

IT IS TIME TO VOTE - AREA B DIRECTOR

SHAWNIGAN LAKE (AREA B) - BY-ELECTION SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

CANDIDATES:

- ★ **ACTON, Sierra** Shawnigan Lake
 - ★ **JORGINSON, Larry** Shawnigan Lake
 - ★ **SAVAGE, Bill** Shawnigan Lake
- (all candidates were encouraged to submit an article for The Focus)*

TIME: 8:00 AM & 8:00 PM:

- ★ Shawnigan Lake Community Centre 2804 Shawnigan Lake Rd, Shawnigan Lake
- ★ Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan 2180 East Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake

ADVANCE VOTING:

- ★ Wednesday, September 20th
 - ★ Tuesday, September 26th
- LOCATION & TIME:**
- ★ Royal Canadian Legion, Malahat District Branch #134, located at 1625 Shawnigan Lake Mill Bay Road, Shawnigan Lake
 - ★ 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Candidate - Acton



Sierra Action Shawnigan Area Director

For the past 4 months, as your Area Director, I have had the pleasure to meet some of you. In this time I have witnessed and have had the privilege to be part of many events: the Pavilion Ground Breaking and Raising, The Cobble Hill Fair, The Heritage Fair, The Canada Day Parade, and Pancake Breakfast at the Legion. This truly is an amazing community that embodies all that is important to me. I am so grateful.

Love it.

The Shawnigan Lake Mu-

seum volunteers outdid themselves again this year with the Heritage Fair. The good clean family fun was so enthusiastic, informative and imaginative. It couldn't have been a better day. I especially loved the old cars and the old-fashioned bingo game along with the best game host I have yet to experience. It was such fun!

And, how amazing was the Cobble Hill Fair? This event is a great opportunity to see the community come together and showcase what they love about living here and what matters to them. There was no shortage of amazing photography, work

from local artisans, farmers' accomplishments and locals enjoying each other and the fair. The Cobble Hill Community Hall was busting with local achievements. Everything from the floral arrangements, to weaving and gardening efforts, it was thrilling to see so much passion. Special thank you to Gerry Giles, Director Clement and the Cobble Hill community for including me in the day.

Share it.

I applaud the 'beyond-the-call-of-duty' efforts that the Shawnigan Pavilion volunteers have put forth to build a pavilion that will become a gathering place for the community. Here we envision sharing events that include local music, art and performance talent. What a legacy!

The Ida Road access trail to the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) from West Shawnigan Lake Road is open. If you haven't already, please take the time to walk it – it is beautifully done

and allows us to further share the (TCT) Cowichan Trail. If you are really ambitious, the connection to Victoria just opened up... people are loving the challenge!

In June, I hosted a Sunday morning hike up Old Baldy Mountain in an effort to share the beauty that this trail has to offer. A group of 15 enjoyed a 360-degree view from the top of Shawnigan Lake and over to Mill Bay. It's a moderate hike of 60-90 minutes. If you haven't already, it is well worth the effort!

Protect it.

Of concern to many residents is the condition of the roads. Questions have arisen as to what can we do to repair our roads in an effort to keep our children and bicyclists safe around Shawnigan. In speaking with the Ministry of Transportation, I have learned that our funding for road repair and maintenance comes from the Province. We are also bound to the Ministry's guidelines that are very different from that of a municipality. Salt Spring

Islanders have the same issue regarding road repair and have learned that through incorporation they are able to keep those taxes dollars within their community and are able to control the road repair themselves. Incorporation, is perhaps, something to start thinking about again?

Did you know Shawnigan is home to the Province's smallest park? Memory Island is home to many nesting birds and is the only protected island on Shawnigan Lake. It is literally a gem waiting to be discovered, and worth the trip with a paddle and a snack.

Let's Connect.

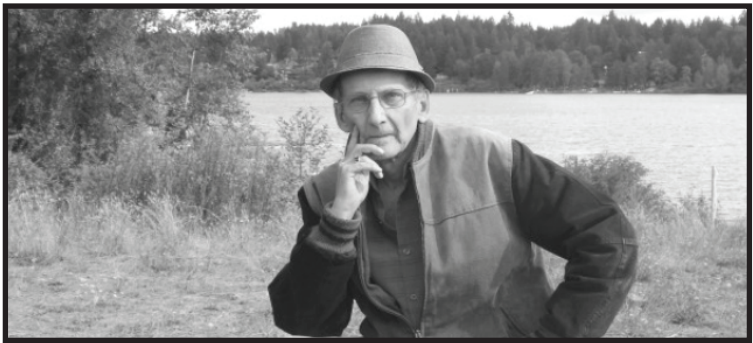
As many of you know there will be a by-election September 30th. Should you wish to meet or, better yet, host a small kitchen talk with friends and neighbours to discuss issues in our area and around the CVRD board table, please contact me.

