



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eight- Issue Four

April 2017

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Our Choices for the Provincial Election on May 9th

There are six candidates competing to become the next Member of the Legislature for the Cowichan Valley Electoral District. The Shawnigan Focus wanted to obtain a “Shawnigan Perspective” so asked them all for a response to the following question:

What do you perceive as the single most important issue facing the Shawnigan community at the moment and, if elected, what would you do to address it?

Please consider the responses that were submitted and remember to get out and vote on May 9th!



James Anderson
Libertarian Party

Mr. Anderson did not respond to our invitation.

More information may be available at:
www.libertyincowichan.com



Sonia Furstenau
Green Party

As Area Director for Shawnigan for nearly two and a half years, I’ve learned above all that everything in our community is connected. Our efforts to stop the contaminated landfill were connected not only to our drinking water and health, but also to our economic well-being, and our vision for our future.

Shawnigan has many incredible strengths as a community: our beautiful lake, our wonderful natural setting, our warm and welcoming people. And we have challenges too. While we’ve addressed one threat to our watershed, the reality is that there are other soil dumping sites and other industrial activity that could undermine the long-term health and resilience of the watershed. We are frustrated by the empty commercial spaces in our village. We are tired of driving on roads that have not been properly maintained, and we are worried about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

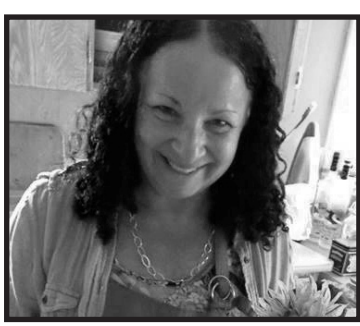
Ultimately, what we want as a community is to have a say in what happens, but as an unincorporated area, we are frustrated by the sense that we are often left out of decision-making processes.

But we’ve learned how to work

together as a community – and this is the greatest asset we have.

As Director, I have learned to work across jurisdictions, and I have worked hard to bring community voices into the decision-making process. I’ve established relationships across jurisdictions - I’ve worked with our MLA, our former and present MPs, and with staff in several provincial ministries. It’s this collaborative and inclusive approach that serves communities the best. I will continue to work in this manner as MLA, and I will support all local communities in the CVRD and ensure their voices are heard and respected.

The BC Greens are committed to delegation of decision-making power to the lowest practical level – we recognize that communities must be at the table, and ultimately they must be the drivers of decisions that affect them the most.



Eden Haythornthwaite
Independent Socialist

The community in Shawnigan Lake had no authentic input into the activities of a private firm who acted recklessly and endangered the water and air of the people in the area. Under any functioning democracy whose priority is the welfare of all the people it serves, this would be unthinkable. The price of freedom for quarry owner Cobble Hill Holdings to do business without regard for the community is much too high. This is the running theme of our economic system.

My program is a socialist plan for transformation in the democratic participation we all deserve and have a right to expect. Under such a program our right to defend our environment would be paramount. Under the points of the platform I have proposed are demands for democratically directed public ownership of our

resources so the people of our province can not only benefit from the wealth this represents, they can decide to leave materials in the ground to better steward our land.

From the disaster at the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond to the creation of the Site C dam project; from the process to place LNG terminal locations to the decisions made about pipe line construction, the people of BC are frequently asked to pay for the outcomes of these decisions but never adequately consulted about the choices. The community of Shawnigan Lake understands this dilemma clearly from experience.

Solidarity is the key to protecting ourselves and each other in instances such as the one which confronted the people of Shawnigan Lake. As a socialist I know every policy, every strategy, and every regulation put in place to better govern, must fulfill the spirit of solidarity for all.

And there must be nothing about us, without us.



Steve Housser
Liberal Party

The most pressing issue facing the Shawnigan community has been the contaminated waste dump in our watershed. However, thanks to concerted efforts by so many, that threat is diminished now that the Ministry of the Environment has revoked SIA/CHH’s permit. Vigilance will still be required on this file but now it’s time to focus on other issues, including illegal dumping and finding an environmentally safe place for dumping waste. But for me one of the big challenges for Shawnigan is also a huge opportunity. We need to make the village a vibrant, friendly mecca with full shops to draw people here for fabulous recreation – mountain biking, kayaking, hik-

ing, bird watching and antiques (if that’s a word?).

It is a shame that retail space sits vacant for years; that permitting for a market, pub and hotel near the lake is stalled beyond reason. Let’s get some creative energy and investment into making Shawnigan a recreational hub and destination for travellers up and down the Island.

