



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eight- Issue Eight

August 2017

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## BE FIRE SMART!



Andy Witteman on Twitter: "Insane wildfire outside 100milehouse in BC"

### Oriana Parker

#### South Cowichan Community Policing

The Cowichan Valley and area is one of the most beautiful on Vancouver Island. Nature has blessed this fertile valley with an abundance of spectacular vistas, parkland, and trails. Most of us live in and around the serenity of trees and wildlife. Why then, at a critical time when wildfires are rampant in BC, do we not do more to protect our treasured communities? We should adopt a no tolerance attitude towards the improper disposal of smoking material; the tossing of cigarettes from vehicles (penalty under Wild Fire Act is \$575); the mishandling of burning substances; the illegal use of open fire. As well, be

aware of the possibility of spontaneous combustion occurring when storing oil soaked clothes in the garage or around the house.

he time has come for Block Watch captains and volunteers to be vigilant about fire. Please report any fire regardless of size to BC Wildfire Service at 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell phone. Report suspicious behaviour in relation to fire to the RCMP. The province has declared a state of emergency and the RCMP have sent over 340 officers from BC and Alberta to assist. Currently there are more than 3,400 firefighters and other personnel battling the blazes with the assistance of another 836 from out of province. Imagine the horror of finding your

home burnt to the ground. Unfortunately, for many, that is their reality.

Humans caused many of these fires. Our desire to be one with nature and live alongside trees puts us in danger. To a forest fire our houses are just fuel! Make a list of potential hazards in and around your property. Mulch is an invitation to burn, as is firewood stored underneath the deck. The wooden deck itself is a fast burn for a wildfire. The B.C. government has taken a tougher stand on irresponsible behaviour that contributes to increased wildfire risks with serious fines and penalties. It is your responsibility to know the current Fire Ban and Restrictions in place for where you live.

### B.C. Fires as of 10 a.m., Saturday, July 29, 2017

- ★ There are currently 148 wildfires burning in British Columbia.
- ★ Since April 1, 2017, there have been a total of 810 wildfires in the province that have burned a total of 390,393 hectares.
- ★ Detailed information on wildfires of note is updated throughout the day at: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildfiresofnote](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfiresofnote)
- ★ Crews and equipment:
- ★ There are 4,769 firefighters and other personnel currently fighting the fires. This includes:
- ★ 1,121 from out-of-province
- ★ 1,527 contractors
- ★ There are 199 helicopters and planes supporting ground crews to fight the British Columbia fires.

*The public can make donations to support those affected by the fires through the Canadian Red Cross and their British Columbia Fires Appeal program, available on the Canadian Red Cross website: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)*

## NO OPEN BURNING

### Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Po Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, Bc V0r 2W0

Telephone: (250)743-2096 Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-Emergency Telephone: (250)812-8030 Email: [shawniganfire@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganfire@shaw.ca)

By now everyone should be aware that the **open burning ban has been in effect in the province since July 6, 2017.** Yet incredibly, to date this month Shawnigan Fire Department members have attended 16 burning complaints & 1 bush fire!!

**'No open burning'** means no open wood or paper product fires, no campfires, chimineas, fireworks, tiki torches, sky lanterns, or burn barrels.

The ban does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes or portable gaseous powered campfire apparatus with a flame not exceeding 15 cm.

Use extreme care in our very dry outdoors.

To report a smoke sighting, wildfire, open burning or campfire call 9-1-1 immediately.





## SHAWNIGAN FOCUS AUGUST 2017

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# The Shawnigan Lake Community Association

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA) is an organization of local volunteers who are dedicated to their community. We are a non-profit organization that relies on a small government grant and donations from the local community. Each year we struggle to plan and budget for community events that are at minimal cost, or all together free of charge to the public. Any money that is charged goes directly back to the participating groups as their fundraiser. This is so that the children and their families have a fun and safe environment to enjoy special holidays such as Easter, Canada Day, Halloween and the Christmas Light-up.

This year was a special Canada Day event, celebrating our country's 150th birthday. The SLCA went above and beyond planning this event for any and all Canadians who wished to come and celebrate with fellow citizens. It was

- ★ Shawnigan Fire Department
- ★ Malahat Legion
- ★ Ecole Cobble Hill Choir
- ★ Shawnigan Alliance Church
- ★ South Cowichan Recreation staff
- ★ The Village Chipperry

an incredible day with so many activities, music, great food and no end of fun for all ages.

We think it is more than appropriate to take a moment to thank the groups and volunteers who have given so much of their precious time, creativity, resources and team spirit into making this and all the SLCA events successful and memorable.