Sacton@cvrdb.ca

250-732-0368 cell

Facebook- Sierra Acton Area B

Candidate - Jorginson



Over the past several years I have taken a keen interest in our local and regional affairs and, like many of you, have attended various board meetings, public open houses and director meetings.

All of these have been informative and, at the same time, often frustrating. Many of us have expressed similar com-

ments on various topics only to have our concerns and suggestions seemingly ignored or forgotten. This endemic culture must change and I feel that I can contribute significantly to foster this change. It is, for this reason that I am asking for your vote.

As your Director, my main responsibility will be to represent

your best interests in an open and forthright manner.

This, of course, will include the continued pursuit of a resolution to the contaminated soil quarry which appears to be a never ending saga. The problem is not over. This will require continuous monitoring, and contact with our MLA, to pressure the government for temporary action instead of the usual stalling tactic of "it is before the courts". Fall is coming and so are the rains.

With general oversight and participation in improving the community comes the responsibility of ensuring the proper and most cost effective use of our tax expenditures. It would

appear that, over the years, there has been a practice of simply adding on to existing budgets and neglecting to actually reviewing each cost centre to see if it is still relevant and whether it can be improved or should not be supported any longer. When one starts analyzing the various documents, one can readily see that unnecessary expenses are being incurred, the reasons for even maintaining some CVRD functions and the level of support being afforded them is questionable. As far as I am concerned our taxes are inordinately high and I will certainly be encouraging the CVRD Administrator to effectively review the entire organizational department structure. I am quite confident that there are numerous retired executives in the region that would be willing to volunteer their time and

expertise for the benefit of all of us in that endeavour.

To sum up, over the years many residents from the entire Cowichan region have expressed concern about the practices, expenditures and administration of the CVRD organization. I agree with these residents; they are, quite simply, correct. The CVRD was conceived as an economical and professional solution to the problems of the small communities in the Cowichan Valley. It has now evolved into being the problem.

In closing I am asking you to take the first small step for change by voting for me on September 30th.

I won't disappoint you!

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Additional copies are
available in The Village.

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Shawnigan Lake Museum - Looking to the future

Sally Davies
Shawnigan Lake Museum

The Shawnigan Lake Museum
is the linchpin and anchor for
the Shawnigan community.

Shawnigan Lake has the
dubious distinction of being a
community under siege. Having
successfully fought a battle to
reverse a permit that allowed
millions of tons of contami-
nated waste from being dumped
into our watershed, we are now
contending with the prospect of
getting this same soil removed.

We are seeing an ever-
increasing growth in absentee
landlords, and directives from a
regional district that seems
to be out of touch with the
wants and needs of our un-
incorporated community.

That said, the potential for
our future is singular and limit-
less. Shawnigan has always been
a recreational destination where
generations of families return to
their summer homes every year.

Shawnigan Lake School (SLS)
has just celebrated its 100th
anniversary. Students come
from around the world and the
alumnae, comprised of many
titans of industry, hold SLS
in their heart and regularly
return to their alma mater.
Brookes International School
has had many incarnations but
under all banners, students are
drawn from around the world.

Shawnigan is home to the
Eco-Village, a sustainable learn-
ing community and demonstra-
tion site, based on permaculture
principles and learning oppor-
tunities for Natural Building,

Sustainable Food Production,
and Leadership.

The “Lions Easter Seal
Camp” provides summer camp
for disabled children from
throughout B.C. and Camp
Pringle, has a long history of
providing “a week that lasts a
lifetime” for school-age children.

To this we can add one of
the oldest waterski clubs in
Canada, and the Shawnigan
Cricket Club, a vestige from the
large population of remittance
men who long ago settled in
Shawnigan. It has a growing
membership with lovers of the
game immigrating to the Island
from other countries.

That is this community now,
but to this you can add a history
unique in Canada and this is
where our wonderful museum
comes in. It is in Shawnigan
Lake that the true “Last Spike”
of the Canadian railway was
driven, in August 1886, by our
first Prime Minister, Sir John A.
MacDonald.

Frances Kelsey, who prevented
thalidomide from entering the
U.S., was born on what is now
Plumtree Rd., in Shawnigan
Lake, and first attended school
in our village.

Alice Ravenhill, one of
the founders of Women’s
Institutes and a pioneer in
recognizing First Nations
culture, lived in Shawnigan.

Writer Bruce Hutchison had
a summer camp in Shawnigan
where he wrote many of his
pieces. He also wrote about
Shawnigan lovingly in “A Place
in the Country”.

