

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Nine - Issue Two

February 2018

A Non-Profit Community Publication

A Look at Lake Levels



Flood of 1935: Renfrew Road near Mason's

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The recent heavy rains and resulting high lake levels have generated considerable interest and some alarm. Extreme levels don't happen very often so it is worthwhile to provide some perspective. Note that portions of this article are reprinted from a September 2011 Focus article on the Shawnigan Weir.

The elevation for the surface of Shawnigan Lake is officially stated as 116 metres. CVRD data for lake levels from 1999 to 2017 shows a range of 115.40m to 118.05m. This indicates a difference of 2.65m from the lowest lake level during the dry season to the highest lake level during the wet, winter months. On Tuesday, January 30th the lake level was approximately 117.75m. While well short of the record, it was certainly high enough to flood crawlspaces and cover septic fields of some older lakefront properties.

Prior to 1964 there was no mechanism for controlling the lake level. Very dry summers saw very low levels; unusually wet winters saw correspondingly high levels which would sometimes cause logs and debris to block the outlet. Major flooding occurred in 1933, and again in 1935 where the lake level was just over the railway tracks near Masons Beach Park.

In 1964, Mill Bay Water Works built a rudimentary dam on Shawnigan Creek about 450m downstream of the lake. The intention was to store water that would be released in the summer months in order to facilitate a continuous water supply for their downstream requirements. Significant effort was required to adjust

the height of the dam by adding or removing heavy wooden planks. When Shawnigan Beach Estates was established in the 1970s, water was provided by Sherwood Water Works who, along with Shawnigan Village Water Works, joined in to help maintain and operate the dam.

In the early 1980's the Ministry of Environment (MoE) imposed stipulations on the three water license holders requiring the construction of a new weir in order to maintain minimum lake flows during the summer months.

In 1983, the MoE, with input from the community and various stakeholders, established a "rule curve" which stated target lake levels to provide storage and prevent flooding. This specifies a gradually declining level for the period of March 15th to October 1st. Specifically, the level should diminish from 116.3m to 115.75m, which corresponds to a decreased water volume from 800 litres per second to 375 litres per second.

In 1999 the CVRD took over Sherwood Water Works, renaming it to Shawnigan Lake North Water System. In 2006 construction started on the new weir which became fully operational in 2008.

While the current weir enables easy adjustment of a metal gate to control water levels, determining the frequency and degree of correction is not trivial. Weir operators must attempt to set the weir gate in order to keep as close as possible to the mandated rule curve. It is a balancing act which is dependent on rainfall and evaporation.

A frequent comment heard during high lake level events is that the weir should be lowered further. This is not possible from November to March when the weir is fully open (assuming the rule curve is being followed.)

Other factors come into play as well. Floating debris finds its way into the outlet. The old log boom which did a decent job of preventing this was removed in 2009 due to liability concerns. After several years of old boats, docks logs and other detritus getting jammed up downstream, the CVRD finally installed a plastic boom which is removed each spring and re-installed each fall. Quite light and with large gaps, it does not perform nearly as well as the heavy logs did.

Also, over time, sediment and heavy debris accumulates on the creek bottom which needs to be cleaned out periodically. In 2011 the CVRD established (via an Alternative Approval Process) the **Shawnigan Creek Cleanout and Drainage Service** which is allocated up to \$18,000 per year and financed by taxation on lakefront properties and those properties served by the two main water systems. It is not clear how well this is working. Currently there is considerable debris present between the outlet mouth and the weir but it does not appear to be significantly impeding the downstream flow.

Brent Beach, a past editor of the Focus, did a lot of research on these topics and provides much more detail on his blog which is well worth reading:

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/10/silt-ing-and-lake-levels.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/04/lake-level-to-march-31.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/04/the-cleanout-could-it-get-worse.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2012/11/shawnigan-creek-water-level-study.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2012/03/creek-clean-out-or-taxpayer-clean-out.html>



Old 1964 Dam & Walkway



Current weir with gate fully lowered on Feb 1, 2018



New plastic boom not very effective.



Debris in creek could become a problem.

In memory of Don McDowell 1946 - 2018



Don was a long time resident of Shawnigan Lake.

He was a member of many organizations, including the Mill Bay Garden Club, Malahat Lions and was an active member of the Shawnigan Cemetery Maintenance Crew. Best known for his ability to fix just about anything, he was always quick to “take a look” at some motor that wasn’t quite running right.

Also known as the “Fry Guy” in the Lions Kook Car, Don never turned down a request to help. From cooking french fries at Special Woodstock to building bird houses at Canada Day, Don would be there! He was a truly dedicated volunteer and will be missed by all.

South Cowichan Library

Bedtime storytime!

