

Shawnigan Focus

Volume Nine - Issue Three

March 2018

A Non-Profit Community Publication

VILLAGE WATER: IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY BUT COSTLY

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Village Waterworks is owned and operated by Lidstech Holdings Ltd. Rod and Sue Lidstone created the company when they purchased the private water utility from Ray Dougan in 1993. Old-timers will remember Ray who also had the Shawnigan Garage for many years and was the go-to guy for plumbing and mechanical challenges around the lake. In 1940 the Garage operated a small water system which also served the owner's residence and two stores across the road (Aitken & Fraser and Pen-Y-Wern). By 1966 the system had grown to provide water to about sixty properties.

From these modest beginnings the system has developed along with the community and now serves about 550 premises. As with the Dougans, it is a family business. Rod and Sue manage the utility without employees and contract out for engineering, heavy equipment, and other services as required. Rod says that they have been very fortunate to have John Motherwell of Motherwell Engineering with them from the beginning. The business covers expenses and provides industry-standard operator and bookkeeper incomes.

Shawnigan Village Waterworks is one of about 122 privately owned water utilities in BC. They are all regulated by the Provincial Comptroller of Water Rights whose responsibility is to protect the public interest and ensure that safe water is provided at a fair and reasonable price.

Rates for private utilities must be approved by the Comptroller

and are documented by formal Tariffs. Shawnigan Village Waterworks has been operating under Tariff No. 10 since May 2008. Of interest to most customers is the Domestic Service Flat Rate which has been \$42/month for the last nine years.

For comparison, the Shawnigan Lake North Water System, constructed in the 1970s to serve the Beach Estates, serves about 710 parcels. Taken over by the CVRD in 1999, it is a public utility and currently serves about 710 parcels. In 2017, property owners paid \$220 in User Fees plus a \$334 Parcel Tax. This works out to \$46/month.

Rate increases are coming for both systems.

All water utilities in BC (public and private) are regulated by the Drinking Water Protection Act which sets out requirements to ensure the provision of safe water to customers. Operators must be certified. Water systems must be approved by Public Health Engineers and operated in compliance with formal Operating Permits. Water quality standards must be met. Treatment, monitoring and testing must be carried out.

In May 2000, in the small community of Walkerton Ontario, seven people died and over two thousand became ill after a dangerous strain of E. coli bacteria contaminated the water supply. A Public Inquiry found that the water system operators engaged in a host of improper operating practices including failure to use adequate doses of chlorine, improper monitoring, and falsifying operating records. Key recommendations centered on source water protection, certification of operators, and better enforcement. The fallout

has influenced provincial policies across Canada.

In 2007 the Vancouver Island Health Authority approved Policy 3.3 which requires that all surface water systems implement new "4-3-2-1" standards for filtration and disinfection (systems will provide 2 treatment processes acceptable to VIHA, achieve a 4-log removal/inactivation of viruses and 3-log removal/inactivation of parasites, and produce a finished water with less than 1 NTU turbidity.)

These requirements have taken a few years to catch up with water systems using Shawnigan Lake as a supply. Lidstech has been warning customers for some time that major infrastructure upgrades are necessary and will result in significant rate hikes. A notice on www.shawniganwater.com states two stages of proposed increases: \$56/month, which was to be implemented September 1, 2017; then a further increase to \$83/month, scheduled for September 1, 2018.

Rod Lidstone explains *"The first stage is necessary to cover increased expenses since the last increase in 2008. The second stage is directly related to servicing the loan required to build the new treatment plant. The final amount of this increase will be dictated by the cost of construction, estimated at \$1.7 million."*

The Stage 1 increase, while approved by the Comptroller, is still sifting its way through the provincial bureaucracy and is expected to be applied early in 2018. The Stage 2 increase is expected to be applied, as planned.

The Shawnigan North (Beach Estates) system also needs major work. A 2017 "Water and Wastewater Utility Review",



New \$1.7M water treatment plant coming for Shawnigan Village Waterworks.

commissioned by the CVRD, states that \$4.6 million will be required for major capital repairs and new treatment facilities. Appendix 6 of this document summarizes existing and proposed rates for all nineteen Water Utilities managed by the CVRD. Proposed rates vary considerably from a low of \$55/month for Arbutus Ridge to a high of \$228/month for Cherry Point. The Shawnigan North system has a proposed rate of \$69/month. When comparing rates it is important to note that public utilities (e.g. the CVRD) usually impose a Parcel Tax which is an amount added to the annual Property Tax administered by the BC Assessment Authority. This is in addition to User Fees administered directly by the CVRD.