Andrea Schroeffer (President), Patty Oldfield (Vice-President), Marian Davies (Secretary Treasurer) and Betsy Burr (Director) worked endlessly and tirelessly to recruit, plan and coordinate this Canada Day event. A special thank you to Betsy for orchestrating the fantastic parade each year!

We would also like to send out our deepest thanks to the following local groups whose contribution to our recent Canada Day event made for a great success:

- ★ Girl Guides
- ★ 4-H Community Club
- ★ YSAGS
- ★ South Cowichan Rotary
- ★ Don, Tony and the Pony Club band
- ★ Shawnigan Garage

**Look us up on Facebook! Email: [ShawniganLakeComAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:ShawniganLakeComAssoc@gmail.com)**



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ★ **August 4th and 5th** - Shawnigan Pavillion project. Help stain the timbers for our new timber frame pavillion. See page 5 for more details.
- ★ **August 13th** - Heritage Fair and Family Picnic, sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Museum. **Free**, old fashioned community gathering with artisans demonstrating time honoured skills; a line up of vintage vehicles; family races and games; a dress up photo booth and much more. Pack a picnic and head to the fair. Elsie Miles Park 10:30-2:30

## Welcome to the 60's

**Rebecca Simms**

*Summer Student - Shawnigan Lake Museum*

Shawnigan Lake emanates the spirit of a cozy, luxury campground, inviting to all who set foot in it. To create a setting for the inner mind, it is simplistically easy to picture a beautiful, yet humbly constructed wooden house, nestled delicately on the lakeshore with wood smoke billowing out of its hand crafted stone chimney. One would poke out in the earliest moments of the morning, often rising with the sun as a sign of a new day beginning, and walk along a small, well-trodden path to reach a water well where they would collect all that they needed for their morning cup of tea and other necessities.

'Welcome to the 60's' is now available for viewing at the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

It is increasingly difficult to capture the feeling of an era as time continues to chug onwards like a determined train, with or without us aboard, for its ever-transitioning destination. Seeing this as factual, it stresses the importance of our duty as an evolving society to docu-

ment our history and record its many stories, stories that have helped to shape who we are as individuals and the roles that we play in our beloved communities. Having said this, it cannot be the job of one particular individual, but must be the shared responsibility of all to protect this area's unique and sought after past - one worth remembering.

All of the Shawniganites I have had the pleasure of meeting possess a few similarities: pride for their community and a dedication to its preservation. I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to help those of you who call this charming and reputable lakeshore village home, in a journey that has taken me into the past of an extraordinary community, contributing kindness and timeless beauty through and through.

For a greater examination of the era of the 1960's, I encourage every one of you to make your way down to the Shawnigan Lake Museum at your leisure and observe how things have nostalgically changed from your memory.

*Beautiful now, and beautiful then, get to know Shawnigan all over again.*



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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.

Incorporation - the next step for Shawnigan?

As the beautiful new pavilion in Elsie Miles Park takes shape, organized largely by local volunteers, it shows the power of local people to improve our community.

However, it isn't easy. In unincorporated areas like Shawnigan, the lack of local control over parks, roads, crosswalks, zoning, planning and other issues often makes improvements more difficult than they should be. Decision making power over local issues is often at the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), where Shawnigan has one representative among fifteen, or further away, at the provincial government in Victoria.

The effects of this situation are often frustrating, and range from minor to major. For example, despite numerous requests, we still don't have a single CVRD parks sign to direct people to Shawnigan's new Mt. Baldy Park, more than two years after the community helped raise the funds to purchase the mountain. At the other end of the spectrum, the lack of local control was one of the many challenges in the long-running contaminated soil dump fiasco, and the ongoing fight to remove the leaching soil from the watershed.

With 8,500 people, the Shawnigan area is the second largest unincorporated areas in BC. Saltspring Island, the largest, is currently preparing for a referendum on incorporation in September. In fact, many places with much smaller populations than Shawnigan have incorporated

into municipalities and enjoy the benefits of local control. For example Lake Cowichan, with a population of only 3,000, has an elected mayor and council and numerous municipal staff, all working to improve the community.

There is a potential downside to incorporation, however. Municipalities pay a greater share of their policing and road maintenance costs than unincorporated areas, so taxes could increase. This varies with the specific circumstances, such as the amount of road to be maintained. Other tax levies would decrease or disappear, such as the "provincial rural tax" that property owners currently pay to the province for road maintenance. Transitional funding is available from the province. In the end, the local community, through their elected officials, would make the decisions that control spending and taxation levels.

