



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Nine - Issue One

January 2018

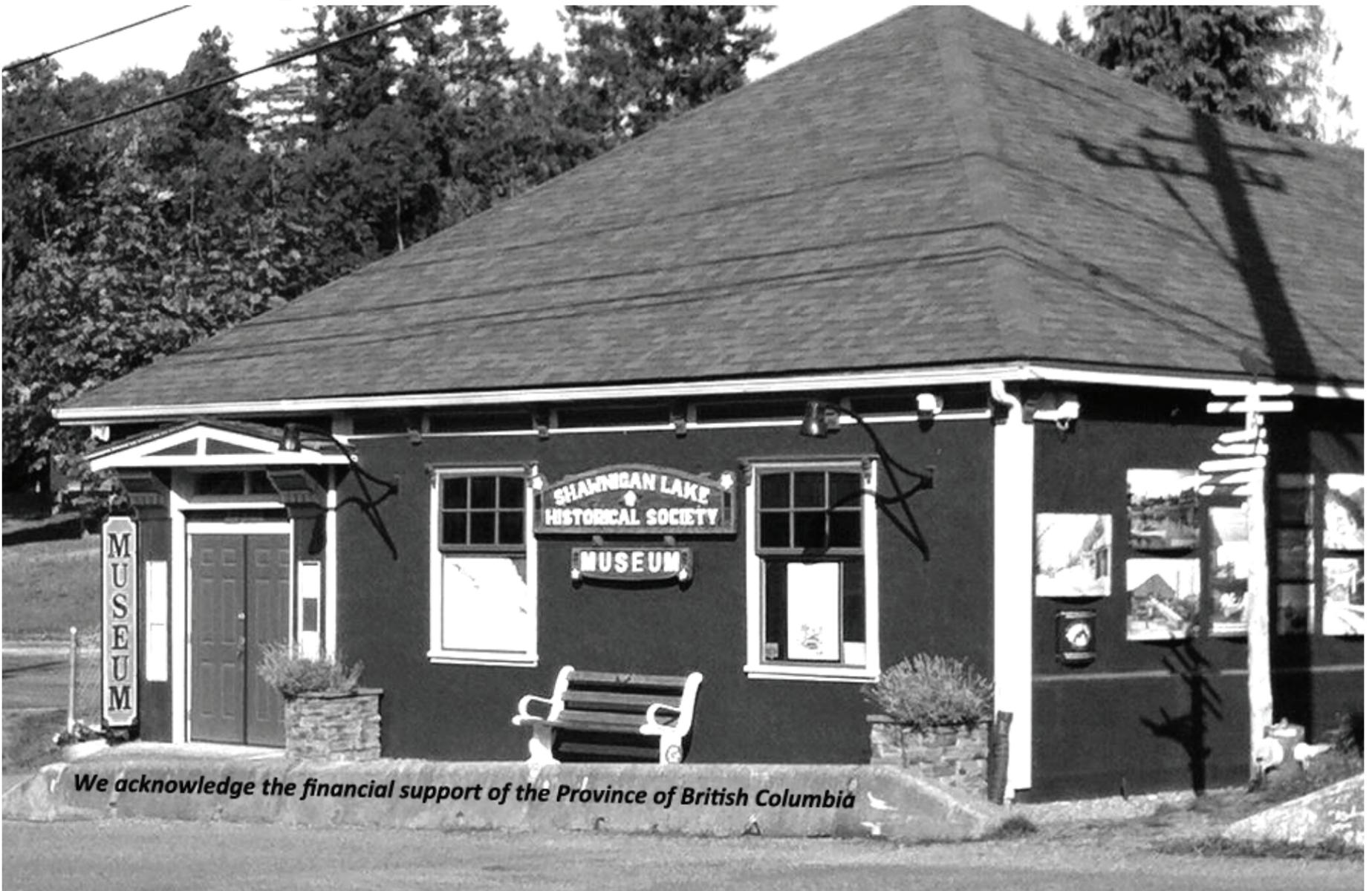
A Non-Profit Community Publication

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Shawnigan Lake Historical Society



Lori Treloar
Museum Curator

2017 in Review

2017 has been a great year for the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society!

The museum has had close to 4000 visitors in 2017. That is significant, considering Shawnigan is off the highway and doesn't have a developed downtown core – and it's a 500% increase in visitors from 10 years ago. 9 out of 11 months in 2017 broke previous attendance records.

