that happen every few years. Snow, then more snow, then freezing rain then wind resulting in days of challenging travel conditions and power outages.

All of us were inconvenienced, some more than others. Some were more prepared than others. This is a rural area and a certain amount of self-reliance and planning are necessary. Some

people take it in stride and others get cranky. It is easy to grumble when your power is not restored quickly or your side-road is not cleared for a day.

Think though, what it is like to be a snowplow driver or a powerline worker putting in 18 hour shifts, day after day, as the weather continues to throw punches.

And then there are the Volunteer Fire Departments, Ambulance Crews, RCMP, and Tow Truck Drivers who are expected to respond, no

matter what the conditions are.

These men and women put forth an incredible effort. With limited resources they get the job done without fanfare. We would be in a sorry state without them and they deserve our thanks and respect.

The Shawnigan Focus wants to express community appreciation for the unstinting efforts put forth by Mainroad, BC Hydro and other power crews, all the first responders, and other emergency services.



Countless fallen trees and branches caused hundreds of power outages (photo courtesy of CTV)

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.

Environment Ministry Side Stepping the Real Issue

As a long-term home owner and resident at Shawnigan Lake, I have grave concerns about how the Ministry of Environment (MOE) continues to handle the file for the contaminated soil facility in Shawnigan Lake. After the decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice Sewell (January 24, 2017), the MOE continues to side step the real issue. Although the MOE did issue a strong letter January 27, 2017 to address non-compliant issues that are riddled throughout the MOE's relationship with CHH (Cobble Hill Holdings), the fundamental question that stands out in Justice Sewell's decision has not been addressed. Specifically, should the permit have been issued for a contaminated soil facility at all? This is what the MOE needs to consider in order to correct the wrongs that have been perpetrated on the community.

Judge Sewell found the Environmental Review Board did not follow its own procedure manual in regards to fairly receiving evidence in the case. The Shawnigan Lake Residence Association (SRA) was refused the same treatment as the opposing parties. This brings to question the ethics of the very board who oversee the protection of our environment.

Justice Sewell also found that Active Earth Engineering Ltd unequivocally had a financial interest and therefore, a biased position when developing the initial Technical Assessment Report (TAR) and design for the site. Active Earth's entire credibility and code of conduct as a professional firm has been put into question.

The following are statements from Justice Sewell's decision:

[96] I have concluded that the Board did not act fairly in the manner in which it received opinion evidence in this case.

[123] In this case, Active Earth was designat-

ed as the Qualified Professional for the Facility and charged with preparing the TAR and acting as technical liaison between CHH and the Ministry. However, the evidence that has come to light since the hearing before the Board has satisfied me that from almost the outset of the plan to pursue the Facility until well after these proceedings were commenced, Active Earth was a co-owner, or at least had an agreement with CHH to become a co-owner, of the Facility for which the Permit was required.

[155] It is clear from the evidence that the Delegate relied on the TAR and on further information provided by Active Earth in assessing the application and deciding to issue the Permit. If the question before me had been whether to set aside the Permit, I would have had no difficulty in setting it aside and remitting it to the Ministry for reconsideration because the TAR was prepared by persons who were biased in favour of approving the project.

Based on the evidence that came forward in the BC Supreme Court ruling, the MOE should disengage the incessant dance of non-compliance with CHH and immediately and permanently cancel the permit. The real issue is the premise on which the original decision to issue the permit was based, not the non-compliance that happened after. At the very least, the MOE needs to have an unbiased engineering firm create a TAR. I believe the findings would be quite different than the original biased report presented to the MOE by Active Earth Engineering Ltd.

It seems ironic that while the people of Shawnigan Lake continue to pay taxes to the Provincial Government to protect and safely manage their natural resources, they have been forced to fund raise to fight the same government's decision to proceed with a permit that never should have been approved. Where is the justice in this?

Amy Hanson, Shawnigan Lake Resident

The Shawnigan Focus is produced by volunteers and it is not for profit. It relies on advertising to cover the costs to print and post a monthly issue. We need your support to continue to provide this community service. Please consider placing an ad.

Did you know?