With regard to the Shawnigan Village system, customers are naturally concerned about large and abrupt rate increases for essential services. The leap from \$42 to \$83 per month is almost 100%. The additional \$41 per month is significant to anyone with limited means on a fixed income. Unfortunately there

is no obvious way to alter the situation. Perhaps rates should have been gradually increased with multiple Tariff changes from 2008 to 2018 but that does not seem to be how the system works within the regulatory process. There is a Replacement Reserve Trust Fund mandated by the Comptroller but this is meant for repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure and small improvements. It is not adequate for major projects like the new treatment plant.

On the bright side, Lidstech is confident that the new pumping station and treatment plant should be good for the next 50 to 100 years. The company wants customers to know that much less chlorine will be used. The efficiency of the filtration and ultraviolet processes mean that chlorine is only needed for residual purposes.

More information can be found at www.shawniganwater.com and www.cvr.bc.ca/2670/Utility-Services

The Shawnigan Focus welcomes your comments on this topic. Please email: ShawniganFocusEditor@gmail.com

Shawnigan Lake community responds...

From: Logan Macmain
Sent: February-09-18 7:35
To: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com
Subject: Question for Shawnigan village water-works

I would like to know (roughly) what residents and commercial spaces are supplied with Shawnigan Village Waterworks water - specifically the Acacia

nursing home. I would also like to know how they treat the water and what they treat the water with to make it safe for consumption.

Thank you for your time,

~Logan Macmain

From: Ron Barnard
Sent: February-08-18 2:10
To: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

Subject: Shawnigan Village Waterworks

Dear Editors,

Oh yes I have a question!

How can the owner of the water works justify a rate increase to its users of \$312.00 a year for the first phase and then double from \$84.00 per bi-monthly to \$160.00 per bi-monthly?

For phase 2&3 there is a 100%

increase going to the approximately 500 or so users to pay for these upgrades.

I for one, think it's a shame that more people did not question this huge rate increase.

I did and got nowhere with Deputy comptroller of Water Rights, Mr. Rick Couroux - he just referred me to the owner of the water works.

Oh, and after checking other water rates all over BC, we in Shawnigan Village will be one of the highest in the province.

The increase is far too high, but it appears we the water users will be paying dearly for these upgrades. And there is nothing that we can do about it.

Regards, ~Ronald Barnard



At the recent Family Day event at the Shawnigan Pavilion, Sheri Taylor (centre), the Manager of Coast Capital Insurance in Mill Bay, presents Sierra Acton (right), Area B Director, with a cheque for \$5000 towards the Shawnigan Pavilion Project. Sheri was inspired by the project and applied for a community grant through Coast Capital Insurance to add bike racks and benches for Elsie Miles Park. Thank you, Sheri and Coast Capital!

	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Average High	7.8	6.5	4.8	7.6	5.5	7.6	6.0	6.8	5.8
Average Low	0.4	0.2	-1.0	0.4	-1.2	0.6	-1.0	0	-0.9
Extreme High	18.3	11.9	9.3	13.1	11.5	13.2	13.1	13.0	12.0
Extreme Low	-16.7	-5.7	-4.3	-5.8	-4.3	-5.5	-4.3	-5.0	-4.5
Precipitation	134.7	64.1	187.5	53.3	185.2	46.6	165.7	56.8	186.6
Days w precip	16	15	21	15	22	15	22	15	21
Year Precip	350.0	365.0	282.1	348.3	282.0	326.8	247.0	389.8	275.4
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	947.7	1033.4	909.4	1005.5	837.6	905.7	609.8	1005.3
Rank since 1914: 44 th coldest, 10 th driest									
Lake Temperature:	Feb 4 th : 5°	Feb 11 th : 4°	Feb 18 th : 4°	Feb 25 th : 3°					
Lake Level Change:	Feb 4 th : -39 cm	Feb 11 th : -58cm	Feb 18 th : -29 cm	Feb 25 th : -13cm					
Surface Elevation:	117.43m	116.84m	116.55m	116.43m					

Upcoming Events

Cobble Hill Spring Handmade Market

- ★ Cobble Hill Hall – 3350 Watson Ave.
- ★ Saturday March 24, 2018 10-3
- ★ First 25 Guests Receive Vendor exclusive offers