Join us for stories and songs in the evening on Wednesday, Feb 14. Perfect for families in which someone works days: eat dinner and come prepared to cuddle. For children 2 to 8 years and a caregiver.

LEGO® Club

LEGO® Club happens on the second Wednesday of every month (Feb 14). This is a free, drop-in event best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO is welcome. And we now have DUPLO for the younger crowd!

Freedom to Read Week

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event encouraging Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, guaranteed to us under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Drop by Feb 26 to Mar 3 to see a poster about thirty publications challenged in Canadian public libraries and schools in recent decades.

Call us at 250-743-5436 for more information.

Monica Finn - 250-743-5283- mfinn@virl.bc.ca

Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Butchart Gardens is well known of course, but do you know its history?

This once limestone rich area was home to the Vancouver Portland Cement Company, founded by Robert Butchart, in 1904. The family purchased 400 acres of land on the shores of Saanich Inlet to meet the demand for cement from San Francisco to Victoria. It was the first cement company west of the Great Lakes and was an established limestone quarry and cement plant until about 1912, when the area became void of resources and they made the move across the inlet to Bamberton.

Following this change Jennie Butchart began to focus on her gardens. She started with the Sunken Garden then, with the help of previous cement workers, more and more themed gardens followed. To this day the gardens remain in the Butchart family.

Tod Inlet trail begins nearby at the north end of Gowlland

Tod Provincial Park on Wallace Drive (off West Saanich Road). Close to the end of Wallace is a gravel shoulder on the left, signifying the parking area. There are two entrances, one unmarked at the start of the gravel, and a more prominent one farther down containing an official sign and gate.

Near the Tod Creek watershed you are welcomed by SNIDCEL (pronounced sngeet-kwith), territory of WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) First Nation, featuring a bear face along with two blue grouse. SNIDCEL translated is “place of the Blue Grouse.” Traditionally, the presence of blue grouse means that nourishing resources are plentiful.

Lingering are signs of a long gone village to those who relocated from India, China and elsewhere in search of employment. Sadly, these settlers were not well supported upon their arrival and were forced to craft makeshift homes out of necessity. Traces of old foundations, bricks, and other relics of a previous life still remain.

John Tod was a Hudson’s Bay Company employee who

settled in the area. He was a well-known storyteller and was widely revered in Victoria. So much, in fact, that after retirement he was given a seat on Victoria’s first Legislative Council. The inlet was named in honour of him by Captain Richards after surveying the land aboard the HMS Plumper.

This certainly is a place where you should go off track to discover hidden treasures. Main trails are the Tod Creek and Inlet trails. The creek trail parallels the creek down to the corner of the inlet and the inlet trail will lead you gently down to the Nature Float where once was a dock large enough to accommodate incoming steamships.

Just a skip past the beach are multitudes of long stone beam things (unclear as to what they are) and, looking up at the sky, you can see the old smoke stack looming. Enjoy!

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



SHAWNIGAN FOCUS - FEBRUARY 2018

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

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

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Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

Hello Shawnigan and welcome to the Shawnigan Stargazer. Each month I will give you an area of the night sky that has interesting things to view with your naked eye, binoculars and, if you have one, a telescope.

February: Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull and Pleiades

No better place to start in February than one of the most recognizable constellations, Orion the Hunter. Orion is easily spotted almost due south at around 8pm throughout the month. With the naked eye you can see the colour difference between two Supergiant stars: the relatively orange Betelgeuse that makes his right shoulder, and the brilliant blue colour of Rigel which forms his left foot. Betelgeuse has a much colder surface temperature than Rigel (3,220°C vs 10,800°C), which causes the red colour. Our own Sun has a surface temperature of 5,505°C but is much smaller in size; Betel-