One of Canada’s most illustri-
ous painters, E.J. Hughes lived,
and painted his most iconic
works in Shawnigan Lake. It
is here that he is buried along-
side his wife, and parents. Our
museum is as much about E.J.
Hughes the man, as it is about
his art. When E.J. was alive he
was a supporter of the museum
and he bequeathed original
works of art to the small gallery
that is contained in the muse-
um. His trusted friend, associ-
ate, and archivist, Pat Salmon is
a keen supporter and still visits
the museum. Hughes’ paint-
ings belong to the world but his
heart most definitely belonged
to Shawnigan.

Shawnigan Lake is also home
to the historic Kinsol Trestle,
along the abandoned CN Rail
line, and it is integral to the
“Trans-Canada Trail” (re-
named The Great Trail). This is
where our future lies as visitors
from around the world come in
ever-increasing numbers, many
on bicycles, to view this spec-
tacular structure and take in a
wilderness experience that has
often disappeared from their
counties of origin.

Our museum is the go-to
place for all information about
the Kinsol Trestle.

School programs with a small
army of retired teachers guide
local school classes, teach the
local history of the commu-
nity in which they live. In an
ever-changing world from
which Shawnigan Lake is
not exempt, the Shawnigan
Lake Museum tenaciously
holds onto the past with eyes
firmly fixed on the future.

Are you looking for a fun and reward- ing opportunity to volunteer in your community?

The Shawnigan Lake Museum is interviewing candidates
interested in committing to at least one four hour shift per
month. There are many ways to get involved: interacting
with the public; taking on administration tasks; helping with
events; indoor cleaning and/or outdoor maintenance.

Requirements: An interest in Shawnigan’s history and
working with people, a willingness to work as part of a
team, a strong command of the English language and
the ability to commit to regular hours. References and a
criminal record check will be required.

Come out and explore your talents in a supportive and
engaging environment. Training is supplied. If you are inter-
ested, please contact Lori at shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
or at 250-743-8675.

Shawnigan Basin Society hosts a fall public info program

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

The Shawnigan Basin Society
is holding a Shawnigan Wa-
tershed Information Program
during the fall of 2017. Each
Tuesday evening from Sep-
tember 12th, from 7-9 pm in
the Village Watershed Office,
across from the coffee shop &
bakery, a special topic will be
presented. Questions will be
answered and thoughts from
member of the community
will be sought. The initial list
of topics includes:

September 12: Milfoil inva-
sion in the lake and what we
can do about it. Information
about efforts in the Okanagan
and Christina Lake milfoil con-
trol programs

September 19: Has the
time come for Municipal
incorporation? pros, cons,
boundaries, costs and how does

incorporation actually get
established; factual informa-
tion for property owners

September 26: A 50 Year
Perspective on the watershed
forest, how forest companies
are planning for the future
in the shadow of climate
change and how we also
could look 50 years ahead
for all of our community
interests

October 10: Whole wa-
tershed planning: how to take
advantage of the new water
sustainability act to develop a
sustainable watershed man-
agement plan. Shawnigan
watershed planning initiative
is discussed in the book Sav-
ing Water: Stewardship of
the Shawnigan Community
Watershed *

October 17: Foreshore
Restoration, how to make your
shoreline natural again – look-

ing at local examples recently
undertaken by the Basin Society

* Saving Water: Steward- ship of the Shawnigan Community Watershed

By Bruce Fraser, Kelly Mussel-
white, Brock Musselwhite and
Chase Musselwhite has been
published and is now available
through the Shawnigan Lake
Museum for \$20 per copy. All
proceeds will be donated to
the Museum to help with their
expansion project.

*“Three generations speak about the
state of the Shawnigan watershed, the
need for a heightened sense of environ-
mental awareness and a wide-ranging
approach to ecological governance of
the community. Topics include eco-
logical principles, lake and water-
shed issues, planning for the future
and municipal incorporation. The
book contains both technical and
deeply personal material but it is
the comments from Brock at twelve*

Shawnigan Pavillion

Grand Opening - Oct. 7th

Watch for details!

Check out our Facebook site

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.



A big beach restoration thank you!

A huge thank you to Kelly Musselwhite, Bruce Fraser, the Shawnigan Basin Society and the many volunteers who worked hard to complete our beach restoration on August 24th. We're excited to watch the growth of the natural wall that was created to stabilize the lake foreshore. Great job everyone! *The Nashes*

A response to “The Twelve Sounds of Summer” August Focus

The other side of the story!