CANADA 150
1867 - 2017

Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. McDonald visited Shawnigan Lake on August 13, 1886 to drive the last spike of the Canadian railway. The E & N Railway was built to fulfill his promise of a railway "from sea to sea"

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High School students TASKed with achieving success



Alana Baker,
Librarian Frances Kelsey Secondary

High school students interested in trades, but not sure which one, have a chance to try out all of them with the Trades and Apprenticeship Skills and Knowledge Program (TASK) at Frances Kelsey School. Students experience a variety of trades including carpentry, electrical, sheet metal, welding and plumbing. Students also have the chance to use these skills to construct buildings that benefit the school. Last year students built a recycling and gardening shed and this year they will be constructing an outbuilding for PE equipment and a shed at Discovery Elementary. Program participants also have eleven days at Camosun College to use the larger facility and experience life on a post secondary campus.

The course runs for one semester. Besides earning eight credits, or the equivalent of two regular semester courses, students also leave with certification in WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), Fall Protection and Confined Space Entry.

The course has been running for more than six years now and has been very well received. The only extra costs are approximately \$250 to cover tools and a pair of steel toed boots. With the demand increasing for skilled tradesmen in BC and across the world, this course is just one more example of how public high schools are always keeping their focus on how we can give our youth the best chance for success in an ever-changing world economy. It is also one good example of a positive partnership between a high school and a college.



Shawnigan Weather February 2017

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

Weather	February	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
	Normal	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	7.4	4.8	9.0	5.6	9.7	6.1	10.2	5.8	9.7
Average Low	0.4	-0.8	3.0	-1	2.7	-0.9	2.8	-0.8	2.6
Extreme High	18.3	9.3	12.6	11.5	14.6	13.1	16.2	12.0	14.5
Extreme Low	-16.7	-4.3	0.1	-4.3	-0.8	-4.3	-0.2	-4.5	-0.5
Precipitation	155.3	173.2	180.1	174.5	173.4	156.5	141.6	172.6	191.2
Days w precip	16	18	24	19	24	19	24	18	24
Year Precip	370.6	267.8	420.4	271.3	415.0	237.8	356.9	261.4	317.6
Precip since Oct 1	899.0	1019.1	954.3	994.8	1062.8	900.6	910.7	991.3	1036.8

(Data up to Feb 25) Rank since 1914: 25th coldest, 29th wettest

Lake Temperature: Feb 5th: 0° (ice on lake) Feb 12th: 1° (5cm ice) Feb 19th: 1° (ice on lake) Feb 26th: 2° (ice on lake)

Lake Level Change: Feb 5th: -15cm Feb 12th: +30cm Feb 19th: +38cm Feb 26th: -28cm

Discover Discovery

Allison Vliet - age 12
The Discovery Team

This year, all schools have a new curriculum that gives the students choices that will engage them in what they are learning. It is inquiry-based learning which means they choose a question that they don't know about and learn about it. This is a great way

for students to learn what their future holds, whether it is being a scientist or even a teacher.

Here is an example of how our new curriculum works: in class we were learning about owls. Our teacher told us we could choose any question we had on owls and find the answer. My question was,

"How do owls turn their heads without their bones getting mumble jumble?" Another example from the class was "Do owls eat other owls?" Many questions were brought up and answered. I "discovered!"

In my opinion, this new curriculum is a great start of a new way of learning.



THE CLAY HUB

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Garden Gnome Class
March 26 • 12:00-3:00

www.theclayhubcollective.weebly.com



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Take A Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

What's scat? A poopy topic I know!

All kidding aside though, we do have so many beautiful areas to hike that it's highly recommended to not only have some kind of map but to also know your scat.

Although we'd prefer to not think about the risks that loom, knowledge and awareness could be the difference between being prepared or dangerously surprised. A lot of the best hiking on Vancouver Island may unsuspectingly put us at risk as we could easily run into cougar, bear, wolf, elk, deer and raccoons.

Whilst hiking on Polara Hill last month we came across

a rather large pile of questionable scat, smaller than bear but larger than deer or rabbit. It dawned on me that others may not be fully aware of what is out there either, and knowing what is in our natural playground is a formidable skill.