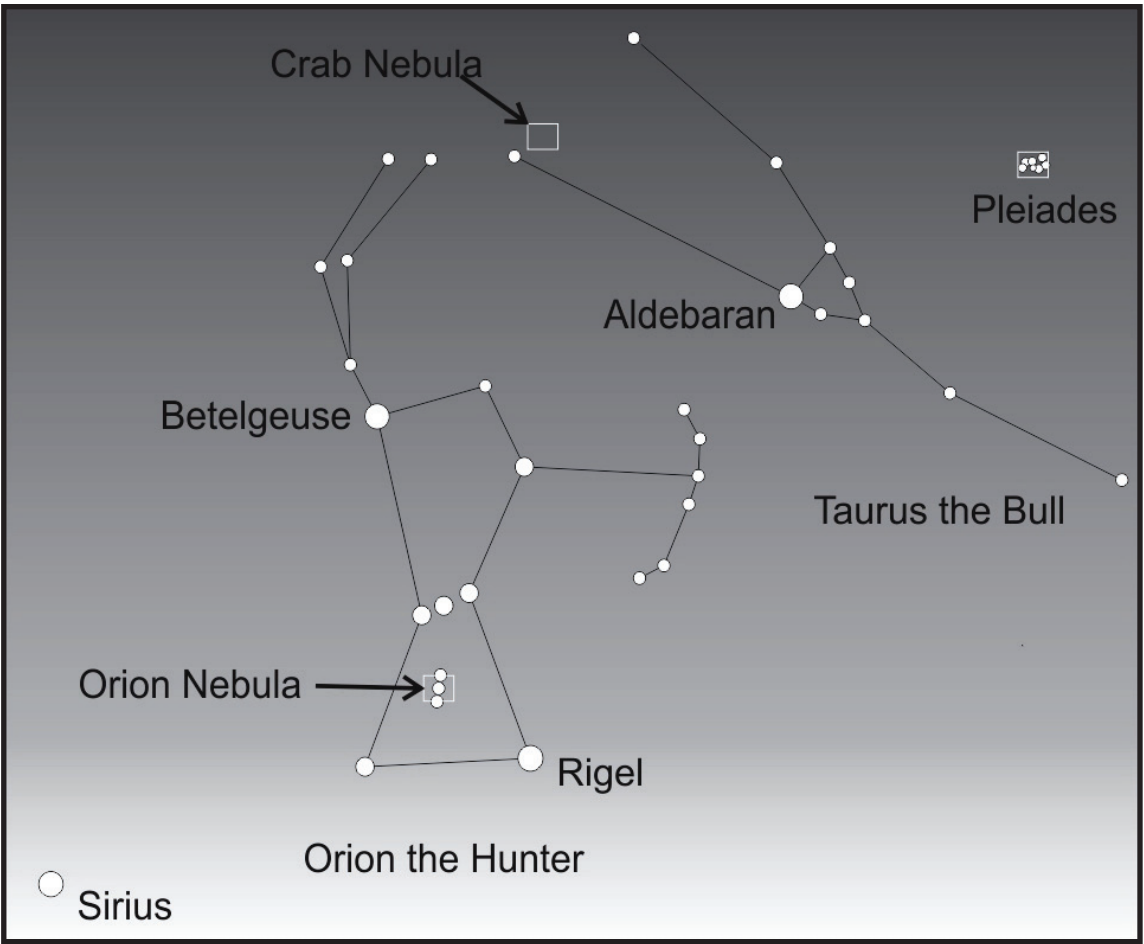
geuse is a massive 560x the diameter of our Sun.

With a pair of binoculars you are able to view the Orion Nebula. Simply come down from Orion’s Belt and locate the three bright vertical stars that make up Orion’s sword. In behind the middle star of the sword you will see a fuzzy patch of sky; this is the Nebula. The Orion Nebula is a stellar nursery, and what you see is the interstellar gas that is being illuminated by the stars that are being formed within it.

To find the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius, follow the line of Orion’s belt to the Southeast. When Sirius is low on the horizon it commonly “twinkles” as the starlight interacts with our atmosphere.

Taurus the Bull can be located by following Orion’s belt to the west. The bright orange star, Aldebaran, represents the bull’s right eye.

With a telescope you can view the famous Crab Nebula to the immediate west of Zeta Tauri, or the right horn of the bull.



By tracing Orion’s belt through Aldebaran and further to the west, you come to the Pleiades.

As a child, I always thought that this was the Little Dipper because of its obvious similarity to the Big Dipper. It is not. The Pleiades, or the Seven Sisters, is a beautiful cluster of stars. When viewed through binoculars

the multiple blue stars are brilliant. Through a telescope you can easily view hundreds of stars in the field of view and also see wisps of nebula. Of note, in Japan they call this constellation Subaru. Have a look at the stars that make up the car company’s logo!

Planets: Jupiter shines bright due south at dawn; it is

by far the brightest object in this region of the sky. Mars can be found to the southeast of Jupiter, down towards the horizon, and has a notable red colour.

Saturn rises shortly before sunrise, but will most likely be obscured by Mount Baldy at the lake. If you are keen, it should be easily spotted from the Malahat summit lookout.

Government Planning-letter

Glenn White
Shawnigan Lake Resident

For the most part I believe that our government wants to do well for us. However, every now and then one has to give one’s head a shake and say... What were you thinking?

The white marker posts installed along Renfrew Road were confusing at first as they only seemed to cover a small area where the new paving was done. They also ruined a bike lane for cyclists as it became a sidewalk of sorts. Not sure how or who made the decision to install those posts and what the cost was?