As I sit on my deck, in the late afternoon, I feel compelled to comment on Mary Desmond's version of “Summer, Shawnigan Style”!

- 1) Merlins – I cannot comment on these birds – I've never heard one. Guess us 'south enders' don't have them.
- 2) I guess the same goes for air conditioners. I have never had to listen to one in our forty plus years on the lake.
- 3) Leaf blowers – nothing like a tidy yard, be it your neighbours or your own, and really – it is usually a fairly quick job!
- 4) Jet skies – annoying, yes, but we are all entitled in this wonderful country to choose our own recreations and jet skis, like summer, pass by quickly.
- 5) Drag boats – must be at least two of those that go by in a weekend, maybe twice each. And the go so fast that before they are heard they are gone again!
- 6) Outdoor conversations – what a pleasure it should be to hear neighbours enjoying their families and friends. What is life on the lake without others to share it with?
- 7) Parties on land – I can't believe that laughter, music and people having fun could be a downer. I can't remember hearing drag boats in harmony with party music late at night. Yes,

- the odd boat goes by with loud music. It soon passes and doesn't mean everyone aboard is drunk!
- 8) Music from boats – yep-some not so tasteful, I agree, but soon passes out of range. As for the sleeping, sick or working at home persons, there are ways to deal with this. Should an entire summer of people change their lives for a few?
- 9) We are directly across from the ski jump, which is visited by dozens of children and parents from almost dawn to dusk. Little and big girls squeal. It is what they do. You probably did too! Boys and men laugh and have fun and yes, the odd little one cries but it truly is music to our ears. Such fun and joy! Our only concern is the amount of soap squirted on the jump to make it slick – it is our drinking water!
- 10) I don't know what corner of this piece of paradise you live in, but we have a fairly active public access near us and, even so, we rarely hear any “epic screaming sessions”.
- 11) Barking dogs – yes, several over the years. Very annoying, for sure, but nothing worth losing sleep over. Put them in the house, I agree.
- 12) Music from cars – not your concern, I would say...roll your windows up. Live an let love!
- I can't help but feel that this article was written with tongue-in-cheek but if not, I feel sorry for you and sincerely believe you should consider living in a

remote area.
Anyone bothered by everything that goes on around them is certainly not cut out for the blessed life of living in this corner of paradise.
I am sorry that you can't relax and enjoy your fellow man, their offspring and friends enjoying the more common pastimes and lifestyle as it is on this beautiful lake. May God bless you. Love the Lake!
P. Fraser

PATTY CAKES ARE HERE!

HOMEMADE & DELICIOUS

WILD SEAFOOD Patty Cakes
...were inspired by traditional 19th Century recipes. We have added a flavour twist to make you shout!

VEGAN Patty Cakes
...give our vegan, gluten and dairy free guests another option with a spicy bean and corn vegan option. I think we covered most of the bases for special dietary restrictions with these!

BEEF Patty Cakes
...are reminiscent of a hearty meatloaf - a timeless comfort food in a delicious cowboy flavour. Yee-Haw!

Patty Cakes are made in-house at the Village Chipperry. With options of fish, beef or vegan served with a side dish to complement your choice.

Village Chipperry
SHAWNIGAN LAKE
MENU ONLINE @ www.villagechipperry.com
2740 Dundas Road, Shawnigan Village

OPEN DAILY 11-7:30
LUNCH • DINNER • LICENSED
DINE-IN • TAKE-AWAY
250 929 8886

[www.VillageChipperry.com](https://www.facebook.com/VillageChipperry)

ART CLASSES in MILL BAY

Soleil Mannion from **LIBERTÉ GALLERY** will be offering two Art Classes for adults this fall.

INTERMEDIATE DRAWING & EXPLORING MIXED MEDIA

INTERMEDIATE DRAWING
- will focus on observational drawing as well as expanding and exploring new mark making techniques. This course is an ideal, supportive learning environment if you are familiar with drawing, and are looking to grow and gain skills that will be broadly applicable. \$200 for eight weeks on Monday evenings 7-9 beginning September 11th.

EXPLORING MIXED MEDIA
- brings you a wide range of unique practices and ideas. This is for everyone who wants to learn a ton of new techniques. You will be lead through a range of instructions providing methods and tips and offering insights into the art of collage and mixed media. \$260 for eight weeks on Saturday mornings 9:30-12:30 beginning 16th of September
Please call or email for more information and to book your place now before these classes fill up.

soleilspainting@gmail.com | 250-709-3868 | www.Soleilmannion.ca
Instructor **Soleil Mannion** has twenty years of teaching experience, she currently teaches Painting & Drawing at Brentwood College School.