Lemon and Lavender Vintage Tea

- ★ Free admission. Lunch \$7
- ★ Baking, Sewing, Crafts, Treasure table, Raffles!
- ★ Mill Bay Community Hall 1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road.
- ★ Hosted by the South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary
- ★ Saturday March 24th 2018, 11am to 2:00pm
- ★ SouthCowichanHealthcareAux@gmail.com

South Cowichan Library - March

Storytime:

Storytime is now on the first Wednesday of every month from 11am to noon! Join us on Wed. March 3rd for stories, songs, and crafts. Free for children 2 to 8 years with a caregiver.

LEGO® Club

Lego® Club happens on March 14 (second Wednesday of every month), 3:30-5pm. 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!

Working with Words:

Working with Words is a Poetry Workshop is Wednesday, 21 March, 5-7:30pm, hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild. Limit 12 participants-please register by calling 250-743-5436 or dropping by. Free.

Spring Break:

March 12-24: A Spring Break Puppet Show: Are you ready for a groovy adventure? Join us Saturday, Mar 24, at 2pm for a rockin' puppet show and STEAM activity based on *Pete the Cat* by Eric Litwin. Suitable for all ages.

Also, drop by anytime during the break for a self-directed scavenger hunt, colouring pages, and more.

We know two trained therapy dogs who love to be read to if you know a child who would enjoy reading aloud to a furry buddy. Yes, Paws 4 Stories is returning to the South Cowichan library! Please call us at 250-743-5436 to leave your contact information and find out more.

Monica Finn 250-743-5283

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS - March 2018

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
ShawniganFocusEditor@gmail.com

LAYOUT:

Taryn Treloar

ADVERTISING:

Kim Hennecker
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

FOCUS TEAM:

Linda Nelson
Bernie Lewis
Monica Foster
Sally Davies

ACCOUNTS:

Kim Hennecker

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For APRIL 2018
Please send copy in by March 25th as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, or pages.

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Contact Kim at:
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Ads should be sent in correct sizing, B&W, high resolution, and as a JPEG or PDF. Kim is available to help create or reformat your ad.

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\$10 (under 30 words) shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

ABOUT THE FOCUS

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

The Shawnigan Focus is

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Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Shawnigan Focus - Box 331,
Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

March: Ursa Major and Ursa Minor; Big and Little Dipper

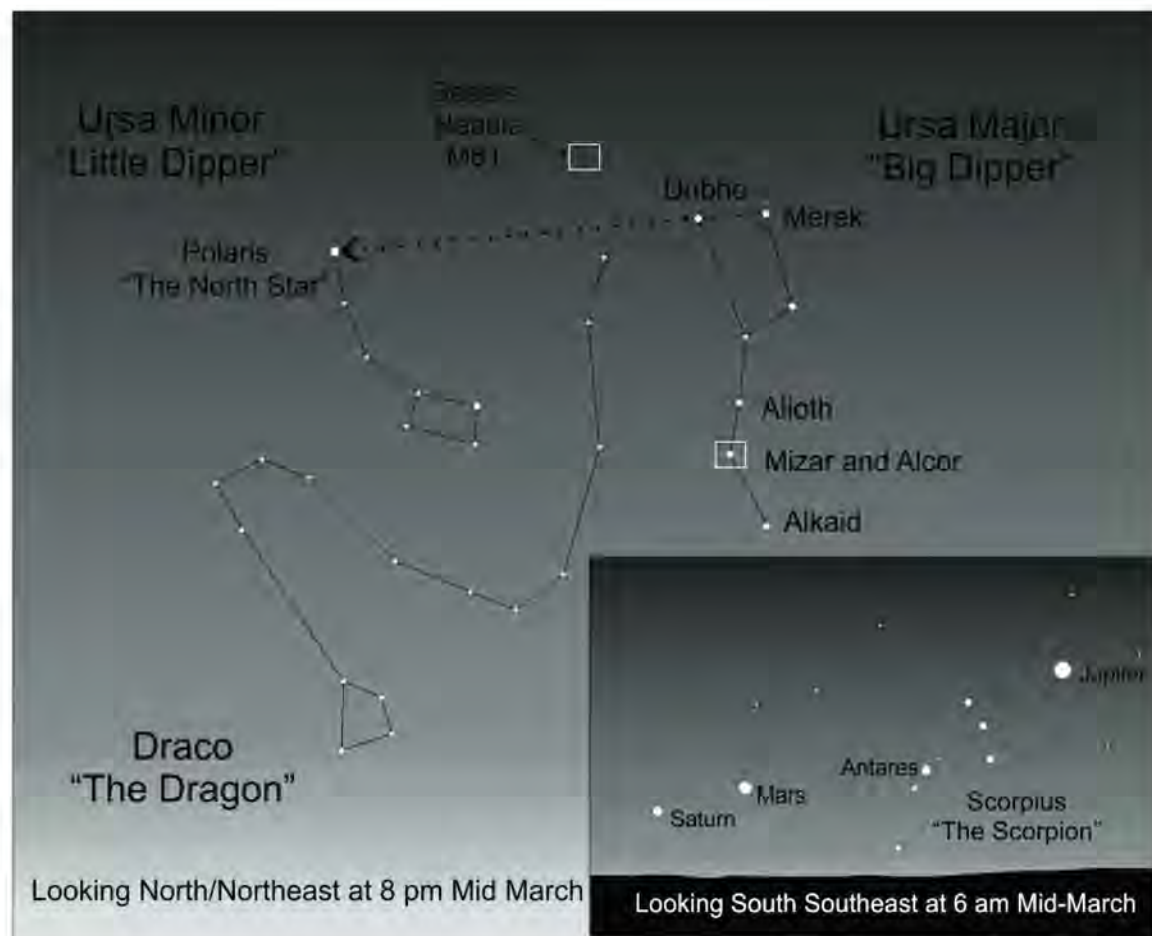
No other constellation is as easily recognized as Ursa Major, commonly known as the Big Dipper. The seven brightest stars that make up the handle and the pot of the Big Dipper are hard to miss in the northern sky. Since the Big Dipper is so close to Polaris (the North Star) it remains in the night sky all year round in Canada.