Shawnigan in the winter is good for at least one or two good snow falls and there is no way to clear the identified sidewalk with the poles there, as the plows cannot get over to the shoulder. Many of the poles were damaged by vehicles, either due to poor cornering etc., or it may have become a game of whack a mole. Either way, many were damaged over the course of the winter - the final straw was Mainroad hiring a bob cat to remove them and clear the shoulder for walking. I actually saw the removal in action.

What a tremendous waste on a project with little or no community consultation or forethought as to how to keep the designated walk way clean. The next time we need to have some community consultation and some reality of forethought in planning these interventions. Using the money towards another street light or two would have been better investment of tax money.

It sure looks like an equally ill thought out sign has been put up that has not actually been activated yet. This is the one on the corner near Widows Walk and Renfrew which says “ your speed”. I believe, based on my experience on Renfrew, that people know how fast they are going most of the time. And we have the speed watch folks out periodically to remind us.

I am old fashioned. I really believe that the only way to manage speeding on the Renfrew Race Way is to start handing out tickets for going 70 -80 in a 50 or 60 zone. That will correct the behaviour in very short order. When people get an expensive ticket they will know how fast they are going without a doubt and may even slow down the next time.



Shawnigan Village Waterworks

You may have noticed the action taking place at the pump house at the bottom end of Shawnigan Mill Bay Road? Shawnigan Village Waterworks is undertaking a large project to upgrade the Shawnigan Village water system.

We have a unique opportunity to interview the owner of Shawnigan Village Waterworks for the March issue of Shawnigan Focus. If you have questions or concerns that you would like answered, please send them to shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com and we will address these in the March issue.

Shawnigan Weather 2018

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

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Average High	6.3	5.8	3.8	7.4	4.5	6.9	5.0	6.7	4.5
Average Low	0.5	1.9	-2.0	2.4	-2.4	2.0	-2.2	1.9	-2.2
Extreme High	15.0	10.1	9.4	11.2	10.1	10.8	10.2	11.0	10.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-1.6	-8.1	-1.2	-9.2	-1.8	-8.3	-2.0	-8.5
Precipitation	215.3	300.9	94.6	295.0	96.8	280.2	81.3	333.0	88.8
Days w precip	20	27	13	27	12	27	12	26	9
Year Precip	215.3	300.9	94.6	295.0	96.8	280.2	81.3	333.0	88.8
Precip since Oct 1	534.7	883.6	848.4	856.1	822.3	791.0	745.6	886.0	820.7

Rank since 1914: 13th warmest, 11th wettest

Lake Temperature: Jan 7th: 3° Jan 14th: 3° Jan 21st: 3° Jan 28th: 4°

Lake Level Change: Jan 7th: -6 cm Jan 14th: +34 cm Jan 21st: -2.5 cm Jan 28th: +83 cm

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Leisure Seeker
Michael Zadoorian
Published by William Morrow
Copyright 2009 by Michael Zadoorian

I am not usually a fan of the Seniors Running Away from Home genre. The characters are often reduced to one-dimensional stereotypes: cutesy, profane and naughty - like bad little children. They rarely seem real to me and are not given the respect they deserve. This novel is different.

Michael Zadoorian writes from his own experience. His father had Alzheimer's and the son was a witness to the erratic progress of the disease. Zadoorian brings knowledge and compassion to the character of John, the husband in the story, who has dementia. Often he can't remember the name of his beloved partner of 60 years, or the state they are in, and sometimes his behaviour is very difficult. But, by golly, he can still drive.

John's wife, Ella, is the narrator, and we find she has terminal cancer. When her frantic adult daughter calls and wishes her to continue treatment she says, "Sick is relative, dear. I'm way past sick." When her daughter replies that the doctors are just trying to make her better, she says, "How? By killing me? I'd rather go on

vacation with your father." As they are already on the road, they continue on in their old '78 Leisure Seeker RV, covered with decals from many past trips across America. And it is at this point that the big adventure begins, especially after they turn off their cell phone.

Ella decides to return to Disneyland from their home in Detroit, taking the old Route 66 highway which, in its dilapidated state, is a fitting analogy for the senior couple. John's muscle memory is excellent and he drives their rig with ease, although he needs Ella to navigate and direct him. She takes the keys with her at rest stops as he has the inclination to forget about her and drive away. This is a new reality she learns to face, along with other surprises, with a wry humour. Her strength grows as they continue their odyssey, running into a few dangerous situations and overcoming them with courage and luck. And let's not forget the drugs and carefully mixed Manhattans that sustain them daily.

They cruise past the Route 66 Diners, eating Fabian Fries and Elvis Shakes, marvelling at the fibreglass giants like Paul Bunyan and Babe Ruth. Every night when they are hooked up to a site in a new trailer park, they bring out a sheet and projector and watch slides of their family when the two children were little, reliving their trips

criss-crossing the country, including several to Disneyland.