ELECT

Larry Jorginson

Director Area B Shawnigan Lake

FOR LOWER TAXES AND RESPONSIBLE TAX EXPENDITURES

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE - LET'S DO IT NOW

larryjorginsonshawnigan.blog

Authorized by Larry Jorginson Financial Agent - 250-818-5950

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World Class Wakeboarder!

Tyler Lindsay
Shawnigan Resident

Thank you Shawnigan Lake residents for your patience and tolerance with my wake boarding on Shawnigan Lake over the past years.

Shawnigan Lake has been my home and training ground for the past fifteen years. My family and I have an incredible love and respect for Shawnigan. We have been involved with the Respectful Lake Watch Group planning and promoting recommendations for respectful use of the lake. We have been involved with and support the SRA in the fight for clean drinking water, and against the contami-

nated soil dump. I pass along these values at to everyone I ride with at every lake I visit.

I recently graduated from Francis Kelsey Secondary and have started my realizing my passion as an open rider in various competitions in Canada and the USA. I am on the BC Provincial Team and also on the Canadian Development Team.

This past winter was spent training in Orlando, Florida with two pro level coaches to take my riding to a higher level. I competed in the World Wake Association Wake Open Tournament at the Orlando Water Sports Complex and placed second in my first heat and fifth

overall. I also competed in the Gravel Tour Stop in Orlando and placed second in my first round and fourth overall.

Back in BC, at the Valley Wake Park Open at Abbotsford held July 15-16, I placed third in the seeding round, and fourth overall. The BC Provincial Championships were held near Port Alberni on July 28-30 with the Sproat Lake Water Sports Association. This was my chance to ride the best I could for BC. As a local Island boy, placing second in the Junior Men Advanced - Boat Division, I was very proud to do this on Vancouver Island.

On August 4-6 I went to

Acworth Georgia, to ride at the World Wake Board Association US Nationals in the Junior Men Pro Division where I placed 14 overall. I then returned to Orlando to train for two weeks before the Canadian Nationals and the WWA World Championships in Toronto held August 19-26. I placed third in the quarter-finals, first in the semi-finals, and second overall in the final event. This qualified me for the Professional Men's semi-finals where I finished third. Unfortunately this wasn't enough to move me forward to the Men's Pro finals but I was very proud to take second place overall at

the Canadian Wake Board Nationals.


On to the Worlds in Toronto at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds. In the semi-finals I rode well but placed third in my heat where only the top two move forward to the finals. Overall this leaves me tied for seventh place at the World Wakeboard Association World Championships for Junior Men.

All this would not be possible without the support from the Victoria Aqua Ski Club and the patience of the Shawnigan Lake residents.

See you back on Shawnigan soon.

Shawnigan Weather AUGUST 2017

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

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	23.1	28.1	26.7	27.0	25.3	26.9	25.7	27.0	25.9
Average Low	11.9	13.8	13.3	13.5	12.8	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.1
Extreme High	36.1	33.8	34.9	34.3	34.5	34.6	35.1	34.5	34.5
Extreme Low	3.3	10.6	10.5	9.9	9.6	11.4	11.1	10.5	10.0
Precipitation	29.3	4.8	4.7	4.8	6.2	4.3	4.2	4.4	5.4
Days w precip	6	2	5	2	6	2	5	1	5
Year Precip	720.8	730.0	729.1	676.0	761.1	589.9	645.7	661.1	750.0
Rank since 1914: warmest ever, 15th driest									
Lake Temperature: August 6 th : 24° August 13 th : 23° August 20 th : 23° August 27 th : 23°									
Lake Level Change: August 6 th :-2.5cm August 13 th :-2.5cm August 20 th :-5cm August 27 th :-2.5 cm									

Endless Summer 2017

July and August 2017 have been very warm and dry. There was only one day during both months (July 21st) when the temperature did not reach 20 °, 35 days with the temperature reaching 25° or greater and 7 days greater than 30°. The hottest day was August 2nd (34.5°) and we had only 3 days with measureable rain (totaling 5.6 mm).

The past 3 years have been among the warmest summers (July/August) since records began in 1914: 1st 2015 and 2014 (avg 19.7°), 2nd 2017 and 1958 (avg 19.5°), 3rd 1990 (avg 19°).

Although the past few summers have been relatively dry, there have been many more years with less rain.

The September forecast looks to be a similar trend as the past few months.

Incorporation: What do we get, what do we pay and is it worth it?

Bruce Fraser
Shawnigan Focus

Incorporation of Shawnigan as a municipality will both cost more and bring benefits. For the voting public of our community the fundamental questions are about what the actual benefits will be, what the exact cost will be and if the benefits are worth the increased taxes.