We have a new website thanks to volunteer Deb Battler. Check it out at: www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

We had more than 1800 hours of volunteer service from over 75 volunteers. Based on the

value provided for volunteers (from the Gaming Branch of B.C.), it is worth over \$36 000 of in-kind hours!

We had a significant increase in group visits in 2017...from school programs; daycare visits; cubs; guides and seniors from Victoria. These visits come from within, and from outside, our community.

We have had significant personal donations and grants in 2017 towards our proposed museum expansion (Project Impact). At this point, we have roughly \$370 000 promised towards the expansion. Watch for information on our fundraiser planned for March.

We have attracted very talented volunteers, including Michael Battler and Les Schindelka, who have helped us move

towards a higher level of best practice for our organization. The Board of Directors is a strong, dedicated team and has lots of exciting things planned for 2018.

The Board has worked together to update our strategic plan and come up with a new Mission and Vision statement that reflects what we do.

Mission: Sharing the passion for Shawnigan Lake – past, present and future.

Vision: To connect community and visitors with the Shawnigan Lake Experience.

We had many amazing new donations to the collection in 2017! To name a few: original oil paintings of Mr. and Mrs. Munsie (early co-owners of the Shawnigan Lake Lumber

Co.) and original diaries of Mr. Elford (also an early co-owner of the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Co.). And, more recently, we have received new sketches by E.J. Hughes.

New volunteers have stepped up to help us deliver our programs and we welcome others who have an interest in working at the museum on a regular basis. References and/or a criminal check may be necessary.

We received multiple new 5 star reviews on Trip Advisor and Facebook based on their museum experience. We appreciate the support! Please add a rating of your experience, if you feel that we benefit the community. Written testimonials that we can use for grant applications would also be appreciated.

Our membership has in-

creased significantly in 2017. If you would like to show your support for the Shawnigan Lake Museum, consider a membership. It helps the society when applications are made for funding. If you are interested email us, visit in person, or visit the web site: www.shawniganlakemuseum.com.

The museum is closed to the public until Feb. 2nd for the annual winter closure. During this time, we do maintenance, a thorough clean, work on new projects and work through administrative tasks.

We do continue to monitor the phone: 250-743-8675 and email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca if you would like to contact us.

Thank you for your support in 2017. Happy 2018!

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS - JANUARY 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.

The Shawnigan Focus is

delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

Views expressed in articles and letters are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS:

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

People of this Place – Chris Ruttan



mountain about 45 KM west of Port Alberni off highway #4 and began construction August 25th, 2017. The shell was completed and more or less weather tight by Oct 31st. The mountain is called 5040 Peak and access is off Marion Creek Forest Service Road. It is not in a park at all...it's on crown land.

It's a 3 hour hike from the parking lot. For over three months, Chris and many other people worked on this project. Helicopters flew in the material and tools so they could build it. The humans hiked up the mountain.

It's the first one built on Vancouver Island and it's for all those snow-shoeing, back country skiing people. When completed, hikers will be able to reserve the use of this beautiful 'hut' through the Alpine Club for a reasonable nightly rate.

One of Chris's other hobbies is making things with wood. "Pinkie" is the little wooden thing Chris thought should be on the cabin so he hiked up recently to put his "personal" touch on the chalet. Pinkie was placed at the peak of the roof...Chris had to hike up the ladder onto the roof to install his wooden creature (look for it at the top of the pole). Pinkie's feet are made from a fallen dogwood tree.

After working as a volunteer on the project for three months, hiking back and forth to this chalet, Chris fell off a scaffold and had a bad fall. However, he did not miss any time over that. Due to the intensity of the job and the long hours, he was the only person that was on site for the whole construction cycle. Being the MAN that he is, he didn't stop working and spent his 65th birthday up on that mountain. Instead, he should have listened to his body telling him to slow down. Chris

ended up in the hospital in November...and as a result has ended up with a condition called calcium phosphate crystalline arthritis, where calcium phosphate crystals embed themselves in the joint cartilage and cause severe pain and weakness, Chris doesn't recommend it! It's been almost two months now and although he is getting better, he still hasn't improved much. Hopefully it will begin to clear up soon...I've always described him as a "little goat on the roof kind of guy"!

And, oh yes, I am very proud of him!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXkrYfY5AzI&feature=youtu.be>



Janet Neilsen Shawnigan Focus

Chris Ruttan, my brother-in-law, worked on a ski chalet last fall for the 5040 Alpine Hut Project, a project of the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), Vancouver Island Section. The ACC is a national club with somewhere around 35 or 36 wilderness huts that it maintains across Canada. They are open to the public and reservations are made through the main club house in Canmore, Alberta. The ACC is a not-for-profit organization that promotes low impact mountain ethics and stewardship of wilderness spaces through education and experience in outdoor adventure...