This nightly show is a great device for the author to fill us in on the past life of the couple with all of their busy activities. Sadly, their best friends, the couple they spent so much time with, are now both dead, and Ella is filled with sadness as she anticipates what lies ahead. Still, they have this one last trip and she wants to make the best of it as they retrace their steps by stopping at many of the places they encountered before, back when they were young and healthy.

This is a love story about Ella and John. It is funny, smart and very poignant as they find ways to show their devotion and care for each other in the hardest of times. I laughed out loud, nodded my head in agreement and shed a few tears. This is the way people live who have made a deep commitment to each other, especially at the end of the road.

Rating: 5/5 stars.

Note: A movie based on the book is being released shortly, starring Donald Sutherland and Helen Mirren. From what I can gather, they have changed the driving route from the west coast to the east coast, totally altering the context. What a pity. I would suggest reading the book before you see the movie. The reviews are better.

Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)

The Shawnigan Resident's Association

The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) is actively engaged on a number of key initiatives within the community of Shawnigan Lake, specifically the issues of the SIA facility, Milfoil infestation, illegal dumping of garbage and incorporation.

In the matter of the South Island Aggregates Facility (SIA) owned by Cobble Hill Holdings, Justice Sewell recently released a ruling on costs in the SRA's favour as part of the judicial review. There are a few more steps to take place in that process and the total amount still needs to be quantified, but it is good news. In addition

to the legal activities, the SRA is now partnering with the Shawnigan Research Group (SRG), which has been actively monitoring the SIA Site and working with the Ministry of the Environment on the ongoing monitoring and closure plan for the site.

It is still the opinion of the SRA that all of the material at the contaminated SIA dump site should be moved to a more suitable location. Both the SRA and SRG will continue to work in that direction.

Last summer it became apparent that the milfoil infestation in the lake was growing quickly enough to become a problem. The SRA is committed to

working with the CVRD, residents and other interested groups in finding and implementing a solution so that everyone can continue to enjoy our beautiful lake. Please watch the Focus and the SRA's Facebook site for additional information and how you can help.

Recently the SRA has embarked on a program to start the clean-up of illegally dumped garbage. If you are aware of garbage that has been dumped illegally, please contact the SRA so that it can be dealt with properly. If you witness illegal dumping, please report it immediately at 1-877-952-RAPP.

shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com - thesra.ca



5th Annual Family Day

ON THE WILD SIDE!

Free Family Fun!

- Rain or shine!
- Story Walk
- Nature Craft
- Family Feud

Monday, February 12th
10 AM - 1 PM
Elsie Miles Park & Pavilion

More Info?
shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
250-743-8675

BC Family Day
We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

Village Chipperry presents 'Poutine of the Month'



February Feature is
a grilled cheese poutine
made with grilled cheese bites
stuffed in our fabulous poutine.

It's like a double dose of comfort food!

Dine Cowichan starts Feb. 23!
- look for special features from the Village Chipperry

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2740 Dundas Road, Shawnigan Village

home grown is where the heart is



www.craftcannabis.ca

www.warmlandcentre.ca

"Destiny is in our own hands. If we don't succeed, it is our own fault." ~Leon Musk

“Moving the Ball Forward” Director’s Report

Sierra Acton
Director Area B

It has been an exciting month - my husband likes to use the expression “moving the ball forward.” This month really feels like we are doing just that. It applies as a community getting things done, as a Director in my role, and as initiatives and goals roll out. Here are a few highlights from the last few weeks.

Love it

I am excited to announce that Shawnigan Lake School is working with the CVRD, the community and myself to create a working plan for the milfoil issue.

I am thrilled that they have hired an Environmental Firm who will help create an expert plan that we can work towards as we continue to protect one of our most LOVED assets - the lake itself. As an Electoral Area it is extremely hard to have funds allocated to specific community initiatives (that do not have direct funding), so I am thrilled that our good neighbours are working together with our community to help us

conquer one of our goals!

Even non-hockey fans would have been converted if they attended the Roger’s Home-town hockey event featuring the Cowichan Valley in the 3rd weekend of January. Outdoor road hockey, indoor shiny and a parade. NHL players signing jerseys and a mini Zamboni to change tires drew the crowds despite the weather. Whether a fan, or not, you had to love hockey that weekend.

Share it

As we grow and share our community with each other, it is important to bring the village businesses together to look at short and long-term goals for the village core and the community. At the beginning of January the village business community came together to meet with special guest - the Manager of Economic Cowichan. Some really exciting ideas and proposals are emerging: we have been exploring ways to encourage thoughtful investment in our community, as we leverage our assets. Shawnigan is an amazing place and it shows in the community’s dedication to

constantly improve.