To locate Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper, find the two stars that make up the end of the pot of the Big Dipper (Merak and Dubhe). Trace a line from Merak through Dubhe; this will be to the left in the March sky (see dotted line on star chart). The next brightest star you will encounter along that path is Polaris. Polaris is the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. The long constellation of Draco the

Dragon separates Ursa Major and Minor. If you have a tripod for your camera, point it at Polaris and take a picture with an exposure time of multiple hours. The resulting picture will be a race track of stars circling around the stationary Polaris.

There are a couple real gems in Ursa Major that can be viewed with the naked eye, or binoculars. The first is the double star Mizar and Alcor. Mizar is the middle star of the handle of the Big Dipper. If you have reasonable eyesight you can spot Alcor immediately beside Mizar, slightly down and to the left in the March sky. With a pair of binoculars, these two stars are easily resolved. It is unknown if they actually a binary pair (meaning they are linked by each other's gravity).

Current measurements put them at ~3 light years apart from each other suggesting they are not a true binary; however, there is a great deal of uncertainty with



those measurements.

Our next target in Ursa Major is Bode's Nebula, or M81 in the Messier Catalog of deep sky objects. Located about 1/3 of the way between Dubhe and Polaris and up towards the zenith, M81 can be viewed as a fuzzy patch with

a decent pair of binoculars.

If you have a large enough telescope (8 inches in diameter or greater) you can make out the spiral arms of a galaxy that is 12 million light years away.

This means that the light hitting your eye left that galaxy 12 million years ago!

Planets and Moon: At 6 a.m. during mid-March, look due south and spot bright Jupiter.

In a line to the southeast horizon you can spot, in order, Antares (heart of Scorpius), Mars and Saturn. *Just as January did this year, March also has two full moons, on the 1st and the 31st.*

When Dan Was Ten

by Pat Salmon

Soodie's Chihuahua nameless and small
Was the neighbourhood terror to kids one and all
So territorial he made it a feat

For careful Dan Salmon to cross Quadra Street
One day his mother said, "Look here, you're nuts!"

A dog that tiny has no room for guts

Next time he bothers you, act like a man.

Take two steps toward him and simply yell "Scram!"
Dan worried and wondered until Quadra he crossed.
The Chihuahua raced toward him but all was not lost.

Armed with advice from his all-knowing mam
He took two steps toward him stuttering "SSSSCRAM!"

Then wonder of wonders to nobody's luck
The Chihuahua ran under the wheel of a truck.
The shaken truck driver said "Stop crying son.
Here's twenty dollars. What's done is done."