In my view, the ongoing need for more local control makes incorporation long overdue for Shawnigan. If there is enough local interest, the first step would be to apply to the province for an incorporation review. More on that in a future article...

Blaise Salmon

Shawnigan Lake Watershed Worries Two... or SL WW2

Just when you thought our watershed was safe, we have a new fill site above our watershed.

In the past few weeks we celebrated the opening of the new Sooke Lake Wilderness Trail and the Cowichan Valley Trail extension. It was



interesting to hear about all the conditions that had to be met to ensure the protection of the Victoria Watershed in order to allow the trail to pass through the watershed. There was no mention of any such discussions about our watershed. In fact the new trail extension exposes the latest threat to our watershed - the "clean fill" site off Stebbings road.

There are incredible numbers of double pup trucks hauling hundreds of tons of material from Victoria and elsewhere. The material is being spread out by massive bulldozers...the scene looks like it is right out of the destruction in the movie Avatar.

I have no scientific training and thus my observations are based on having grown up in a mining community in Northern Ontario. This

is not a mining operation, nor is it a quarry. The thing it most closely represents is a landfill site. I do not know what tests are conducted on this "clean dumped material". Clearly it does not fall under the Department Of Mines. However, the previous Liberal Government granted them a permit to dump with impunity. This is a matter for our municipal government to decide where to put a fill site.

This fill site is located above the new trail and the water flows down there into the many creeks and eventually into Shawnigan Lake, and our drinking water. Soon I believe this will silt up Shawnigan Lake and impact our drinking water. It may be clean fill but it is being dumped in massive amounts directly above the watershed that makes no sense whatsoever.

If we had wanted a fill site I am sure we would not have chosen this place.

I hope it is not too late to put a stop to this insanity. I had no sense of how massively invasive and disfiguring it was to the area until I saw it from the trail. Seeing it from the trail below one can only have nightmares of what will happen when the rains turn this fill site into a big pile of sliding amounts of mud, water and whatever else is in there and begins to contaminate our lake. Shawnigan Lake is under duress again. Why? Is there nowhere else to dump foreign material? There must be a lot of money to be made.

Hopefully our new government will see the folly of this decision and make the right choice.

Glenn White

Shawnigan Weather JULY 2017

- Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	22.9	26.1	24.1	24.5	23.1	24.2	23.5	24.3	23.6
Average Low	11.7	12.2	13.1	12.1	12.9	13.0	13.6	12.5	12.9
Extreme High	37.2	31.2	31.6	29.4	29.2	28.7	29.7	28.5	29.5
Extreme Low	3.9	9.7	9.8	8.9	9.2	10.3	11.0	10.0	10.0
Precipitation	24.7	1.5	33.6	1.2	22	0.5	25.5	1.2	30.4
Days w precip	10	2	10	2	9	1	9	2	10
Year Precip	669.6	725.2	724.4	671.2	754.9	585.6	641.5	656.7	744.6
(up to July 30th) Rank since 1914: 17 <sup>th</sup> warmest, 6 <sup>th</sup> driest									
Lake Temperature: July 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 23° July 9 <sup>th</sup> : 23° July 16 <sup>th</sup> : 21° July 23 <sup>rd</sup> : 22° July 30 <sup>th</sup> : 24°									
Lake Level Change: July 2 <sup>nd</sup> :-5cm July 9 <sup>th</sup> :-7.5cm July 16 <sup>th</sup> :-5cm July 23 <sup>rd</sup> :-2.5 cm July 30 <sup>th</sup> :-2.5 cm									

Happy 11<sup>TH</sup> Birthday, Mathew!



Love you! Uncle & 'Auntie'



## 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](mailto:rhoda.taylor@viha.ca)  
FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan

## Book Review

**Marcy Green**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

**Born A Crime**  
*Stories from a South African Childhood*  
Trevor Noah  
Published by Doubleday Canada  
Copyright 2016 by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah, in case you haven't seen him on TV or YouTube, is a funny, well-spoken comedian from South Africa. He has become a favourite of the late night audience as the host of the Daily Show, a satirical show focusing on the news headlines.

His gritty memoir is completely unique. In a series of essays he tells the story of growing up under apartheid in Johannesburg, and what it was like to have a black mother and white father. In those dark times, it was a crime for the races to intermingle, so he was kept under cover by his mother and her family so as not to be taken away by the authorities. As the title says, his birth itself was a crime. In the strict segregation of the times, he was always one of a kind. He was considered superior to his mother and her family and inferior to his father and his family. Never belonging to any group, he was not accepted by the coloured group either, but was, instead, considered mixed, and therefore an anomaly.