In January, the CVRD hosted Gil Panolosa, who gave a compelling and motivating presentation on What makes a great place to live? At its core, the most important elements are to live in a place that increases your quality of life, your health and includes everyone. Shawnigan is doing well in some areas, but we can do better.

One area that we can improve is in our parks, as they are viewed as outdoor community centres.

The secret is to create spaces that have the “symptoms” of a good place; that promote diversity; that provide weather protected areas for recreation or even just conversation; and feel safe enough that they encourage the congregation of young families. Many of the solutions are very inexpensive and invite more community use resulting in even greater places. He points out that walking is the #1 activity in the world and therefore it is very important to have lots of walking paths, both for recreation or for just getting around. This idea has also been

echoed by our communities who responded to the recent studied that identified our recreation needs are changing and we are moving it outside more. Gil also points out that we must take care of our most vulnerable. The CVRD Board believes that Cowichan feels that way too. The homeless in the Valley are being discussed and funding is being explored. Panolosa has many inspiring ideas and I hope you will take a look at worldurbanparks.org

Protect it

As many of you know, illegal garbage dumping is a senseless act that affects us all. I am working with the CVRD, Shawnigan Residents Association, Mainroad and the community to help target and alleviate the issue. You can expect some more information about two highly targeted “Hot Spots” and our plan to message this out to our community and our neighbours. We will need your help on this so please stay tuned. Together we will keep Shawnigan beautiful.

The Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) continues to

carry out research regarding the Shawnigan Watershed and the contaminated soil dump. They continue to work hard with the Ministry of Environment on the closure plan for SIA and monitor the many other illegal soil dumping sites in Shawnigan. The SRG continuously study MoE Data, question ministerial actions, write letters, consult with experts and strategize. I am extremely grateful for their input, expertise and continued support to our community, all in the name of protecting our water. It is an onerous process, but the SRG are committed to getting the contaminated soil removed. The lake itself and drinking water are also a focus for them. They have designed a water quality testing program for Shawnigan Lake, that is extremely important, especially at this time to correspond with our emerging soil bylaw. The SRG has tasked me with finding funding for the testing so I better sign off and get back to work!

I look forward to connecting: cell/text 250-732-0368 - Sacton@cvrd.bc.ca - FB: Sierra Acton Area B - www.iloveshawnigan.com

Green Party MLA, Sonia Furstenau, to hold Town Hall in Duncan



Unlike any other, Sonia Furstenau represents the spirit and connectivity of the Cowichan Valley. Since her election in 2017, Sonia has redefined what it means to be representative, listening to constituents and shar-

ing their concerns with our provincial government.

Beginning with her championship in the Shawnigan Lake Watershed legal battle, she has since maintained an impressive record with the

Kayla Brent

Recently, Sonia has engaged herself with critical local issues such as affordable childcare, rising housing costs, and a vital new hospital for her constituents. With Sonia as our spokesperson, we are able to feel confident that our needs will be met in the upcoming legislative session.

If you wish to receive an update from Sonia, learn more about what she’s doing to serve our community, and ask her about the issues that matter to you, come join us for a fun and informational event this Thursday. On February 8th at 7pm, a Town Hall will be held at St. John’s Anglican Church - 486 Jubilee Road in Duncan. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be provided throughout the night.

As our community grows, it

is essential that we continue to connect with our representatives and develop meaningful relationships with our policymakers.

Participation in events such as these are vital to sustaining our role in the democratic system which we value so greatly. By providing our input in these sorts of discussions, we can

ensure that our voices are effectively represented in Victoria and throughout Canada as we set an example as British Columbians.

Kayla is a grade 12 student at Frances Kelsey Secondary School where she is a prominent leader in the student parliament and founder of her own youth activism club.

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MALAHAT DISTRICT
BRANCH 134

Even members of the Legion don't always know where the money goes that we raise through the weekly meat draws, 50/50's and raffles.

Being a member of the Legion for over 30 years, I did not know until recently that money raised during these events, goes directly into the "GAMING ACCOUNT" to be distributed to various local charities. There are very strict rules on who will qualify.

Sometimes special permission must be obtained. The Poppy Fund is a separate account that is used strictly to help our Veterans. Separate fund raising, generous donations and applying for grants, has to be done to maintain our building and pay for utilities, etc.

- ★ A report is sent to the Gaming Authority before a new licence for the next year is issued.
- ★ Over the past several years our Legion has helped a variety of local organizations.

- ★ The whole process is quite involved.
- ★ Local non-profit charities must apply in writing for a donation, stating why and where the money will be spent.
- ★ The Gaming Committee must first approve the application(s).
- ★ The Gaming Chair attends the Executive meeting and asks for their approval and a monetary amount is suggested.
- ★ Approval must then be

received by the General Membership at the next meeting

- ★ The local charity is contacted and asked to attend a General Meeting to receive the cheque and if possible give a little presentation about their organization to the general membership.