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.

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

Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Funded by the province of BC

Easter Event

Sunday April 1st

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm



Eggsellent Activities in the gym 12:30-2:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt starts at 1:00 pm

B.Y.O.B.

(Bring your own basket)

please bring a non perishable food item for the local food bank

Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

There is change afoot. One foggy Saturday morning I had the pleasure and opportunity to explore the newly updated and renovated Rathrevor Beach Provincial Park. It had been years since my last visit and things have changed indeed.

The most visible change to the park is that the 40(ish) year old seawall, that once separated the grassy areas from the beach, has been dismantled creating easier access to the ocean waters. Why did they remove it? According to the 'Shoreline Restoration Project' page, seawalls can affect areas negatively by inhibiting useful green spaces and have the tendency to encourage erosion.

Now we are guided along by split log fencing and large rocks and other earthy materials in an effort to restore the natural shoreline. Now, as the tide slides out, the legendary infinite beach has become endless. The project began in the fall

of 2016 and will continue to its completion, projected as the fall of 2019.

It seems the improvements do not stop at the beachside. The already wonderful campground has refurbished some of the unused parking lots into an additional 30 to 50 new campsites increasing the park's overnight capacity. And, for the kids, there is an exciting new playground structure within ocean sight.

You should know that there are some restrictions when bringing your furry companion to the beach. February 15th to April 30th marks an important time for the migration of Brant Geese and pets are not permitted within 100m of the beach.

The trails themselves are very easy to follow winding you through some magnificent, stunning old growth Douglas fir clusters. And oh so many birds to see! Just have a look at the interpretive signs along the way to learn about and identify them.

I would say that it could be a challenge to get lost in the 347 hectares of the park, however there are a few map-boards just in case. Oh, and speaking of accessibility, there is a bounty of portable rest rooms available en-route.

Parking is easy and plentiful, and finding your way to the park is just a quick jaunt off BC-19A to Parksville, onto Resort Drive, then Rath Road and then following the signs in.

William Rath was a gold prospector and, in 1886, he arrived from Ireland with his bride and baby girl, built a cabin and cleared the land, before his death in 1903. His wife Elizabeth then ran the farm along with their five children and began the campground operation. Trevor was added to the name to give it a more poetic title. In 1967 the area became Rathrevor Beach Provincial Park.

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

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Women in the Castle

Jessica Shattuck
Published by William Morrow
Copyright 2017 by Jessica Shattuck

Last year I wrote a review of "The Nightingale", a story of two French sisters who survived the German Occupation of France during the Second World War. This second novel tells the story of three German women who lived through those difficult times in Nazi Germany, giving a totally different perspective.

Marianne von Lingens is the widow of one of a group of resisters who unsuccessfully plotted to assassinate Hitler. This resulted in all of the men being executed. Marianne felt it was then her duty to gather the widows of the other men and bring them, and their children, to live with her and her family in a crumbling ancestral castle in Bavaria.

What follows are the stories of three very different women. Marianne is an intellectual, and an aristocrat, used to organizing and giving orders. Her morality is underpinned by reason and logic and, to her, Hitler and the Nazis are evil and life is black and white. She is driven by duty and thus looks after the physical needs of her charges, not always understanding their lives, which were very different from hers, but trying to care for them

as a practical parent might. She is ingenious in her survival abilities, dealing with a flood of refugees, speaking Russian to the frightening remnants of the Russian Army, providing food and generally holding off danger and death for her mismatched new family.

Benita Fledermann is a beautiful young peasant who married a childhood friend of Marianne's, an older educated man of sophistication and wit who was at the centre of the assassination plot. Throughout her life she remains apolitical and uninterested in politics while continuing to look for love and a home for herself and her son. Her story is tragic, not just because of the war, but because she was so clearly born in the wrong class, place and time.

Ania Grabarek is the enigma. Married to a Polish envoy, she is a silent woman full of secrets whose story is slowly revealed to us. She was a willing member of the Nazi party when she and her first husband were house parents for young boys in the Hitler Youth movement. Life was healthy and full of promise, as were the messages of hope and unity from the Fuhrer. As times slowly turned darker, she became caught in a web of expediency and concern for the survival of her two young sons. On her way to the castle, a terrible journey of death and despair is revealed, including

her being in the firebombing of Dresden. (This incident was considered so horrifying that the author included it as an additional/optional chapter at the end of the book.)