His fiercely independent mother is one of the main characters in his stories and she raised him to be strong, resourceful and proud of his abilities. Her deep religiosity had her dragging her child to three different churches on Sunday, usually in a car that often broke down or mini buses that required hours of waiting. He tells the story of being thrown out of the car and surviving when they were hijacked one day. He lived to survive both the injuries and the church-going, which he says didn't take. Still, his love and respect for his unusual mother shines through every story, even when he was terrified to tell her of his wrongdoings, of which there were many. On one occasion, he chose to spend time in jail rather than confess to her that he had become involved with petty crime.

Noah's resiliency in the face of discrimination and some incredibly dangerous situations is leavened by his down to earth attitude and, always, his sense of humour. As an outsider he used this humour and his ability to assess others in order to survive in an unpredictable world.

Not all of his stories are life-threatening, although many are. He tells coming of age stories about awkward

dates, hair choices (he was partial to straightening and corn rows) and unusual wardrobe items. He earned much-needed money by pirating CD's and selling them for a profit. This, in turn, led to his being a DJ and developing a dance team, resulting in a shocking incident with the lead dancer, amazingly named Hitler.

Each story seems more unbelievable than the last, culminating in a terrible violent act to his mother, which she somehow survives. Living under the dismantling of the apartheid era resulted in many challenges and dangers. These, plus his descriptions of his friendships, his success in hustling on the streets and his amazing ability to transcend his circumstances, make for an absorbing read. The stories aren't always linear and some are too long for my liking, but I read this quickly, fascinated by a life so very different from mine.

What is not explained is how he began his career in comedy clubs and then came to North America to become a major entertainment figure. That will be a fascinating Volume Two of his memoirs. In the meantime, this true life story shines a light on a troubled place and time, already changing.

**Rating: 4.8/5 stars**

## Soundscape

**Bruce Fraser**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

As the character of the Riverpool barnyard evolves, it is taking on a unique soundscape.

This first came to my attention with a clatter of hooves, the goat's barn dance. When feeding time appears both Alice and Amber literally dance excitedly around the barn, the clatter on the floor sounding like a square dance in progress. I am inspired to call the dance steps but Alice, a bit conservative, has some difficulty with Alamand Left and Docey Doe applies to both ladies at the same time, leading to some gender role confusion.

One day I was surprised by a soft whirring sound coming from the goat pasture. It was too muted to be a distant leaf blower but it sounded mechanical. On investigation, it turned out to be Alice, with

her snout resting in a wire opening in the fence, in full snore. I didn't know that goats snored but fortunately the barn, at night, is sufficiently distant from the house not to disturb the snoring humans.

There are two flocks of chickens at Riverpool, the Oldies and the Youngsters. The Oldies have divided themselves into the shuffleboard team, the egg layers, the couch potatoes and the meanies. The Shuffleboards root around the goat's manure pile scratching languorously, not making much noise beyond the scratching of hay. The Egg Layers take some pride in remaining marginally useful and squawk contentedly upon a successful production. The Couch Potatoes occupy nest boxes and a special spot in the hay barn all day long and only mutter incoherently when hand carried onto the roost at night. The Meanies, however, do not like

humans or most of the other birds and screech violently when disturbed, unleashing a blood-letting peck to the hand if you get close enough.

The Youngsters are still laying an egg a day per bird and their productive superiority is trumpeted for all to hear in a most raucous chorus. What ensues is unexpected. Zaya, the younger Shiloh, on hearing the chicken chorus, raises her snout and gives voice to her inner Gray Wolf. She howls along loudly and mournfully for a few minutes before settling back and so far, has not caused the neighbours to call in the SPCA to a case of animal abuse. Islay simply barks with reliable regularity at real and virtual deer, bears, cougars and passing cars.

"Ahhhh, the quiet country life!" says Quidi Vidi, purring softly to show how it is properly done.




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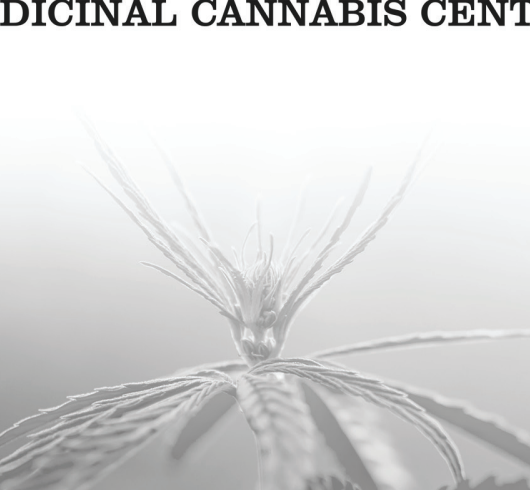
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The Shawnigan Pavillion is well underway in Elsie Miles Park. There are still several opportunities to become part of this amazing project. You can buy ‘pegs’ that you can personalize and then pound into the timbers. It is an opportunity to become personally engaged with the pavillion...a once in a lifetime chance.