The Kinsol Trestle, trails and natural beauty of the Shawnigan area make it a natural spot as a centre for triathlons, mountain bike races, and all manner of outdoor activity. Collaboration with groups like the South Cowichan Rotary Club and Rotary Foundation for a covered picnic and gathering area is a start. There is so much more that can be done.

Beyond the confines of Shawnigan, the area also needs a new regional hospital, dedicated hospice beds and a new high school. If elected as the representative for Cowichan Valley, I promise to champion a positive, optimistic approach for Shawnigan and the whole valley.



Ian Morrison
Independent

Shawnigan residents are passionate when they demand the removal of contaminated soils from the Shawnigan Lake watershed. Teachers, millworkers, fallers, parents and school age kids are equally committed to ensuring the infrastructure is dismantled, and legislation is changed, so they’re community’s never put at risk again.

As your independent MLA for Cowichan Valley, I won’t be shackled by party platforms and policy. I will collaborate with groups like SRA and the Basin Society, community members and citizen experts, and work with the government we elect May 9th, to protect the community now, and

our future generations.

There’s one question often linked to contaminated soils, many of you have asked me during my 9 years serving as a CVRD Director.

“Can families, residents and taxpayers of Shawnigan Lake have more say in the decisions that affect our community? Why do people elected in Youbou or Saltair or Cowichan Bay, vote on decisions about my community’s future?”

The Town of Lake Cowichan has 3226 residents with a Mayor and 4 councillors. The City of Duncan has 4944 residents with a Mayor and 6 councillors. Area B – Shawnigan Lake has 8558 residents(2016 census) and elects ONE CVRD Electoral Area Director to serve a population larger than the City of Duncan and the Town of Lake Cowichan COMBINED!

Changing the form of local governments is the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. Initiating the work and studies must come from the grass roots residents of the community. Does Shawnigan Lake want to make their own land use decisions, say when potholes get fixed, and protect their drinking water sources? How’s the current system working? The people of Shawnigan expect better treatment from their government, and I believe they deserve it. Vote Ian Morrison on May 9th.



Lori Iannidinardo
New Democratic Party

I fought hard to stop the dumping of contaminated soil in the watershed. John Horgan and NDP MLA Bill Routley championed this issue in the Victoria Legislature and pushed the Christy Clark government to finally take action. An NDP government will not just ensure clean-up, but will bring stronger legislation to protect our communities and provide government staff with the resources to enforce that legislation in the future.

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
APRIL 2017

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ment in the community;
and interest a broad cross-
section of the residents of
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The Shawnigan Focus
celebrates 6 years!

**Dave Hutchinson and
Lori Treloar**
Co-Editors of the Focus

Thank you to the Shawnigan
Focus team! We all know how
difficult it can be to keep any
volunteer-run group, or initia-
tive, going for long, so we are
delighted to share that we are
still going strong after more
than 70 issues – the first issue
being April 2011.

We appreciate the many
people who volunteer their
time to produce this monthly
focus on Shawnigan. **Kim
Hennecker:** Kim keeps us
in line with our ad accounts,
and helps advertisers to create
great ads. **Taryn Treloar:**

Taryn manages the layout and
has improved the look and
flow of the paper...she also
gets the paper to the printer
on time every month. **Janet
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ers come out once a month
to read all of the submissions
and tidy them up, if necessary,
before they are sent to layout.

Thank you to the many
writers who have contributed,
and continue to contribute,

to the paper, through let-
ters, community reports and
articles. We are proud to pro-
duce a forum that speaks to
Shawnigan issues. And thank
you to all of the research-
ers who kept the community
informed about the issues
with the contaminated waste
site. We also appreciate our
out-of-town supporters who
subscribe to the Focus so that
they can keep in touch with
what is happening here.

And, last but not least, thank
you to all of the advertisers
who support this community
endeavour. We would not be
able to produce, print and
post the Focus without you!

Shawnigan Weather MARCH 2017

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	March	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
	Normal	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	10.0	8.5	11.3	8.7	11.5	9.0	11.8	8.9	11.5
Average Low	1.4	2.3	3.4	1.9	3.1	2.2	3.4	1.9	2.9
Extreme High	22.2	13.9	23.8	15.7	22.1	14.8	23.2	12.0	21.5
Extreme Low	-11.7	-1.4	-0.2	-2.3	-1	-1.6	-0.4	-4.5	-1
Precipitation	120.2	211.0	213.9	186.3	266.7	167.4	210.5	192.4	227.6
Days w precip	18	30	19	30	19	30	19	30	19
Year Precip	490.8	493.1	680.9	468.3	727.1	414.4	623.1	467.8	669.2
Precip since Oct 1	1018.9	1244.4	1127.7	1191.8	1292.8	1073.1	1096.8	1197.7	1223.2
Rank since 1914: 45 th coldest, 9 th wettest									
Lake Temperature: March 5 th : 3° March 12 th : 4° March 19 th : 4° March 26 th : 5°									
Lake Level Change: March 5 th : +5cm March 12 th : +30cm March 19 th : +23cm March 26 th : -10cm									