Upon returning home, I began scouring the internet and quickly learned that it was, in fact, elk that left its mark. Those of us with K9 companions often have a false sense of security that what is out there would disappear in our presence but, as we've seen in recent years, the wildlife is being driven out of their homes forcing them to hunt elsewhere for chow.

I wish that, personally, I was able to get out there and take



a photo of each type of animal scat for this article. However...quite honestly, I myself had to get educated as well to first learn about identifying the different types. There are so many resources online and you can search for a gazillion types of scat from rodents to birds to the big game.

Admittedly, it was challenging to locate a nicely com-

prised list of Vancouver Island trail poop. Therefore, I've included a couple of links that show some of the common potential threats of what we could see during our explorations.

Scat links:

A good portion of our Island's wildlife with the exception of Cougar https://www.mspca.org/animal_protection/what-animal-is-it/

Cougar and some of the other animals we may come across <https://www.enasco.com/prod/images/products/07/AC1348451.jpg>

Got a smart phone? Search google for optional applications out there that allow you to access a database of tracks and scat.

The most important thing is to educate yourself!

Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission (Area B)

Matthw Ronald-Jones
Shawnigan Parks Chair

The Parks commission met last week although it was our "off" month as we only meet every second month now. With a passionate group of volunteers involved with our Trails Sub committee, we hope to meet and casually discuss any topics. We were very pleased to have 5 members of the community sit in and share their thoughts. Our call to action for the

coming weeks is to ask anyone going out for a hike/walk/ride in any of our local parks or trails to please pack a folding saw, pruners or anything that can help clean up the windfall from the numerous storms that have passed by this winter. Our CVRD park employees are out tending to major issues, but any help with smaller debris would be much appreciated. The next meeting is Thursday, March 16th at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.



The 2017 Family Day event sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Museum was lots of fun for families. Visit the museum to see the great art projects on display. Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers! We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of BC

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS A Free Drop-In at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre



Healthy Beginnings is a friendly, relaxed group for moms and dads with babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age.

No registration is required, just drop-in to visit and share a cup of coffee or a snack.

We will be discussing a wide range of topics.

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

Every Thursday except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

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



WARMLAND MEDICINAL CANNABIS CENTRE

Located in Pioneer Square Mall

Phone: 250.929.5588 | Fax: 250.929.5596

Email: info@warmlandcentre.ca

Web: www.warmlandcentre.ca

Hours: Open daily 10am - 6:30pm



Let's Make British Columbia Distraction Free!



Constable Ian Wetzel-Eden
RCMP – Shawnigan Lake Detachment

The RCMP and ICBC invite you to be part of The Plan. The Plan is to be distraction free in British Columbia. March is Distracted Driving Awareness month and it could be the start of saving 81 individuals from dying needlessly on BC roads.

According to ICBC statistics, Distracted Driving is responsible for 25% of all crash fatalities in our Province. In fact, Distracted Driving has now moved ahead of impaired driving as one of the leading causes of fatal collisions. Your community, family, friends and neighbours should not be put at the risk of death or dismemberment because you pick up your phone while driving.

If you want to make a difference in the world, start right here in British Columbia by committing to leaving your phone alone and staying focused when behind the wheel of your vehicle. Not many people can live with the guilt of endangering themselves, their family and/or others. Taking your eyes off the road for even a moment could increase the chance of a collision. For example, on a dry roadway at 90km per hour a normal car will have

a total stopping distance of approximately 75m. Stopping distance is calculated by two components: thinking time and stopping time. In our above calculation a fairly standard thinking time of 1 second was used. For every second of delayed response, you increase the stopping distance by an additional 25m. So if your cellphone causes you to take 5 seconds to recognize the need to stop, you've increased that stopping distance to 175m, the length of 7 swimming pools! Although the most common offender is a mobile electronic device, programming a GPS, changing a song, or even playing a game can be just as dangerous.

RCMP want to remind drivers that the fine for using an electronic device without hands-free, while driving, is \$368.00 with the possibility of additional penalty point premiums of up to \$14,568. Why risk a collision that could mean injury so severe that it could change your life or that of a loved one forever. The stakes are really high so just leave the phone alone or pull over.