Please come out and support our Saturday meat draws from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Free darts and pool are also available at this time.

Community charities in our area need your support.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

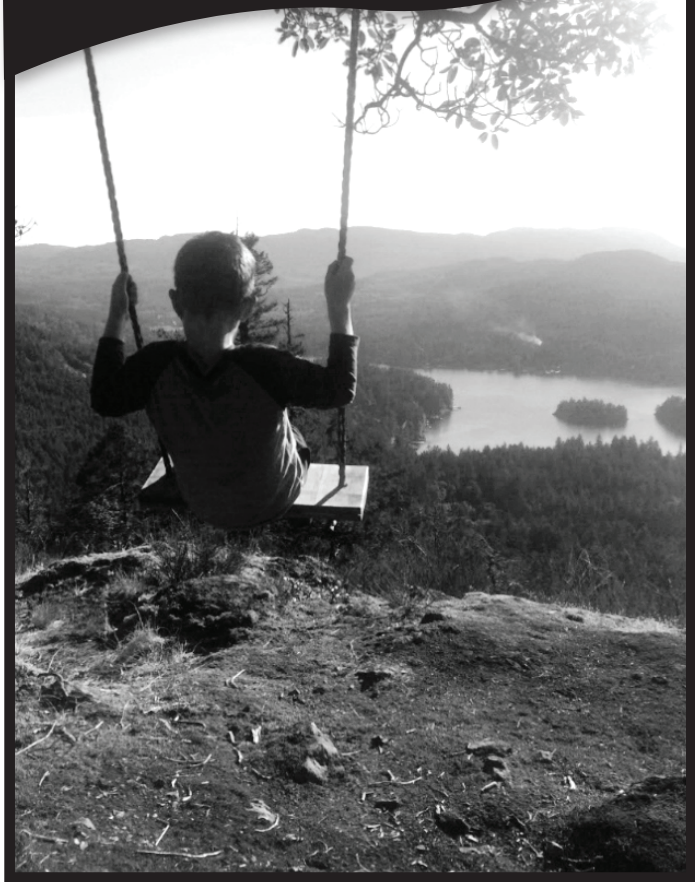
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Department members attended 17 incidents in JANUARY:

- ★ Wednesday, Jan 3 - Chimney Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Jan 9 – Burning Complaint on Dunwick Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 10 - 1st R off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 13 – Chimney Fire on Meadowview Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Jan 16 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 20 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Jan 22 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Jan 23 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Jan 24 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Jan 25 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Saturday, Jan 27 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 28 - 1st Responder off Meadowview Rd
- ★ Sunday, Jan 28 – MVI on Renfrew @ Worthington Rds
- ★ Monday, Jan 29 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd

Shawnigan Moment



Discovery Elementary
appreciation

Shayla Symes
Discovery Elementary Student

Being part of such a lovely, caring school is an honour. We wouldn't have such an amazing school if it weren't for all the adults that help us. The teachers plan activities for what we will do the next day, when we will do it, and then they go to bed late at night. Sometimes I think we forget everything the teachers do for us, and all the time and effort they put into their job. They see us every day for 5 days and only get a 2 day break from us. The EA's help children with needs and lots of other kids too. Don't forget about our friendly secretaries who help make our school welcoming!

Most of all, who helps us with our problems? Who makes sure

we are safe? Well yes, our parents but while they're at work our principal comes to our school every day and helps to solve problems. I can't thank Mr. Ranger enough for everything he has done for us. There is also our Vice Principal who does the same thing, so thank you Mr. McLeod.

There are just a couple more people I would like to thank. Our noon hour supervisors come to our school every day and go outside, no matter the weather, and help to keep kids safe. Fred does our safe arrival and makes sure we are at school. One last thank you to our PAC and all the parent volunteers. All of these people do these things without wanting recognition. We truly appreciate all that you do.



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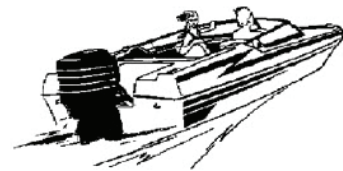
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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cverd.bc.ca *Next Director's Meeting: Feb 5th, 2018.* For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission(APC)**
Meetings TBA at Shawnigan Lake Community
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
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:30-4 For info, contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:-5:00pm. General meeting 3rd Sunday, 1:00 pm
Contact: Gloria.gsolley@shaw.ca

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



One lucky respondent with the correct
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Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Congratulations!!!!

The winning answer for January was
submitted by Andrew Preston who
identified the swing at the top of Mount
Baldy. Andrew also included a great
shot of young Angus Preston in action
on the swing at this beautiful spot
overlooking our jewel of a lake!