Determining the benefits of incorporation is not simple. Shawnigan’s land use includes industrial operations in mining and forestry that are the jurisdiction of the province. Matters of public health, sewage treatment, fisheries, water quality, lake navigation and public safety, for instance, are regulated by both provincial and federal agencies with

statutory authority. A municipality would likely acquire authority to deal with official community plans, lake shore access, growth management, watershed protection, parks and trails and local economic development. How each of these is to be achieved needs to be thoughtfully determined. A locally elected mayor and council can make many decisions that would be more effectively responsive to their community, but nothing can predict future political direction in local elections under small voter participation.

Estimating the tax cost of municipal status includes many factors that require detailed examination. Among them are the municipal boundary, the service delivery model, the governance

arrangements, the existing and future commitments as a member of the regional district, the inclusion of the Shawnigan Improvement District and the assumption of responsibilities for roads and policing. Each of these needs to be discussed with the voting public.

The overall process for addressing incorporation issues is a three-stage process governed by the protocols of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in collaboration with the community, the Area Director and the Regional District Board. Stage one is a broad review of major issues such as the overall area to be incorporated, the proposed municipal boundary and its service cost implications. Stage two gets into the nitty gritty details of

tax base, costs and benefits for differing boundary models. Stage three is organizing and conducting a referendum.

The first two stages are funded by the provincial government and supported by a consultant chosen from a provincial list by a community committee. The local committee is set up by the Area Director, or Directors if amalgamation of more than one electoral area is being proposed. It is essential that the committee discussions are fully transparent and frequently and thoroughly communicated to the entire community.

A Stage One process was undertaken in 2009 that examined the major questions of boundaries and service

implications of Shawnigan, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay alone and in combination. At the time the three Area Directors were promoting a full South Cowichan incorporation and the implications were examined with the advice of the provincial consultant and ministry staff. The province declined to proceed with Stage Two at the time, pleading inability to cover the ongoing cost of the process.

The 2009 Stage One documents are available and can help in the re-introduction of an updated one if the community decides to proceed and the province is willing. The Stage Two process is essential to give the community the information necessary to make an informed decision in a referendum.

Where’s Sonia?

Sonia Furstenau
MLA for Cowichan Valley

A few years ago, while enjoying a warm evening on our back patio with company, one friend – also a teacher – made a comment that I’ve never forgotten. “August is the Sunday of summer,” he lamented. For a teacher, Sundays – and Augusts – are the time when the mind can’t help but turn to the task that lies ahead. August is the time of transition, the time to prepare for September (the time that always feels to me like the true start of the New Year).

It has been much the same this August, although the pace and volume of preparations for September have made this month much more like the Monday of fall.

The work in my new role as MLA falls into three broad categories: issues related to the riding, issues in the Confidence and Supply Agreement, and issues connected to my role as an opposition spokesperson on several provincial files. Often, there is overlap between these categories.

With help from my Constituency staff, we started by creating a list of matters in the Cowichan Valley that fall under provincial jurisdiction, then identifying what are the top priorities that we want to work on. These priorities include a new hospital for Cowichan, a new high school in Duncan, addressing the challenges of the Cowichan River and the Shawni-

gan watersheds, and supporting the work already happening on housing and homelessness issues in Cowichan. While we gather information on these and other matters, riding concerns arise that need immediate attention. The first example of this was the traffic quagmire on the Malahat – I reached out to Minister Trevena, who was most willing to hear concerns and work on solutions. Over the course of the last month, several other riding-related issues have come up, and I am pleased with the responsiveness of ministers and their staff to work in solution-oriented ways.

At the same time, our constituency office has been busy with people seeking help and support on a wide variety of matters. Luke has rapidly learned the processes and procedures necessary, and he works hard to help everyone who comes through the door. Volunteers are also stepping forward to contribute, and for this we are most grateful.

The Confidence and Supply Agreement (which we call CASA for short) between the NDP and Greens requires a great deal of work to ensure that the legislative commitments proceed as planned. On the many matters found in the agreement – from electoral finance reform to review of the professional reliance system – consultation is necessary. This has meant that as the NDP government prepares its legislative agenda for the fall, we have had

ongoing meetings and discussions about items within CASA – upholding the essential spirit of the agreement, that “both parties agree that the legislature works best when all MLAs are able to put forward good ideas – and come together – to support those that advance the public good.”

(One quick note of clarification, as there has been some confusion. We have not entered into a coalition with the NDP – the BC Green party remains in opposition, with the agreement in place.)