The Vancouver Island location? The Alpine Club obtained a permit to build a shelter on a

Shawnigan Shiver 2018



From left: Rebecca, Colin, Margot and Malcolm
Five Shivers in a Row!!

Thank you to all who helped make this event happen:

- ★ Lori Treloar and Dave Hutchinson of The Shawnigan Focus team for being the lead sponsor for this New Year's event.
- ★ Marian Davies and Bill Davies, for arranging donations of hot chocolate and for dispensing goodies every year, in addition to helping set up and take down.
- ★ Fire Chief Keith Shields, and the SL Fire Department, who have helped for the last 4 years with set up/take down, and provide us with tables, a generator, garbage bins, and the official siren.
- ★ Heather Plumb, who has helped every year with set up/take down and brought the warm, and welcomed, fire pit.
- ★ Francoise Moulin for designing the beautiful 'Shiver' scenes on our posters and buttons
- ★ Roy Davies and Lisa Finch who kindly provided the music today and for the past Shivers
- ★ Betsy Burr, who has volunteered every year to manage the registration and to Dave Hutchinson and Jill Camden who helped with registration this year.
- ★ Jim Carey from Mason's Store who has generously donated the hot chocolate every year, and Shawnigan Lake School for the use of their dispensers.
- ★ Ron & Ros Cuthbert, who provide safety patrol in a boat...just in case. This year, Dave Hutchison will be in his rowboat, close to the action, and Jim and Marcy Green in their small boat as well.
- ★ Allie Arnason for leading the warm up for our participants.
- ★ And, of course, thank you to all of our great volunteers who make the Shawnigan Focus a reality every month.





Redemption

Bruce Fraser
Former Area Director

What normally happens to a flock of aging chickens is that their egg laying eventually peters out. At that stage in their lifetime they are usually bundled into cages and delivered to the slaughter house for conversion into meat supplies for humans and their close associates.

The protocol at Riverpool is a bit different. For their faithful service as producers of egg protein and fats for the extended human family and as sources of political wisdom, they have been granted a lifetime pension. Feed, scratch, scraps and access to the hidden reaches of the goat barn are guaranteed for life in recognition of meritorious service. The definition of "meritorious service" might need a bit of explaining.

First, there was the period of manic amusement as the pullets sorted out the hen-yard hierarchy. Then was their dance of predator avoidance as the raptors gathered to size up the flock for lunch. As they matured, they shunned the carefully prepared nest boxes in their deluxe coop,

preferring to test out their first egg laying among the hidden spaces in the vegetable garden, while of course defeating the netting designed to thwart their depredations of the nascent vegetables. They just love strawberries. Eggs began to pour into the larder in prodigious numbers, blue, olive green, brown and off-white, a bonanza that threatened to overcome the price of feed (of course that was pure fiction created by the farmer for self-justification when talking to critics). This went on for some time, leading to family bragging rights and strategically placed gifts of free range eggs with bright orange yolks and whites that don't run in the pan. Chickens, while low on the animal pecking order of the farm, are astute observers of the inequality of benefits flowing to the one percent and not afraid of saying so.

All this renewable protein contribution came to a crashing halt this winter, thereby testing the pension arrangements. It started with a massive molt that led to a feather dusting of the entire farmstead. Hens don't lay eggs when they are creating

feathers ("squawk, what do you expect already?"). So, the daily routines of feed, scratch and scraps with no return on the coop's mortgage investment became a frequent topic of discussion at the empty breakfast table. Bacon without eggs is a daunting experience when often repeated. After three months of this rebellion the farm was contemplating a labour relations re-negotiation.

Then, just at the winter evenings began to darken in late afternoon, a couple of eggs appeared in the nest boxes. "Cackle, Hallelujah! We have been saved!" Of course, this could be the result of the investment in electric lights and heat lamps, at BC Hydro's enhanced rates, and not the perspicacious intervention of the coop shop stewards. So, for the time being, labour peace reigns at Riverpool and the flow of pension benefits remains in force.

Unfortunately, there are a few goldbrickers in the flock that have yet to join in, so disciplinary measures are being discussed with the avian resources department.

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Forbidden Words

Bruce Fraser
Former Area Director

It has come to the attention of us animals at Riverpool this morning that human politicians have banned the use of words normally in common use in their language.