Upcoming Community
Events

South Cowichan Music Jam

- ★ April 8 & 22 7:00 – 11:00
- ★ Shawnigan Malahat Legion
- ★ We're kicking up a regular jam night in South Cowichan and hope to see lots of jamming musicians and fans out for some fun! 2nd & 4th Saturdays, Licensed venue, no cover, donations gratefully accepted.

Free event - Lemon and Lavender

Vintage Tea

- ★ South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary is hosting their annual
- ★ April 8, 2017, from 11AM to 2PM
- ★ Mill Bay Community Hall 1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Baking, Crafts, Raffles, Treasure tables, local Artisan and more...
- ★ Tea will be served with dainty sandwiches and sweets for \$7.00. Tickets will be pre-sold (250.743.3158) as well as available at the door.

Tennis Anyone?

- ★ The Mill Bay Tennis Club is getting set for another season.
- ★ Current members will be at an Information Day in front of Thrifty's in Mill Bay on Saturday, April 8th from 10:00 to 2 pm.
- ★ Membership is \$75 for individuals.
- ★ The tennis courts are on Wilkinson Road behind Kerry Park Recreation Centre. Come out and give it a try. It's great fun and fellowship abounds!
- ★ Check out the website: www.millbaytennis.com

First Annual Shawnigan
Lake Shoreline Clean-up

When:

- ★ 9:00 until 12 noon, Saturday May 20th

Goals:

- ★ To clean up loose garbage and debris that is entangled, beached or shallowly submerged along the uninhabited stretches of the lakeshore.
- ★ To promote community spirit with summer and full-time users.
- ★ To promote awareness for respecting the lake.

Proposed Process:

- ★ Volunteer teams to self-organize and select a favourite stretch of the main shoreline (or island).
- ★ Use any watercraft that can get close into the natural vegetation to extract plastic, glass, metal, bottles, tins, etc.
- ★ There will be 3-4 larger boats that will serve as central hubs on the water for the smaller crafts to unload their hauls once they are full.
- ★ Garbage will be loaded into pick-up trucks at nearest boat-launch or accessible road-end.
- ★ Ron Cuthbert will provide dump-truck at Government Wharf for

amalgamating all pick-up loads and will transport to disposal facility. The dump-truck will be available until 12:30pm.

Safety:

- ★ All volunteers should bring proper footwear, gloves, lifejackets, nets, tongs, rakes, and other useful tools for extracting and picking up things that don't belong in our lake.
- ★ Absolutely mandatory not to work alone, in case someone was to get tangled, etc. Water safety needs to be of utmost importance; especially with kids involved.
- ★ Children must wear a Personal Flotation Device at all times.

Please Respect Privacy:

- ★ Efforts should only be concentrated on uninhabited shorelines. Grey area here is you would hate to assume an old piece of dock is garbage, haul it out, only to find out that it is owned and being used. Only things that are clearly garbage should be removed.
- ★ To Volunteer or Obtain More Information Please Contact:
 - ★ Ron Cuthbert: cuthbertconstruction@telus.net
 - ★ Rebecca Frostad: shawnigancleanup2017@gmail.com

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.

Letter from the editor:

No sympathy for pit owners – the soil must be removed

It is no surprise that the owner/operators of the contaminated landfill at Shawnigan Lake now want to permanently close the site and walk away. The tide has finally turned against them in recent weeks. It is impossible to feel any sympathy given the tremendous and varied costs to the Shawnigan community over the last four years. It will be interesting to see how their final efforts at litigation play out; a financial gamble for their legal team to say the least.

The Ministry of Environment may claim that *“the permit was not cancelled due to pollution occurring”*. However Mary Polak, in a March 15, 2017 letter, states the following in response to owner Mike Kelly:

“The former permit was based upon the alleged engineering being sound and correctly installed as required and overseen by a suitably qualified professional. The ministry has yet to receive complete information which satisfactorily verifies your assertion of safety in situ. In the absence of detailed engineering records produced and signed off by a suitably qualified professional, it is difficult for the ministry to concur with your statement that the recent water quality results collected in the watershed confirm that the CHH property is not a source of contamination in the watershed.”