Ania's character is based on the experiences of the author's German mother and grandmother. When the modern world asks how Hitler came to power, the answers become muddled and grey. Shattuck does an excellent job of exploring these reasons through the lives of the women in the castle.

There is a relevant message here for us today as we see leaders and parties rise who carry a message of exclusion and hatred. How would we have acted in times of such great upheaval?

The novel moves from the 1920's to the 1990's with the children of the three women grappling with their mothers' pasts, while still being their loving caretakers. These offspring are, after all, the receptacles of their mothers' hopes and dreams for a better life, as opposed to one that can hardly be comprehended.

This is a nuanced and different take on the Second World War and one that challenges complacency. The writing is powerful and, at times, haunting. Recommended for history buffs and those who like stories of strong women.

Rating: 4.9/5 stars



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Water, Water Everywhere Director's Report

Sierra Acton
Director Area B

Love it!

As a community we know water is something worth protecting and fighting for. The Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) continues to advocate for the community on two major water related issues; water quality in the Shawnigan Basin and the contaminated fill site owned by Cobble Hill Holdings. Even though the dumping at that site has ceased, there still remains more than 100,000 tonnes of contaminated fill. Most of the SRG's time is still spent analyzing the Ministry of Environment reports and monitoring of the site. The SRG remains strongly committed to getting the contaminated soil removed. They are also working on a water quality program that will help monitor the health of the lake. Currently the Ministry of Environment is conducting some simple tests to add to the research and help further protect one of our most valued assets.

With the large amount of rain that has been falling in 2018, storm water management has become a topic of concern for some homeowners: this is the type of water we don't love so much. The Ministry of Transportation manages roadside ditches and

culverts, but only to redirect water that falls on their roads. Water that creates seasonal streams and run off from higher elevations is currently not actively managed. This results in unmanned culverts, road flooding, flooding of dwellings and flooding of swampy low lying land. Storm water is usually managed by a municipality, but since Area B is not incorporated, this can be a problem. In my opinion we need to address this, along with other related issues, and would be interested in hearing from the community.

Share it!

Many groups share the responsibility for water protection in Shawnigan. Currently there are a few groups working on protecting areas of the watershed but not a single group bringing them all together. In early February, I met with Bruce Fraser, the President of the Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS), to discuss the Society's priorities for 2018. He felt the direction of the Society and its use of community funds were uncertain, but would be decided by a new board after the SBS AGM scheduled for May 1st. Concurrently, I have started quarterly meetings to bring together the SRG, SBS and the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) to discuss a Unified Watershed Man-

agement approach. So far the group has met once (in December) and will continue to meet quarterly to address ways to partner and leverage community funds. Clearly a unified approach is needed and perhaps we can learn from the model presented by the Cowichan Watershed Board.

I am interested in increasing our level of long term planning and hope a unified approach can get us there. I also believe our long term planning should include land acquisition intended for watershed protection, not just parks. That said, I would be interested in how the community feels about this and if we are willing to invest. This year there are many initiatives in the works, but in the meantime the community's opinion on a long term vision would be very valuable. Let's chat over coffee or at the monthly director's meeting.

Protect it!

Over the past year the CVRD has been reaching out to communities across the Cowichan Valley to gather input on managing our most valuable asset: Water. As a region, there are many things to understand and take into consideration as the CVRD strives to balance development and the preservation of ecological systems. The Regional Water Management Strategy is a large and complex initiative that will benefit greatly

from lots of public input. If you have not yet had a chance to give your feedback, please visit: www.placespeak.com/en/topic/5204-drinking-water-watershed-protection-service/

As most of the community has noticed, there are still large numbers of trucks coming up the Malahat to dump fill in areas such as Goldstream Heights, Cougar Ridge and Stebbings Road. The CVRD is still waiting for approval of our Soil Bylaw and the Province has let us know that they are trying to expedite the process because of the urgency of our issue. Soil dump sites are a major contributor to

soil and nutrient runoff into our streams and lakes, which compromise the health of our water systems. At the CVRD, I have requested information regarding an increase in bylaw enforcement so that we are ready to deal with this issue and to properly enforce the new bylaw. Protecting our lake and our community inspires me every day ... Love it, Share it, Protect it!