Finally, as the opposition spokesperson on several ministry files, I have been working hard to gain as much knowledge as possible on the files, and to work with MLAs in both of the other parties to find and propose solutions. I have very much appreciated the willingness on the part of ministers to meet with me to discuss the files and their readiness to work in a collaborative, cooperative manner.

As I said in my first speech in the Legislature, we can do so much better. We can govern with compassion and kindness – these are words and values that need to be far more prevalent in our political discourse in BC.

I believe that this is possible – and I believe that all 87 MLAs are motivated to do their best for their constituents and for all of BC – and I also truly believe that it’s time for a new approach to governance in BC.

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



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Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030

Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 31 incidents in AUGUST 2017

- ★ Tuesday, Aug 1 – Smoke Sighting on Cougar Ridge Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 2 – Burning Complaint on Barton Pl
- ★ Thursday, Aug 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 4 – Lift Assist off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 5 - 1st Responder off Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 5 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 5 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 6 - 1st Responder off Ingot Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 8 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 8 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 13 – Hydro Lines on Ingot Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 13 – Burning Complaint on Briarwood Dr
- ★ Monday, Aug 14 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Aug 14 – Burning Complaint on Colman Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 17 - 1st Responder off Baden Powell Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 19 – Assistance on Memory Island
- ★ Sunday, Aug 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 23 – MVI on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 24 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 25 - 1st Responder off Sherburn Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 25 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 26 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 26 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 27 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 27 – Hydro Lines on Dundas Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 27 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Aug 28 – 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 30 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 30 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd



South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCPAS) - AGM

SCCPAS, is a not-for-profit, charitable society providing crime prevention, community safety programs and resources for the community. We work in partnership with individuals, groups, agencies and the local RCMP detachment in an effort to make the South Cowichan region a safer place to live, work and play.

On Thursday, September 14th, 2017 we will be hosting our AGM – we encourage residents in the South Cowichan area to join us. Our regular meetings are also open to the public. These are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in our Policing Office in the Mill Bay Centre - Unit #120.

In the 18 years of existence, our staff and volunteers have helped to create Safer Streets, Safer Homes and Safer Communities; through the implementation and overseeing of the following programs:

Block Watch - we have increased our Block Watch Community from 60 to 68 since January 2017 which helps provide additional support to our Shawnigan Lake RCMP Detachment and our South Cowichan Community as we work together to provide valuable crime prevention and awareness.

Safer Seniors/Elders/It's Not Right/Friendly Phones provides care and support for our aging population as well as for those who are shut-ins and need daily contact.

Safer Roads Start With Me supports the community concerns for road safety for children, families (4 and 2 legged), motorcycles, vehicles, etc. As we move towards a busier community so too do the concerns that come with expansion

and growth. This program brings community together to evaluate their roads safety needs in the areas of speed limits, signage, crosswalks, lighting, reckless driving, etc.

Speed Watch provides awareness to residents on road safety, speeding, distracted driving and cell phone monitoring. This program works with the RCMP Shawnigan Lake detachment and ICBC and is growing with the growth and needs of our community.

Youth Diversion Positive Tickets celebrates the success of positive behaviours and actions, L/N Drive Safe -awarding youth for responsible driving, Students against Drunk Drivers (SADD) Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Anti Bullying, and WITS.

In order to be an effective representative organization, we require volunteers like you from service clubs, educational institutions, recreational facilities, and businesses in the area as well as from the community in general. Our community is growing by leaps and bounds and in an effort to provide the programs we envision; our membership needs to grow accordingly and we would love to have you join our successful and dedicated team. Also, our secretary has recently accepted a position working overseas which has left a void. We are looking for someone will to step up to replace her.

Any questions can be directed to:

Greer Stewart, President @ greer.sccp@shaw.ca

sccp@shaw.ca

Tony Jackson, Vice-President @ tony.sccp@shaw.ca

sccp@shaw.ca

Sarah Davidge, Program Coordinator

@ sccp@shaw.ca

Patricia Saunders, Assistant Program

Coordinator @ patricia.sccp@shaw.ca



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cverd.bc.ca For meeting updates check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
Meetings TBA at Watershed office: #4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.
Contact: Bruce at 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
- ★ **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 See more info on p 2
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Wed. - 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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The winning answer for August
was submitted by Steve Warnes
who recognized the ornamental gate
post at Shawnigan Cemetery and
mentioned that it is the work of Gavin
McArthur, as a tribute to his parents.

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Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Lone Tree Hill is a beautiful peak elevated above the Highlands, off Millstream Road in Langford.

Passing the hustle and bustle of Millstream Village and Jurassic giants, keep heading North for about 7 kilometers, continue along after the Highlands and Caleb Pike Road keeping watch on the right for the signs announcing your arrival to the

Lone Tree Hill parking area.