On August 5th and 6th (the long week-end on Saturday and Sunday) we need volunteers to help stain the timbers for the Pavilion. We will run two shifts from 9:00 to 12:00 and again from 1:00 until 4:00. We hope to have as much help as possible, and you can show up for one or the other shift, or both if you are available.

Steel-toed boots are not required for the staining event, and children are welcome to attend, with parental supervision.

Please share with friends and neighbours, and if possible let us know if you’re available to help.

Other dates to note:

- ★ August 19th and 20th – the pegs will be pounded into the timbers and the timber frame will be raised. This will be a very exciting community event.
- ★ September 30th – Grand Opening Celebration

Angus, the volunteer coordinator, can be reached via email: [angusandsarahmckay@gmail.com](mailto:angusandsarahmckay@gmail.com) or phone or text to 250 466 4505

Please follow our Facebook page, Shawnigan Pavillion, for updates.

## Director’s Report

### Sierra Action Shawnigan Area Director

There is a buzz in Shawnigan right now and it’s a positive one. We are moving forward and looking to the future. I invite you to visit our village core, where you will see a legacy being created before your eyes. The construction of our new pavillion is underway and it will transform the heart of Shawnigan with a vibrant community driven green space.

There are still opportunities to get involved in this project. Please contact the volunteer co-coordinator Angus at [angusandsarahmckay@gmail.com](mailto:angusandsarahmckay@gmail.com). In addition to the beautiful new pavilion, commercial properties are being bought and these new investors are looking to the community for input. Development is inevitable but it can be respectful and thoughtful. The sense I get is that, as a community,

we are ready to move forward in a positive way that will honour our values and this place we call home.

The people of the Cowichan Valley said loud and clear that they wanted to protect the area where we live when we elected Sonia Furstenuau as our MLA. Working with Sonia as her alternate gave me a firsthand view of how important an Area Director’s role is to the community we serve. So far, as the director, I have really enjoyed meeting so many new people and connecting with the various groups and committees that support our community. I have also enjoyed the vibrant conversations around the CVRD board table. Being able to positively impact our community by participating at a municipal level is very exciting (even when it may not be as quick as we would all like).

Given how complex this

role is, I am honoured to have been entrusted with this position and will seek to be elected as Area Director in the by-election on September 30th. Should you wish to get involved, or hear about any of our amazing community groups, I would love to hear from you. We are the biggest unincorporated area in BC so this is truly a group effort. The top priorities that I hear from the community are road safety for pedestrians, a viable village and watershed protection. I welcome any additional advice, input, or concerns and/or would simply love to hear your story of why you call Area B home. In service, Sierra Acton.

Ways to connect;  
[Sacton@cvr.bc.ca](mailto:Sacton@cvr.bc.ca)  
call/text 250-732-0368  
Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B  
August 8th Directors Meeting at the SLCC at 7pm

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Walk Talk

Robin Massey  
Shawnigan Focus

You’ve may have noticed we are sporting a new name this month. In an effort to avoid confusion with the recent emergence of the “Take a Hike” term for groups and collectives, we have chosen to change our name to Walk Talk. Very many thanks to my Facebook friends that responded to my call for new label ideas.

Now about the walk! This month, we are talking about a walk at Mill Hill Regional Park, located in Langford. Mill Hill is noted to be on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples and the name is a remnant of the area’s very first sawmill built in 1848 by the Hudson’s Bay Company at Mill Falls.

This 71 hectare park was established in 1981 and is home to one of the largest concentration of endangered and rare plants in BC, as well as wildflowers, Garry Oak, Arbutus and Douglas Fir trees. At the peak of the 203m summit is a 35th anniversary rock Cairn, erected upon an antiquated forestry lookout tower foundation using stones found at the summit. The top of the Cairn maps out some of area’s major peaks, and on a clear day you can spy each one individually. You are also rewarded with panoramic views of Mt. Baker, the Olympic Mountains, Highlands, greater Victoria, Esquimalt Harbour and the naval dockyard.