Shawnigan residents, who have been monitoring the site for years, are entitled to feel vindicated now that the Ministry is finally pulling its head out of the sand.

The fight is far from over and just closing the facility will not be accepted. Recent photos show that seams of the liner are failing. Water testing results show significantly high levels of an alarming list of contaminants just downstream from the discharge point. It appears obvious that the landfill is leaking. It is also obvious that the 100,000 tonnes of heavily contaminated material must be removed and properly dealt with by competent operators and honest engineers.

~Dave Hutchinson

Setting the record straight on soil fight

In a March 28 article printed by the Cowichan Valley Citizen, “Soil companies to close Shawnigan contaminated soil quarry permanently”, Mike Kelly and Marty Block make several questionable statements.

For example, Mr. Kelly stated

“It’s too bad that a small group of people” spread “fear and unfounded allegations”.

Let’s look at the facts. At a public meeting in Shawnigan in July 2012, over 300 residents came out to state their opposition to the proposed landfill. Only two people supported it, including the daughter of Mr. Block, the quarry owner. The CVRD, the CRD, VIHA, the City of Victoria, and Cowichan Tribes all stated their opposition to this permit. After the Environmental Appeal Board decision upheld the permit in March 2015, over 15,000 people signed a petition calling on Minister Polak to revoke it. Over 1,600 people attended a rally at the B.C. Legislature in May 2015. And hundreds of people in Shawnigan contributed to fundraising, protesting, letter writing, and raising awareness. By December 2015, we had 14 teams of eight to 10 people each working together in a coordinated effort to get the permit revoked. It was never a “small group of people” — we were a community that had been ignored by a process that was a failure, and we were a community unwilling to accept the risk imposed on us without our permission.

Mr. Marty Block states that the soil “was benign and under strict guidelines.” The permit allowed the company to import soil that was contaminated with dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and hydrocarbons. These are not benign substances. The “strict guidelines” that Mr. Block referred to were the conditions of the permit, and as Minister Polak stated in her Feb. 23 letter, this company did not respond to “outstanding non-compliances and repeatedly missed deadlines with respect to its permit requirements.”

Finally, Mr. Block and Mr. Kelly make no mention of the January 2016 BC Supreme Court decision that imposed a stay on the permit. In his decision, Justice Sewell highlighted the secret profit-sharing agreement between Cobble Hill Holdings and Active Earth Engineering as undermining the legitimacy of the permit.

The final step that the Ministry of Environment must now take is to have the soil removed from the site. Water samples since

October 2016 show that heavy metals are leaching off the site and into the environment, which is what the independent experts said would happen from the beginning.

The Ministry of Environment must also assess all the ways that this process failed. “Getting to yes” has turned into nothing short of a fiasco in Shawnigan Lake. “Listening to communities” should be the approach all governments adopt in circumstances like this — and if the government had listened to us from the start, we could have avoided this costly and damaging disaster.

**Sonia Furstenuau,
Shawnigan Area Director**

Clean up the mess

So ... Mike Kelly, Marty Block and the rest who have left finger prints all over the CHH/SIA contaminated garbage dump site are “tired with all the politics that have been tied to this project”. So they think “the ministry has caused them lots of damage” since they opened, and they’re “looking to have those damages compensated”; and they think it’s “too bad that a small group of people did a good job of spreading fear and unfounded allegations about your project”. Any more stupid things to say, you greedy, self-serving babies? You live in our community ... you live in Shawnigan Lake! When I worked in the coal mines, the first thing the veterans told me was don’t relieve yourself where you work. Cry me a river ... then clean up your mess.

Your companies, Active Earth, the Christy Clark/Mary Polak/Terry Lake Liberal Party, and others shoved this nasty mess into the faces of the citizens of the Cowichan Valley, and are now reaching into the pockets of every taxpayer in British Columbia to pay for the predicted boondoggle that got you all so excited. You’ve already taken more than you had any right to.

But you took on a community that would have none of it. You attacked a beautiful valley that we would defend in a way you did not imagine. Your dreams of fat bank accounts, cocktails in amphibious cars, rich dinners with the like-minded, along with whatever obscene indulgences your

imagination could conjure up, blinded you from being environmentally responsible with your quarry above our sweet lake.