We can't fathom what would cause such a strange aberration. Something seems to have gone wrong with their mental capacity. Perhaps it has something to do with the waning of the light in winter or a drastic reduction in the quality of their feed.

The meaning of the banished words, however, translate rather well into our animal dialects, for example:

Vulnerable:

- ★ Chicken – the roost is not high enough to escape a mink
- ★ Goat – if the barn door is left open a cougar can get in
- ★ Dog – caught a car once, still limping
- ★ Cat – means nothing to me

Entitlement:

- ★ Chicken – 18% layer pellets and access to the garden of course
- ★ Goat – three flakes of alfalfa per day in winter

- ★ Dog – treats after every meal and jumping on the bed
- ★ Cat – comes naturally to me

Diversity:

- ★ Chicken – Hey, we're Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Americaunas, Sussex, Rhode Island Red, Highline, Columbia Rock is that diverse enough for you?
- ★ Goat – As a Dwarf Nigerian I sleep comfortably in the same pen with a full-sized Nubian for heaven's sake
- ★ Dog – We are happy to eat cat, goat or chicken poop without discrimination and besides we're colour blind

- ★ Cat – Cats rule

Transgender:

- ★ Chicken – A mail order box of chicks that turn out not to be all hens as advertised
- ★ Goat – We're not entirely sure that a Wether qualifies
- ★ Dog – All humans smell interesting
- ★ Cat – I purr for anyone

Fetus:

- ★ Chicken – If they'd get us a rooster we could lay

fertilized eggs and make chicks

- ★ Goat – We call them kids
- ★ Dog – We call them puppies
- ★ Cat – We call them kittens

Evidence-based:

- ★ Chicken – If you boil an egg it doesn't hatch
- ★ Goat – Dog bites are worse than their barks
- ★ Dog – Chewing shoes gets you solitary
- ★ Cat – Superiority does not need evidence

Science-based:

- ★ Chicken – We found after many trials that Kale is delicious (we think it was kale)
- ★ Goat – We can eat new Scotch Broom shoots but the old leaves are too bitter
- ★ Dog – Barfing on the rug gets you solitary
- ★ Cat – Opinion is superior to science

As the day darkened into evening I overheard the animals conversing among themselves. In the intimate setting, I could make out little until Alice's voice burst out above the rest, "What's next for dog's sake, are they going to forbid "global warming"

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*"It's good to leave each day behind,
like flowing water... free of sadness...
Yesterday is gone and its tale told.
Today new seeds are growing!"*
~ Rumi

Director's Report - Area B Happy New Year Shawnigan!

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

New Years has always been a symbolic landmark to observe the past year's accomplishments and to set new goals for the year to come. I love cleansing the past year with something fun and outrageous; this year the shiver should fit the bill, it's a perfect way to start the year with a bang!

Looking back on 2017 I am truly grateful for all my mentors who helped me along the way. A special thank you to Sonia Furstenau and to Ian Morrison (Area Director for Cowichan Lake) who both continue to offer their support and collaborate whenever possible. 2017 was a year of learning, planning and strategizing. Some ac-

complishments worth celebrating are; I quickly set to task as Area Director after the provincial election, I earned the respect of the CVRD Board and I know they will support me as a Director and us as a community.

In 2018, I will continue to support such groups as the Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) as they tirelessly work towards protecting the community from the ongoing issue of the contaminated soil dump. Work has already begun with the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) to help curtail illegal garbage dumping and a focused plan will commence late winter.

Milfoil has become one of the community's top priorities and I am

currently securing funding to get a proper plan in place. It's not going to be an easy endeavour, but we all have a vested interest in the health of our lake. As a community, we have proven we can do anything.

Just recently I was appointed Vice-Chair to Electoral Services I hope to continue learning in that position and bring together the Electoral Area Directors to strategize on how we can work together to help support each other's communities even more. As an Electoral Area, it is extremely difficult to have funds returned back to the community.

Over the next few months I look forward to working with other Directors to ensure more of our community's



needs are met and discovering how we can work together for a more prosperous outcome. They are a great group of people, so I am confident things will only be looking up for all of the Cowichan Valley. On that note; I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. Love it, Share it, Protect it!

Let's connect: cell/text 250-732-0368, Sacton@cprd.bc.ca, FB: Sierra Acton Area B, www.iloveshawnigan.com, Next Director's Meeting February 5th, 2018

Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Blessings to the New Year Everyone!