The terrain is easy to moderate to challenging which is purely dependent upon the trail of choice. There are two major trails and one short parking lot connector trail (Millwoods Trail) at Mill Hill Park. The 800m long Auburn Trail is a suitably wide incline for most levels leading up to the Cairn, within 15-20 minutes, in a somewhat direct path with a few points of interest along the way. The 1200m long Calypso Trail is a more rugged and winding path, which has you reaching and grappling in certain areas for a more vigorous hike. Be sure to follow the orange reflective markers to keep you on track. The amount of time to the top using the Calypso Trail depends only on your fitness level, of course. For a lengthier hike, the Calypso Trail then continues down the other side of the hill past the Cairn and eventually links up to Thetis Lake Regional Park.

You will find the entry point to Mill Hill at 490 Atkins Avenue in Langford. Be mindful when using your phone’s map application as it may lead you astray – use the specific address if possible.

As you enter the ample parking area, you are welcomed with a little picnic spot and pit toilets – always nice to have those facilities as an option!



Check out the photos from this hike (and others) on our Facebook page.



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 38 incidents in JULY 2017

- ★ Sun, July 2 – Burning Complaint on Melrose Cres
- ★ Tues, July 4 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tues, July 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, July 5 – Assistance on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wed, July 5 – Bush Fire on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, July 5 - 1st Responder off Lovers Lane
- ★ Fri, July 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Fri, July 7 – Burning Complaint on Wellwood Rd
- ★ Fri, July 7 – Burning Complaint on Lavinia Rd
- ★ Fri, July 7 – Burning Complaint on Pettinger Pl
- ★ Sun, July 9 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, July 9 – Assistance at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ Sun, July 9 – Burning Complaint on Meadowview Rd
- ★ Mon, July 10 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Tues, July 11 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, July 12 – Burning Complaint on Airbright Ln
- ★ Thurs, July 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 13 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 13 – Burning Complaint on Hartl Rd
- ★ Fri, July 14 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Fri, July 14 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, July 16 – Burning Complaint on Ivanhoe Rd
- ★ Sun, July 16 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Mon, July 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Mon, July 17 – Burning Complaint on Skylar Circle
- ★ Thurs, July 20 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 20 – Assistance off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 20 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sat, July 22 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sat, July 22 – Burning Complaint on Lockspur Rd
- ★ Sun, July 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, July 26 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Wed, July 26 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, July 26 – Burning Complaint on London Rd
- ★ Wed, July 26 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, July 27 – Burning Complaint on Angus Rd
- ★ Fri, July 28 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd



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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Office hours by appointment. Email [sacton@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:sacton@cverd.bc.ca) For meeting updates check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**  
Meeting TBA at Watershed office: #4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.  
Contact: Bruce at [jenniebruce1@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto: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](mailto:luvlife@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [www.ysag.ca](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Wed. - Sun. 10:30-4 For info contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing**  
Contact: 250-929-7222 - [www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)

## Classified ANNOUNCEMENTS

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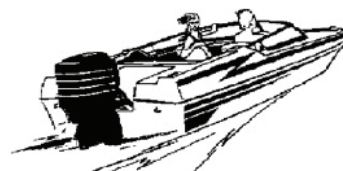
## What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is IT?



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

**Congratulations!!!**  
The winner for the June photo  
was Margaret Symon, who  
correctly named the Malahat  
Legion 134 Branch sign.

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## The Twelve Sounds of Summer: Shawnigan Style

### Mary Desmond *Shawnigan Resident*

There you are; comfortably ensconced on your patio or deck, enjoying the tranquil ambience of a sweet summer’s day, when you serenity is abruptly shattered by the relentless “Thump! Thump! Thump! Of someone’s stereo or the persistent “Yip! Yip! Yip!” of a neighbour’s dog. Noise disturbance can make even the most peaceful souls churn with thoughts of Ramboesque revenge fantasies. Although much attention has been directed to the degradation of our land and water, the ever-increasing problem of noise pollution has been virtually ignored. So, welcome, fellow sufferers, to the “Twelve Sounds of Summer...Shawnigan Style”!

**ONE.** Merlins: This drab intruder from ornithological hell arrived in our neighbourhood several years ago and instantly began to rend the air with its shrill, piercing clamour from dawn to dusk. Recently an inquisitive fledgling ventured too close to a raven’s nest and was met by an eruption of shining black fury. Alas, the merlin escaped unscathed.

There is nothing pleasing to any aspect of this bird. If you haven’t seen one, imagine a large brown lump airborne. The “partridge in a pear tree” is undoubtedly more pleasing in appearance and less strident in sound. Clearly this is one creature that should have been left off the ark. Noah, you have a lot to answer for!