Recall the first packed-house town hall meeting ... we did not support your plans from Day One. Nevertheless, our overly-business-friendly government granted your permit allowing you to fill your dump with someone else’s crap that, as predicted, is leaking towards our beautiful lake and threatening our drinking water. Your trucks clogged and chewed-up our roads. You took the citizens in the Cowichan Valley away from their families to go stand in front of those trucks, to march on the Legislature, to sit in courtrooms, to write thousands of letters, and to make thousands of

phone calls. You devalued our dream properties. Defending our beautiful part of the Island from your invasion caused great stress, as we wrote cheques and madly fund-raised to pay for ethical legal representation.

We lost so much time. That time is gone. That money is gone. Now we want your gang, and what’s in your dump, gone.

Don’t expect any sympathy from your neighbours ... you’ve left your staff and the rest of us with plenty to do. You, your other partners, and this Liberal government can roll up your sleeves and clean up the mess you stuck in our faces, and then don’t let the door hit you in the backside on your way out.

**Severely disgusted,
Paul & Dinah Jolicoeur**

Did you know?



that Canadians have invented many things that we take for granted: basketball; insulin; Macintosh apples; the paint roller; the space arm; green ink (used for printing American money); the Hockey goalie mask; Hawkins Cheezies; green garbage bags and more...



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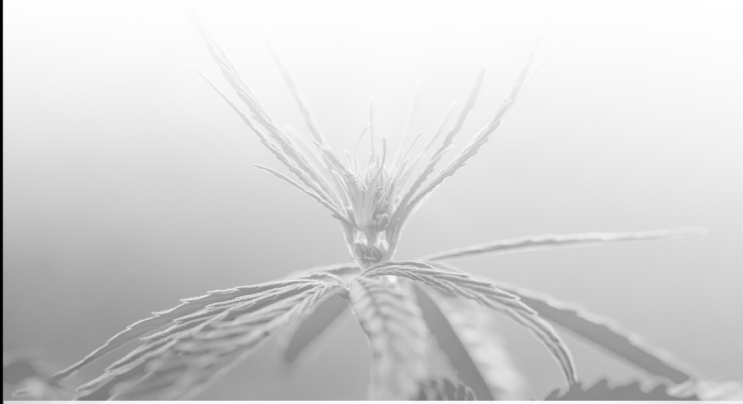
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COWICHAN
GROWN



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus
A Piece of the World
Christina Baker Kline
Published by Harper Collins
Copyright 2017 by Christina Baker Kline

You have likely seen the picture. It is considered Andrew Wyeth’s most famous painting, sometimes called the Mona Lisa of American art. “Christina’s World” is haunting and unforgettable. The twisted body of the woman dragging herself across the broad arid field, the ramshackle house on the hill facing away from her, the horizon and the sky, all produce a mood of mystery and disquiet. (Go ahead and Google it.) We don’t see the woman’s face, but Christina Baker Kline shows us her courageous soul.

This novel is based on real-life characters but attempts to deepen and enlarge on what little is known of Christina Olson, the subject of the painting and Wyeth’s summertime neighbour from rural Maine. He writes, “She was limited physically but by no means spiritually. The challenge to me was to do justice to her extraor-

dinary conquest of a life which most people would consider hopeless.”

Kline, the author, takes this back story and creates a powerful main character, a woman with a terrible debilitating disease who is determined to live normally, rejecting help and above all, well-meaning pity. She lives with her remaining bachelor brother on the old family farm and does the back-breaking work in the house: washing, cleaning, cooking, canning and sewing, all without electricity or modern plumbing.

A bright student, her opportunity for further education after Grade 8 was vetoed by her father, when he decided she was needed on the farm. A promising early romance with a young man from town ended in terrible rejection and a deep, private heartbreak. Christina’s consolation lay in her book of poems by Emily Dickinson, another outsider who lived a very small life but left a large legacy to the world. Our heroine was left with her family, a few friends and her cats. And there was, of course, always the beauty of the sea, all around her. Still, it was

an extremely lonely life for this stoic New England spinster.

As Andrew Wyeth enters Christina’s life through a friend, she accepts his fascination with the house and finally with her as a subject. Wyeth does not attempt to help his disabled neighbour as he, too, has difficulty walking, what with a twisted hip and foot. This mutual understanding goes a long way in helping artist and subject gain a degree of comfort with each other.

While the artist is not the main character, his life gradually emerges with Christina’s and together they create something that echoes the time, the geography and the history of the surrounding countryside.

This tribute to the painting and the pairing of Andrew and Christina is beautifully drawn. (pun intended.) Read it for the strength of the quiet stubborn heroine and the brilliant striving of an iconic American artist. The supporting characters also ring true. There is much to enjoy and savour in this book.