Check out ICBC's website for Distracted Driving for the Month of March. <http://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/tickets/Pages/Default.aspx>

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0
Phone: (250)743-2096
Fax: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030
Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 36 incidents in February 2017



- ★ Friday, Feb 3- Chimney Fire on Butler Ave
- ★ Friday, Feb 3 – Assistance on Stowood Rd
- ★ Saturday, Feb 4 – Hydro Lines on Carlton Dr
- ★ Sunday, Feb 5 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 5 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Feb 6 – Five Hydro Lines on Owl Rd, Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd, Sylvester Rd, Campbell Rd, Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 7 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 8 – MVI on Ida Ave
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 8 – Three Hydro Lines on Cameron-Taggart Rd, Renfrew Rd, W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 8 – Assistance on Gregory Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 9 – Eight Hydro Lines on Carlton Dr, Raymond Cresc, Sooke Lake Rd, Nora Pl, W Shawnigan Lake Rd, Renfrew Rd, Carlton Dr, Ravenhill Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 10 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 10 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 14 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 16 – Vehicle Fire on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Sunday, Feb 19 – Hydro Lines on Davidson @ Furlonge Rds
- ★ Monday, Feb 20 – Chimney Fire on Plum Tree Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 22 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenau@cvrd.bc.ca For meeting updates check www.soniafurstenau.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Meeting TBA at Watershed office: #4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd. **Contact:** jenniebruce1@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
TBA as needed. Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Canada Day - 150 Celebration meeting** March 23rd 7pm Basin office
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Meetings held 1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: lulife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Fri. - Sun. 10:30-4 (exception: closed March 5th) AGM March 14th at the museum - 7pm. For info contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca

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Congratulations!!!

The winning answer for February was
submitted by Ed Wiebe who recognized the
new bridge that crosses Shawnigan Creek
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Mystery of Falcon Hollow



From left to right - Denis Lainchbury, Helen Lainchbury, Doreen Parker, Ray Bootland, Diane Casavant, Fran Whitfield, Skip Whitfield, Denise Holloway.

Oriana Parker YSAGS

Written by Penny Astley -
Well Received

When Penny Astley and family emigrated from London, England to Toronto, Canada in 1982, her love of the world of theatre came with her. Looking back, her career started rather haphazardly at the age of 19 in London. She recalls, "I signed up for a class in theatre arts. My instructor thought I should audition for a musical pantomime, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. It was community theatre but it was a huge production. I was absolutely floored when I got the part of the principal boy, Ali Baba! The paper gave me the most stunning write up - 'Newcomer with the Touch of Trooper', the entire article was about me, my fresh stage presence and my talent. That launched me. I stayed with that company

and did a lot of theatre."

In Toronto she soon found a home for her talent with the Toronto Irish Players. During her time there they performed a James Joyce play, The Dead, musical version, where she played Aunt Julia. On the island she was active with the Mercury Players in Duncan and performed in The Original Cast.

Four years ago, Penny moved to Shawnigan Lake and joined YSAGS. She recently started an hour long Theatre Arts class at the Malahat Legion on Fridays doing play reading and improv. For the reading she brought along a play she had written 20 years ago, Mystery of Falcon Hollow and people loved it. From a little thing, it grew and grew into a full blown stage production. Penny states, "It was beyond my wildest dreams". The play was performed at the Malahat Legion as Dinner Theatre on

February 9th and 10th. The weather was dreadful, but regardless, it played to a full house. On opening night, the audience was fabulous which was a great encouragement to the actors. Of the Friday evening, Penny recalls, "we were feeling more confident, the audience was explosive! They laughed so hard that they brought the play to a stop. We got a standing ovation and we were approached several times to see if we could do the play again. The audience wanted more! My little crew did a phenomenal job! The actors are all from Shawnigan Lake area; Skip and Fran Whitfield, Ray Bootland, Denis and Helen Lainchbury, Denise Holloway, Doreen Parker, Diane Casavant and Karen Adams. In the past few months these actors just blossomed. It gave me great joy to see my written words come to life by a crowd of enthusiastic and talented individuals".



Penny Astley and Karen Adam
Photo by Diane Casavant

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