**TWO.** Air conditioners (AC): Some will never hear the cooing of “two turtle doves” as their gentle murmurs will be overshadowed by the perpetual whirring of these machines, particularly the older models whose rumbling evokes sound effects from ancient horror movies. One can imagine Dr. Frankenstein’s monster lurching from the clangorous din.

Since it is seldom hot enough here to require AC, why not switch to fans instead? A few strategically placed fans can be quite effective and prevent that glacial chill associated with AC. Plus, the sound of their gentle oscillation is much less offensive and conjures images of tropical climes and desert idylls. Think Somerset Maugham and Lawrence Durrell! Carry this theme further with summer pants, or even your birthday suit. (The latter could net you irate calls from neighbours or a caution from the local constabulary).

Hint: Don’t forget your gin and tonic!

**THREE.** Leaf Blowers: I haven’t a clue what “three French hens” sound like, but their convivial cackle is probably preferable to the pernicious, high pitched whine of leaf

blowers. The most zealous of our citizens charge into action at the slightest breath of wind, rounding up the latest gang of rogue leaves like old time sheriffs after cattle rustlers. Even in this season, the ministrations of the landscape vigilantes are so compulsive that these irritating contraptions may soon be permanently welded to their hands.

Whatever became of the soothing rhythmic swish of the rake?

**FOUR.** Jet Skis: Aw-ree! Aw-ree! Aw-ree! As in a scene reminiscent of “Mad Max: Thunderdrome”, a warrior band of jet skis rampages up the lake. Yes, the newer models are noticeably quieter, but the older, more obnoxious type still dominate, churning up the water like super charged blenders on steroids.

Unlike the courteous “calling birds” of the Christmas carol, a few jet skiers display distinctly aggressive behaviour such a “marauding” much too close to the shoreline, imperiling swimmers and the like. The noise engendered by the grinding gyrations is bad enough, but why deliberately endanger others?

**FIVE.** Drag Boats: They easily eclipse the braying jet skis in volume and ferocity. When these hornets from hell blast by, the tiny hairs in our inner ears quiver – and not from pleasure. Questions inevitably arise: Why are apparent attempts to break the sound barrier being conducted in a solidly residential area? Can these machines even reach their peak speed capacity in the mere seconds it takes to blaze from one end of the lake to the other? Is Shawnigan Lake an appropriate place for aquatic NASCAR type activities?

I’m not a pollster, but I am pretty sure that, according to a good many residents, these boats don’t merit any “golden rings”. Houston, it’s time to shut this launch pad DOWN!

**SIX.** Outdoor Conversations: As children, we were carefully instructed to keep our voices low when out of doors, especially down by the lake, or otherwise our business would be known far and wide due to the magnifying effect of water. Newcomers beware: Even if you speak in a normal, everyday level, your words may be heard by not only your closest neighbours, but depending on the residential density, two or three homes away. This condition holds true especially for those out on water a fair distance from shore.

Unfortunately, this simple truth, an act of common courtesy has been abandoned in this age of egregious over-sharing. We are constantly subjected to an unsolicited barrage of personal information, much of which

is so tedious that to watch “six geese a laying” would be positively riveting by comparison.

We therefore implore the aspiring talk show host to at least amuse their captive audiences by adding a little spice to their monologues.

For example, how about an anecdote such as “...and when I knocked on the door wearing nothing but my white hat and a Lone Ranger mask”, would definitely pique our interest! And we’d be all agog when you start shouting “Heigh ho, Silver, and awaaaaay!”. (Too bad about the spurs, though). So, sass it up folks, the whole lake is listening.

**SEVEN.** Parties on Land: Sadly, these events often disintegrate into “drunken oaf” affairs. As has been often observed, the drunker the people, the dumber the behaviour. In Shawnigan, drunken sots-R-us can be heard stumbling about in their homes, then staggering outside to their decks to bellow at the moon (even when it isn’t visible), the water, and each other. Much to the disgust of the “seven swans a swimming” by, the soused celebrations are enhanced by sounds waves storming from thunderous stereo systems rivaling the roar of the drag boats.

After suffering through this torture well into the wee hours of the morning, it is sorely tempting to wish the structure would simply sink beneath them.

**EIGHT.** Party Boats: Lucky us! Nowadays the “party hearty” crowd can torment us with their unique brand of high spirits and low taste on water as well as on land! Some of the lyrics are so scurrilous they would make a seasoned sailor blush with shame!

“Yo, bitch, scratch my itch!” is one of the tamer examples.

Most blatantly obscene, and references to a more demure age when “eight maids a milking” would be a common sight, are as likely as a herd of pigs swimming past. So stereos cranked to the max, these floating “rave venues” lumber up and down the lake, any consideration for other residents conspicuous by its absence.