Rating: 4.8/5

1917 & South Cowichan

John Orr

As the First World War continued in 1917, a change had taken place in the character of the battle on the Western Front. By 1917, the Entente Cordiale (Allied) forces had begun to master the combined arms battle with its massive application of artillery firepower.

There were three major battles in 1917 that affected the Canadian Corps: Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele. Vimy Ridge should need little explanation to Canadians. Hill 70 was initially a textbook campaign in which the high ground (Hill 70) overlooking the city of Lens was quickly captured. The battle then became bogged down when the Corps entered the city of Lens. Passchendaele was a brutal slog through the mud of Flanders and was won at a high price in both men and material.

There were four men of South Cowichan who died in 1917, three at Vimy Ridge and one at Hill 70. Amazingly, there no local casualties at Passchendaele. Coincidentally, all four men who died initially joined the 103rd Battalion in Victoria.

James Kinver Doney was born in Cornwall, England in 1891 and early in the 1900s, his family moved to Cowichan Station. Prior to the war, he joined the 88th Regiment (Victoria Fusiliers) and served in the British Columbia Horse for local protection duties at the outbreak of hostilities.

Doney eventually enlisted in the 103rd Battalion and went overseas in July 1916. Of note, he described himself as a 'gentleman farmer' on his Attestation Papers.

He was quickly promoted to

Acting Sergeant and by November was promoted to Acting Company Sergeant Major. In January 1917, the when 103rd was folded into the 16th Canadian Reserve Battalion and with the prospect of getting to the front slowly receding, Doney accepted a reduction in rank to Private and transferred to the 54th Battalion to see action in France. He arrived at the front in February 1917 during the prelude to the battle of Vimy Ridge. On 1 March 1917, he was killed during a gas attack on La Folie. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial.

Murdo Fraser was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1899. He was a plumber by trade and joined the 103rd Battalion in January 1916. When the 103rd was disbanded, Fraser transferred to the 102nd Battalion in France and arrived at his new unit on 17 February 1917.

On 9 April 1917, the 102nd was part of the attack on Vimy Ridge. Fraser was one of more than 3,500 fatalities suffered by the Canadian Corps during that battle. He is buried at Canadian Cemetery No. 2 in Neuville-St. Vaast.

Henry John Gardner was born in London in 1884. He came to Shawnigan Lake in 1906 and according to his Attestation Papers, was a logger.

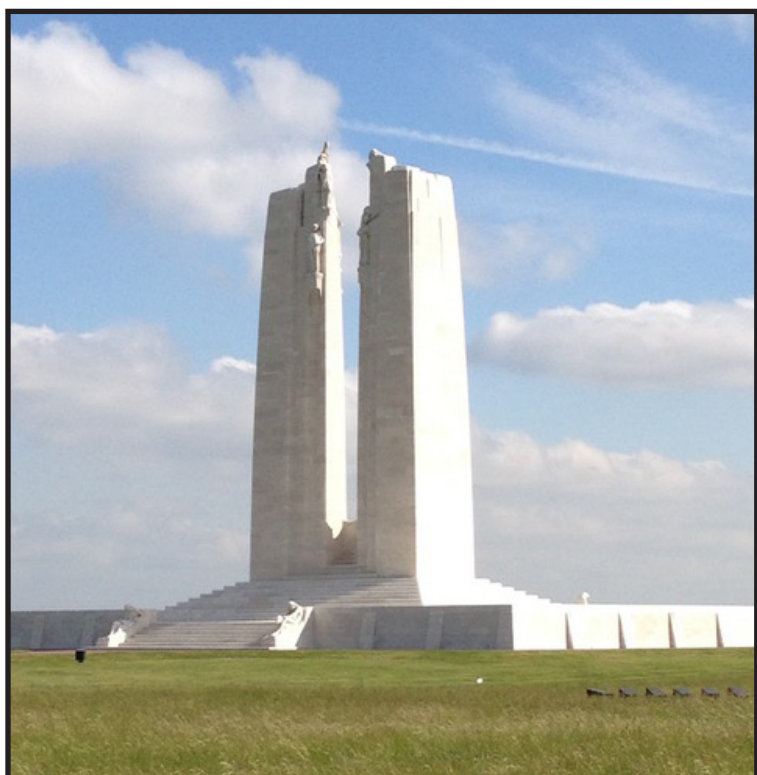
He joined the 103rd Battalion in December 1915 and sailed to England in July 1916. Gardner transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps in November 1916 and was posted to the 5th Canadian Machine Gun Company on 4 April 1917. He suffered serious wounds at Vimy Ridge and subsequently died on 17 April at No. 13 Stationary Hospital in Boulogne, France

where he is buried.