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March for meals

Mya Walz
Minister of Technology
Frances Kelsey Student Parliament

"What you have done for the children of the Valley will have an effect for years to come. Over 3000 breakfast is an amazing accomplishment! We are all so excited for your achievement!"

Dina Wholebrook, Nourish Cowichan Co-Founder

At Frances Kelsey, we are taught to pursue our own passions. As a school, we all value community service. With respect to our community's sensibilities we embarked on a quest to make a difference locally. When our Prime Minister, Caelen Cook, brought the idea for a march forward, I thought it was ambitious. He explained to our student leaders how important community engagement is to him, and how we can take action to support students in our district. We were introduced to Nourish Cowichan. Their mission, which we find so inspiring, is to supply all children in the Valley with equal access to food. They seek to address the students who come to school hungry by providing nutritious breakfasts

during the school week and, in addition, by sending them home over the weekend with backpacks filled with healthy snacks - an initiative that has met its success while in partnership with Starfish Cowichan. Their goal in supporting students in the Cowichan Valley inspired our team.

As a member Frances Kelsey Student Parliament, our goals are to build strong connections between our school and community. With our parliamentary team, we developed a comprehensive plan and reached out to our Me to We club. Founded and headed by Kayla Brent, the Me to We club was built upon a desire to make real impacts. In response to the project, Kayla gave her thoughts "I was surprised by the ambition and breadth of the project. We were moving with a speed I had never seen before at Kelsey. It was inspiring." We found a natural partner. Along with Caelen's mom, a teacher at George Bonner Elementary School (his hero and mentor), we planned to work on an unprecedented cooperative milkshake day sale between the two schools. With the students in Caelen's wonderful mother's grade seven class, we could raise so much more for the cause,

and provide opportunities for young students to get involved.

Under our Prime Minister's leadership, our clubs dove right into the thick of things. We advertised together, recruited more volunteers, and gathered pledges for our cause. With our plan in hand, Caelen and Kayla (Prime Minister, and President of the Me to We club) met with a representative from Nourish, Dina Wholebrook, in a coffee shop to discuss the course of action. After teas were ordered and introductions were made, we decided to pursue a March for Meals, an initiative in which we walked five kilometres around the school grounds of Frances Kelsey. We took the idea straight to our Parliament, where it was met with enthusiastic support. We wrote up a message for our cause and took it to the streets! With manila envelopes in hand we approached family, friends and members of our community. The generosity of citizens of the Cowichan Valley is no secret, and we were received with grace. Following the completion of our March we raised a considerable \$3095. I am proud of our school, our team and of our community for providing the necessary funds for 3095 meals.

Youth in our community and you

Benjamin Brummitt
Youth Director - SCCPAS

"Safety doesn't happen by accident" is what SCCPAS Vice-President Tony Jackson wrote in last month's article on celebrating our successes in crime prevention and awareness at Community Policing.

As you know, there have been some episodes of vandalism and destruction of property recently in the South Cowichan area at the end of 2017 and again in the beginning of 2018. Many have vocalized their concerns and expressed their point of view about what needs to happen to these Youth (or those who are responsible for the vandalism).

We, as a community, are working together towards

having a safer community for all. As we move in this direction towards the building blocks in our vibrant villages, let's remember to celebrate our youth, their successes and all they contribute to our communities.

One way we can do this is on February 28 - Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is part of anti bullying month. The objective of anti bullying month is to end all types of bullying that a person may endure. Anti bullying month is not only about helping the victims of bullying but also to re-educate bullies. As of late there have been a few incidents regarding children/youth in our community, some of which youth are suspected to have played a role in. Like bullying, we cannot just help the victims,

we as a community must act like a family and support the youth. Like a family no one person can fix the issue...we must all do are part to keep our communities safe.

There is an old expression "it takes a village to raise a child". As we approach this date - let's all stop and ask ourselves this question...? What have I contributed to the success of the children and youth in my community and let's all wear PINK.

Information on Pink Shirt Day is found here:
<https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>

"Standing Up for Inclusion" Youth Ambassador Program - <http://cis-iwc.org/youth-ambassadors-program/>



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HEALTHY BEGINNINGS
A Free Drop-In at the
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Healthy Beginnings is a friendly, relaxed group for moms and dads with babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years of age.

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.

It all begins at 10:30 AM

Every Thursday except the weeks with a statutory holiday.

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



We are proud to announce that the recipient of the 2016-2017 Governor General's Academic Medal is Kyjauna Marshall. The Academic Medal recognizes outstanding academic achievement and is awarded annually to the student graduating with the highest average. Kyjauna is in her first year of the Engineering program at McGill University in Montreal. Congratulations, Kyjauna.

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