Once parked, make your way past the only pit toilet on the trail and begin your trudge upwards. The trail parallels Millstream Road for a short while and it won't take long to realize that this hill means business, presenting some great cardiovascular exercise opportunities. The incline takes you up 364 meters to the top through a switchback style trail over naturally formed rock and stony steps with a few shady

spots under the protection of tall beautiful arbutus, cedar and Douglas-fir trees. Depending on your enthusiasm, after approximately 30-45 minutes you'll emerge onto open bluffs, mossy pockets and waving grasses.

A little farther over one last mighty bluff hump is the hill's fantastical sentinel, a lone Douglas-fir tree standing on guard. It has been said that this solitary steward, also touted as a heritage tree, has been looking over this hill for over 200 years.

Each mountain and hill of course has its own unique sights and Lone Tree cer-

tainly has its allure with promises of spectacular views as well. From the top you can view over the Highlands, parts of the Malahat and Victoria, perhaps even the Juan de Fuca and Haro straits if the clouds are frolicking way up high.

If you're a flower buff, it's said that Spring boasts an abundance of wild flowers to add to your Instagram posts. Sadly for the cyclists, even though this could be a pretty exciting adventure, cycles of any kind are not permitted on this one.

The terrain as you may have

guessed is rocky and offers quite the incline ... how else do you get such grand views?! It is dog friendly but please know that there is no water source, and you are encouraged to prepare for your pooch, especially in the drier months.

A 1.6 km round trip may not seem like much, but when it's uphill and rocky, it can certainly feel like much, much more. Wear decent shoes and those trekking pole thingies are a plus.

Like pictures? See the photos from this hike (and others) on our Facebook page – The Om Tree.

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Sing a Worried Song
By William Deverell
(An Arthur Beauchamp Novel)
Published by ECW Press
Copyright William Deverell 2016

This is the second book I've read featuring the retired attorney/gentleman farmer, Arthur Beauchamp, and I must confess to being quite taken with him as a character. The first was "April Fool" which won a number of prizes, and this volume is equally as entertaining.

This is another BC book set on a fictional Gulf Island and perhaps part of my enjoyment is the number of wild and woolly characters scattered through the story. There is Makepeace, the postal worker, who tells people what's in their mail as they pick it up, and Zoller, a zealous police volunteer who is a wannabe commando. My favourites are Stoney and Dog, two reprobates who regularly cajole and charm Arthur out of his car, his equipment and certainly, his money. The locally harvested weed plays a part in their activities and leads to a trial in the latter part of the book in which this distinguished lawyer is asked to come out of retirement.

The novel begins, however, with another, more serious trial, which takes place twenty-five years earlier. Arthur is a legendary Vancouver lawyer, publicly a great success, but privately struggling with alcoholism and an adulterous wife. He prosecutes a young man accused of murdering a clown, a case based on an actual trial which involved the author Deverell when he was a practicing attorney.

The courtroom scenes are tight, suspenseful and sometimes wonderfully funny, with lawyers and judges who are both canny and outrageous in their behaviours. Arthur, the master, wins the trial and the prisoner is taken away, vowing retribution.

The narrative then shifts to present time, with our hero living a sober and bucolic life on his

farm. He is now remarried to a much younger wife, Margaret, an ardent environmentalist who has just been elected as the leader of the Green Party. She spends most of her time in Ottawa which leads Beauchamp to worry about their marriage not surviving the distance, as well as his concern about the age gap. He is, indeed, "A worried man, who sings a worried song". It is this neuroticism combined with gentle wit and intelligence that make him so appealing.

The suspense ratchets up when Arthur is warned that the murderer he prosecuted is now free and out for revenge.

He worries about his personal safety on the island and tries to keep track of the whereabouts of the freed prisoner. The descriptions of his foray into home alarms and bumbling attempts to short circuit the technology may make you laugh out loud. So might the description of his ring tone and his inability to change it.

In the meantime he is coerced into defending his neighbour, Dog, in a farce of a trial shortened by the visiting Judge's concern about making it back to the ferry on time. And throughout all of this, he continues to worry about his wife, fearing she will dump him. So much for the quiet life. His is clearly out of control.

The last part of the book gallops towards a heart-stopping climax, with our hero in grave danger. In a clever and sad twist at the end, all is resolved. However, after a tearful scene with Margaret, we wonder if there is another wife for Arthur in future novels, with a certain sympathetic colleague waiting in the wings.

I think you'll enjoy this as a great read for the end of the summer. It borders on farce, as the humour is broad and sometimes a little slapstick, especially regarding the Island characters. I'm looking forward to reading the whole series.

Rating: 4.9/5 stars



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