Thomas Edwin Guns was born in Cowichan Station in 1897. He grew up in Cowichan Station and helped his father who was the manager of Pemberton Farms. He joined the 103rd Battalion in November 1915 and stated that he was a rancher on his Attestation Papers.

In November 1916, Guns transferred to the Headquarters of the 2nd Division as a groom. He remained there until he left for France to join the 54th battalion in March 1917. He was subsequently attached to the 11th Canadian Light Trench Mortar Battery in support of the 54th Battalion and came through the Vimy campaign unscathed.

On 15 August 1917, while acting as a runner in the vicinity of Lens, he was shot by an enemy sniper. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial.



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Easter Event 2017

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B.Y.O.B.

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"Health is the greatest gift, contentment is the greatest wealth, faithfulness is the best relationship." - Buddha

Reading Buddies – Mentorship in Literacy

Julie Faye Parker,
Vice-Principal at Frances Kelsey

What I have appreciated, as a newcomer to the Cowichan District, is the amazing group of students and creative, dedicated teachers in this valley. Kelsey Secondary is such a completely innovative and inspiring place to be; and the number one reason for this inspiration is the innate desire our students have to make a difference.

We have what is termed “Q” block at Kelsey every Friday if it isn’t a short week. All the grades are involved in their own “Q” block courses, school-wide, at the same time. This dedicated, special block of time also allows for whole-school activities, performances, and rallies. Leadership 11 is one class in this block where curriculum is not static at all – but developed with students. The teachers offer up a menu of leadership possibilities, present this menu to the grade 11s, and then they opt for a “topic” of choice. Students who want something more can also design their own leadership plans,

under the mentorship of a selected teacher. Some of the current offerings include passion projects in the community; knitting projects for a charity; leadership through coaching development and fitness; student-created TED talks; and Reading Buddies.

Reading Buddies happens off-site. We load up the bus and take our grade 11 reading mentors to the elementary school for shared reading and activities. The idea behind Reading Buddies is based on literacy research. We did some talking first with our grade 11’s about how different we all are as learners, and that reading is a pretty complex activity. There are proven gains in fluency, comprehension, as well as increased interest in reading when you share the experience. And that is not just for the primary students. With a coaching session under their belts, and the importance of the meta-cognition of the reading process, the 11’s were eager to encourage their “buddies” to engage with their favorite books. From the smiles and the energy on the return bus ride from Bonner to Kelsey, this is some pretty

enjoyable leadership for the group. The magic and imagination of literature for our young readers is awakened, but the pleasure of sharing and teaching is developed in our older students as well.

All of our staff are also very proud of all our grade 11’s involved in important leadership projects in and around our Kelsey Community. The Leadership 11 sessions, like the one highlighted here, encourages student engagement, choice, and promotes community action. A community of caring makes for a great place to learn!



The Passion of Miss Blue

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Resident and
former Area Director

As the original Riverpool flock matured their individual personalities began to emerge. There is Miss Urgent, the brown Ameraucana, who forgoes the morning delivery of scratch to make haste for the goat barn, gravid with egg, determined to fly through the just opened barn door to her preferred spot in the hay pile amidst a crescendo of contented clucking. Then there is Dotty, the Wyandotte, who is very officiously vocal about her superior status and Miss Speckle who has the most raucus squawk in the yard for no apparent reason. The Black Sisters, Ameraucanas that lay olive green eggs, arrived late in day and still harbour the aggres-

sive tendencies of the previously downtrodden. Amidst all these competitors, the Orpington twins just drift comfortably from food to water to garden scratching, oblivious to the politics of hierarchy. At the very bottom of the pecking order is Miss Blue, the Agnes Gooch of the flock.

Miss Blue, you will remember, is the diminutive Ameraucana that surprised us all by laying the first delightfully blue egg. That, it seems, was the pinnacle of her popularity. In this third year of her life she has retreated into a weightless shell of dusty feathers, her comb faded and her steps fearful of the wrath of her ruthless dinosaur-spawn of coop mates. She has survived the indignities of several beak surgeries to enable her to pick

up her food. There are no eggs now and she still peeps like a chick, her voice never maturing into a post-adolescent squawk. Miss Blue answers to her name with a plaintive cry as she is coaxed out of the farthest, darkest corner of the hen house to feed when the others have left for the day.

As evening falls and the temperature drops, we are always concerned that Miss Blue will succumb to the cold and be found in the morning, just that small mound of feathers in the far corner, unresponsive to her name. Until that time, however, we have learned to provide palliative care. We coax her out of her corner, pick her up, turn her upside down under the heat lamp where she rests with her toes twitching in the warmth.