Cell/text 250-732-0368 - Sacton@cprd.bc.ca - FB: Sierra Acton Area B - www.iloveshawnigan.com - Director's Meeting 1st Monday of the Month SLCC



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Families are paid \$850 per month

Wounded Warriors on the run

G. J. Solley
Royal Canadian Legion - Malahat

"Wounded Warriors Canada is a non-profit organization that helps Canadian Forces members, serving and retired who have been wounded or injured in their service to Canada. They help fund therapeutic programs and solutions for military men and women in need." (quoted from their website)

For the past five years the WOUNDED WARRIORS RUN BC has made a scheduled stop at the Malahat Legion on their run from Port Hardy to Victoria. 100% of the funds donated from Vancouver Island, stays on Vancouver Island.

The Wounded Warriors arrived at the Malahat Legion around 5:00 pm. Along with Sarge, a service dog, and a first responder (firefighter) who joined the run this year for the first time. They were greeted by Legion Members and friends. After warming up with a hot bowl of chili, our President Wilf Nash presented them with a cheque as did the Defenders Motorcycle Club and the Mill Bay Lions Club. The total presented was \$1,876.00 to support their very worthwhile cause.

Please check our face book page [Royal Canadian Legion br 134] for photos and a video as the runners approached the Legion.



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Don't enable criminals: Lock your home and vehicles

Oriana Parker
South Cowichan Community Policing

There have been a few South Cowichan police email alerts lately on theft from vehicles and break and enters in our region. Constable Ian Wetzel-Eden of the Shawnigan Lake RCMP would like to make you aware of the following:

"These past few months we have seen an increase in theft in vehicles and break and enters in the Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay areas. Locking your car door does indeed reduce vehicle theft. It acts as deterrence to petty criminals who may be walking down your street, back alley or in the parking lot or garage randomly lifting door handles to get access and are unable, as the vehicle is locked and secure. Some drivers leave their vehicles unlocked to avoid the cost of replacing broken windows. I rarely see broken windows, as with most vehicle break-ins the perpetrator

wants fast entry and quick exit. We had a police incident where we tracked and caught up with a criminal only to have him get away in an unlocked vehicle which he proceeded to take for a joy ride. We were able to apprehend him but it would have been easier had the vehicle been locked."

Constable Wetzel-Eden also recommends:

Ensure that all valuables are removed from your vehicle and placed in the trunk or out of sight when it is parked.

Avoid break and enters in your home, garage or sheds by keeping them locked at all times.

When you enter your home immediately lock the door.

Community safety is best achieved when neighbours know one another and look out for each other. Should you see a stranger loitering about on your street or on your neighbours

property just ask if you may be of assistance. Being noticed and engaged in conversation is too risky for criminal activity.

Neighbours should also be familiar with the neighbourhood so that they can recognize something abnormal. The Block Watch Program is an excellent way to promote safety in your community.

The South Cowichan Community Policing Office has a Block Watch Program for applying strategies on crime

prevention and safety in your neighbourhood.

It provides individuals and groups of people with the tools and knowledge they need to support safe, healthy and socially rich neighbourhoods.

Call or email to arrange an appointment with the Block Watch Coordinator, Sarah Davidge. She can be reached at 250-929-7222 or sccp@shaw.ca.

Block Watch - Working together towards crime prevention



Discovery Elementary Activities

Shayla Symes
Discovery Elementary Student

Over the past couple of weeks our school has been participating in music festivals and volley ball games.

Our chamber choir has been so amazing over the past couple of months and there's a big reason why. We have a very talented music teacher named Mrs. Williams. She is so understanding and caring for all of her students. We wouldn't be where we are without her. Our chamber choir sang Nella Fantasia by Marconi and arranged by Audrey Snyder and Tue Tue by Ruth

Morris Gray in the Cowichan Music Festival. We love to sing together and we have so much fun! We hope to continue singing together in the future.

We also had another group dance with the Victoria Symphony on February 27th. We were so honoured to be picked for this and hope to do it again.

We have four volley ball teams. All our teams did very well in their tournaments and loved playing. We are so excited for next year. A huge thank you to our coaches Mr. Brockhurst, Mr. Coomber, Mrs. Rosenbeck and Mrs. Dukelow!