Are none of the “Woo hoo Wendys” or “Hooray Harrys” aware of those who might be sleeping, sick, or working at home? Surely there must be a way to prevent people from treating the lake as their own “PPZ (Personal Pleasure Zone)” at the expense of others.

**NINE.** Children on Boats: One of the delights of summer is the sound of children’s laughter as they frolic gaily about. However, our enjoyment of their innocent pleasure – such as the sight of “nine (little) ladies dancing; — does not extend to lengthy

bouts of ear splitting screaming from boatloads of children as they careen round and round a bay, or back and forth, back and forth along a straight stretch. (I once happened to time one of these sensory onslaughts and it lasted nearly nineteen agonizing minutes).

Of course, many sweep by smiling beautifully, uttering only the occasional squeal or shout of joy, but others might benefit from a cautionary tale or two. Remember “Peter and the Wolf”? It wouldn’t hurt to remind your offspring that prolonged screeching is not a good idea unless the situation really warrants it.

Besides, think of the potential damage to those tender young vocal chords! When your little banshee reaches adolescence, try explaining to her why she has the vocal range of a crow.

But, we can hardly blame children when their parents decide to drive other lake dwellers demented by operating their boats like dunces stuck on automatic pilot.

**TEN.** Children on Land: Naturally, we accept grizzling from a teething baby or howls from a toddler who’s taken a tumble, but why do some parents stand for epic screaming sessions from older children? A few minutes to vent emotional frustration is one thing, but half an hour or so of enraged shrieking is far beyond cathartic. “Ten lords a leaping” would exhaust themselves more readily than a spoilt child determined to stage the mother of all temper tantrums.

Whilst resorting to the old pillow trick (highly effective, but not recommended for legal reasons) would be one remedy, a better option would be to revive the long lost legend of “Shawnipogo”, the fire-breathing dragon who dwells in a secret lake cave and emerges only to devour badly behaved children. Imagine the hastening effect upon a defiantly wailing child of a threat to summon the dreaded Shawnipogo!

“Now stop that screeching this minute or Shawnipogo will swallow you whole and then INCINERATE your PlayStation!”

No doubt some are beginning to appreciate the wisdom behind the old Victorian adage that “children should be seen and not heard”. That certain parents fail to rebuke their offspring for using language associated with gangsta rap, and indeed, avail of profanities themselves, is another cause for concern.

A family sized bar of soap might not go amiss....

**ELEVEN.** Barking dogs: Even the aural tumult of “eleven pipers piping” pales in comparison to the canine cacophony created when one dog begins barking

and all the rest within earshot follow suit. Chronic barkers are a major bone of contention for many here whose domestic bliss has been ruined by inconsiderate dog owners who to control their charges. Barking is a natural and instinctual response to various environmental stimuli - shouting at your dog is counterproductive.

Many dogs react poorly to people/boats suddenly whizzing by and vocalize their distress by barking and whining. If your pets exhibit these symptoms of alarm and anxiety, do not adjust by settling down. It is probably best to keep your animals inside where they can relax in the safe, reassuring comfort of familiar surrounds.

This will be kinder for dogs and neighbours alike. No one should be forced to endure yours of frantic barking of the equally invidious “Yip...yip...yip” so that so resembles Oriental water torture, “Drip...drip...drip”.

**TWELVE.** Music from cars: As we paused at a local intersection last week, we wondered why our conversation was being obliterated by music coming from a vehicle not one, but two cars ahead of us. Even though we had but one window slightly open, and those of the culprit were all shut, the level of assault was such the “twelve drummers drumming” could never have competed against it.

We could see a young woman was the sole occupant. So expressionless was her countenance, so blank her unswerving gaze, despite the deafening immersion, we did wonder about her mental state. Were those apparently unaffected by overwhelming noise in small spaces still functioning human beings? Or, perish the thought, had they been “altered”, either by alien interference, or by mysterious occult processes practiced on certain Caribbean islands?

If this is so, is it safe to approach these creatures after dark? Should we check the cemetery and send for someone to deliver the head shot?

Please Advise. This is a matter of public urgency!

If we are not more circumspect in our behaviour, and fail to reform our cavalier attitude to the noise we create and how it affects others, then our society shall evolve into a real life “Night (and Day) of the Living Deaf”. From boom boxes bombarding us at every turn, to out of control people and pets, the intense and unnecessary noise pollution permeating our lives reflects a culture that values vulgarity and self-indulgence, rather than thoughtfulness and self-control. *If we all agree on the importance of the natural world, then why can’t we hear it?*