She would probably stay the whole night like that if we could stand there holding her. But, we turn her right side up, place her on a platform under the lamp and leave her to the pleasures of infra-red heat. Sometimes she is still there in the morning, warm but not cooked.

We know that this stage cannot last. She can barely stand on her feet. She is now in in a hay lined stall in the goat barn, where she can rest without being harassed by her coop mates. But the farm will soon be a different place when she passes and that mournful cry is finally stilled forever.

Last night was her last. This morning she was just that lifeless bundle of dusty feathers. RIP Miss Blue.



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Department Members
Attended 20 incidents in
March 2017



- ★ Wed, Mar 1 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 2 – Mutual Aid with Mill Bay for a Structure Fire on Deloume Rd
- ★ Fri, Mar 3 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sat, Mar 4 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, Mar 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 9 – Alarms Activated on McKean Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 9 – Burning Complaint on Wallbank Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 9 – Mutual Aid with Malahat for a Rope Rescue
- ★ Fri, Mar 10 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tues, Mar 14 – Alarms Activated on Cudlip Rd
- ★ Tues, Mar 14 – Lift Assist off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Fri, Mar 17 – Safety Code Violation off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, Mar 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Mon, Mar 20 – Mutual Aid with Malahat for 1st Responder off TCH
- ★ Mon, Mar 20 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, Mar 22 – Structure Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 23 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tues, Mar 28 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Wed, Mar 29 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Fri, Mar 31 – Mutual Aid with Mill Bay for a Structure Fire on Telegraph Rd

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
Office hours by appointment. Email sfurstenau@cverd.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** April 20th 7pm Basin office
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of the month 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 For info contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca

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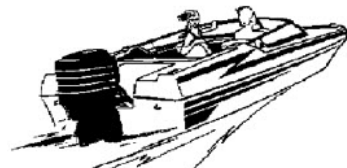


One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Congratulations!!!

The winning answer for March was submitted by Dinah and Paul Jolicoeur who live and swim near the jumping and diving platform in Angus Road Bay. The platform has a lovely plaque dedicated to the memory of Knute Johnson (1929-2007).

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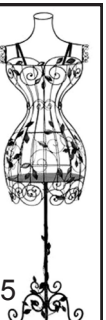
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Shawnigan Pavilion: Call for Volunteers



Let's celebrate the fact that Canada's 150th birthday is a great time to start positive things happening in our community again, things we can get excited about, and all get behind collectively to make happen. We are proposing to build a beautiful timber frame structure in Elsie Miles Park for the benefit of the community for public gatherings, recreation cultural presentations and utility space having worked for some time to bring this vision to life the proposal is close to becoming a reality.

We anticipate major funding for the project coming from the CVRD through Federal gas tax contributions. The remaining funds needed to complete the building are being sought through community sponsorship and community volunteer effort. Potential sponsors are being contacted for goods and services and we are now reaching out to volunteers to join the project.

The idea of community participation in both the funding and construction of the project is a fundamental concept. This vision anticipates cultural, social, personal and communal benefits for participants that stem from the collective effort and participation for the common good of our community. It's an exciting idea and one that we hope will inspire you and your family to contribute

to your community in this fun event that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

A quick overview of the plan is to bring together and coordinate groups of volunteers to build the structure. The timber frame will be cut off site and delivered ready to erect. The rest of the work relies heavily on volunteers. The nature of the volunteer work falls in to four parts and there are opportunities for everyone.

- ★ Foundation - the construction work will begin with foundations; we need some experienced construction people who can layout and build the form work and pour the concrete.
- ★ Staining - the timbers need to be stained before the raising. The pieces will be laid out and stain applied over several weekends.
- ★ Frame Raising - 30,000

pounds of timber, 2 days and lots of people will see this frame standing. Volunteers will work in teams under the direction of professional timber framers to assemble and fasten the pieces together. The work is heavy but straightforward and no experience is required.

- ★ Roof Decking - after raising the frame the roof decking goes on. For this we need experienced construction people once more to cut and install the tongue and groove decking.

If you are interested in taking part in this very special community building event please get in touch with Angus McKay angusandsarahmckay@gmail.com or text 250-466-4505 and let us know which part of the work is of interest and what your skill set may be. Volunteers are required to work safely and follow direction. Safety boots or shoes are required for many of the aspects. Construction will take about 3 months and starts late in June. Foundations will run through July. Staining will be early August and the frame raising will be late August followed by the roof decking which will run for a few weeks with final details being completed late September.



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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

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