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Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030
shawniganfire@shaw.ca
Department members attended 21 incidents in February

- ★ Tues, Feb 6 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Wed, Feb 7 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wed, Feb 7 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- ★ Thurs, Feb 8 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Fri, Feb 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Fri, Feb 9 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, Feb 11 - Burning Complaint on Timber Ridge Rd
- ★ Mon, Feb 12 - Assistance with BCAS on Thain Rd
- ★ Tues, Feb 13 - Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tues, Feb 13 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Sat, Feb 17 - Burning Complaint on Ingot Rd
- ★ Sat, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- ★ Sun, Feb 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Mon, Feb 19 - Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Mon, Feb 19 - Burning Complaint on Jersey Rd
- ★ Fri, Feb 23 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Fri, Feb 23 - MVI on Malta Rd
- ★ Sun, Feb 25 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sun, Feb 25 - Burning Complaint on Jersey Rd
- ★ Wed, Feb 28 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- ★ Wed, Feb 28 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd

Did you know? we offer CYCLE FIT CLASSES

Cycle Fit (also known as indoor cycling or spinning) is a group fitness class focusing on endurance and strength with a mix of intervals, high intensity and recovery.



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Tuesday at 6am Tuesday at 9am
Thursday at 9am Friday at 9am

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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: April 9, 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**
AGM March 26th - 7 pm at the 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: lufife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blogysag.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
answer will be randomly selected to win two
Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for February was submitted
by Anne Housser who identified the target (aka
"tone pole") for Hole #8 of the Disc Golf Course
recently built near Discovery School.

The best runner up was from Roz Cuthbert who
suggested it might be the SpaceX Falcon Slightly-
Less-Heavy rocket developed by Elon Musk's
lesser known brother Elmer Musk.



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Thomas Garth Harvey

January 12, 1921 – February 28, 2018

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus

It is with great sadness that I announce that my very good friend, Garth Harvey, has passed away at the age of 97.

Many of you might think that the age of 97 is a more than reasonable age to die... but most of you will have never met Garth.

Garth was different. He was the kindest and most generous person that I have ever met, and he was passionate about the Shawnigan community. He was also involved and full of purpose until the day he died.

I met Garth in 2005 when the Shawnigan Lake Museum was failing. I had just moved permanently to the area and wanted to get involved with my new community. The museum seemed like a good fit for a life-long educator. I decided to volunteer at the museum, but it was never open. When I finally got through the door, the person in charge advised

that he did not want to do it anymore. In what seemed a split second, I agreed to take over. This is when Garth entered my life. He rallied some individuals to create a Board of Directors and then we were back in business – no money, but a lot of enthusiasm and a passion for the Shawnigan story.

Although I had just met him, Garth chose to help me to rebuild the museum. This was likely due to the fact that he and his wife, Gladys, had been instrumental in the creation of the museum. They were involved in the transformation from Fire-hall to museum in 1983 and Gladys served as curator for a time.

Garth and Gladys retired from Ontario to Shawnigan Lake in the late 1970s with the intention of doing community work. That they did! They became involved in every aspect of their new community. They created the Community Crier, a community newsletter, with Brownie Gibson. Garth also became heavily involved in the operation and maintenance of the old Shawnigan Lake community hall (now demolished) and the museum. He was also available whenever and wherever a job needed to be done...like building a dock for Mason's beach. Garth later co-founded the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society with Ranjana Basu.

In my early years at the museum, Garth spent as much time at the museum as I did. I met him when he was 84 and he became invaluable to me! His knowledge of the artifacts and his life experiences were an ongoing education.

Garth received many well-deserved awards for his volunteer work, including one that was particularly special, a Canadian Care Award (2006) from the Governor General of Canada. Garth Harvey, notes that when he moved to Shawnigan Lake in 1977, a delightful older lady arrived at his door and informed him that, "When you are settled in, there are some things in the village that need to be done." Garth says that this was his delight and also the continuing history of 'The Lake' - the things that have to be, and the things that are, done. When he died, Garth still sat on the Board of Directors at the museum.

I will leave you with one of Garth's favourite quotes:

"...we are most fully human, most truly ourselves, most authentically individual, when we commit to the community."

-- The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson

That was Garth Harvey in a nutshell.

A celebration of life service is planned for April. More details to come.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH
6 PM - 9 PM

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission

Date: Monday, March 26, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
2804 Shawnigan Lake Road
Shawnigan Lake BC

Have you ever wanted to assist with the development of exciting new recreation projects benefitting the residents of Shawnigan Lake?

If so, the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission is looking for enthusiastic new members. Join us at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge of the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Elections will be held for interested persons wishing to serve a one year term from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

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