If you have been following our adventures the past few months, you may have noticed that we've been focusing in and around Gowlland Tod Provincial Park as of late. We've done most of 25 kms of trail available with the exception of the Round Tree Loop and Tod Inlet.

Within the Southern portion of the park is a 2.2 kilometre butt bustin' loop of fun called the Roundtree Loop.

The best point of access is from the main parking lot at Caleb Pike. However, from what I understand there is access from Finlayson Arm Road and from within the Highlands. At Caleb Pike, you may start just behind the Map board or head straight along the logging road for a short while catching the other end of the loop. If asked which way is the most challenging - it really is a tough decision as either way you head way, way down and way, way up again in a V shape. One thing for sure is either way you will most certainly

challenge your cheeks.

The topography is similar to those of Holmes Peak and Jocelyn Hill without much of a view of the arm to speak of, but rather you are rewarded with the deep mossy greens of the forest among the big beautiful trees of many variety. Perhaps this is why the trail has such a name? Sadly, a couple of the only viewpoints on the trail were closed at the time of our visit and although it was disappointing and a little tempting to peek around and dip onto the trail unseen regardless - trails are usually closed for valid reasons. Trails are typically closed when there may be imminent danger to one's safety, or the trail may be seasonally relocated to allow the ecosystem to recover, or possibly improvements are being implemented. To ensure your upmost hiking experience, stay on permitted trails.

We will conclude with a little history about Gowlland Tod Provincial Park from the BC Park website: "The long history of settlement on Finlayson Arm is evident from many archaeological village and midden sites found in the park. There is continuing importance



View on the Round Tree Loop

of this area to First Nations for medicinal, ceremonial and spiritual values. An early copper mine, Vancouver Portland Cement Company (later developed as Butchart Gardens), the Caleb Pike homestead and an extensive network of old logging and mining roads are testament to the early pioneer settlement in the area." Retrieved from <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>, December 27, 2017.

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

South Cowichan Library

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is getting ready for a new year! The next session of Parent-Child Mother Goose starts on Friday, January 19, at 10:30am with an hour of songs and stories for children 0-2 and their caregivers.

And, of course, our ongoing services continue with reading recommendations, instruction on using digital books on a tablet (no late fines!), and monthly displays by local artists.

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

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South Cowichan Community Policing - Our best year yet!

Tony Jackson,
Vice President SCCPAS

Shaping the future

“Safety doesn’t happen by accident” and the 6,000 plus volunteer hours you have donated in 2017, as members of the South Cowichan community, are testament to the commitment you have in promoting and protecting the well being of our community. If monetized, your volunteer hours, with South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP), roughly translate to a \$200,000 commitment. Thank you all for your generous support.

So what have SCCP’s generous volunteers and staff achieved in 2017?

- ★ Worked successfully with community members to launch the “Safer Roads” campaign.
- ★ Developed and encouraged relationships with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, ICBC, and various groups on social media.
- ★ Reviewed road safety concerns and road improvements.
- ★ Requested and received reflective delineators for South Shawnigan and



a left-turn filter light for the junction of Frayne Road and Trans Canada Highway.

- ★ Established 20 additional Block Watch groups in South Cowichan, for a total of 78, which assist the RCMP in providing

valuable information to support crime prevention.

- ★ Recruited an additional 12 Block Watch groups for activation in the 1st quarter of 2018.
- ★ Monitored South Cowichan roads through the Speed Watch program.

Winner of ICBC and RCMP “E” Division Cell Watch Program – Leave the Phone Alone awards.

On top of the achievements of SCCP, its staff and volunteers, value-added programs such as Friendly Phones, Positive Tickets and Reflective House Number Signs have flourished.

These initiatives are extremely beneficial to South Cowichan and will continue to be so. It has been an incredibly successful year for SCCP led in large part by the directors of SCCP, who are themselves, volunteers, developing positive relationships with the RCMP, local government and corporate leaders. In addition, the SCCP office is managed by highly competent staff; a driving force to many of SCCP initiatives.

Our future looks positive but not without a cloud on the horizon. While South Cowichan residents have demonstrated their support for SCCP initiatives the financial support required to build on our successes is in jeopardy.

Spread the word to family, friends and colleagues.

The future is yours to shape.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe 2018!

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0
Phone: (250)743-2096
Fax: (250)743-2096
Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department members attended 25 incidents in DECEMBER:

- ★ Saturday, Dec 2 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 2 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 9 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 9 – MVI on McKernan Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 10 – Alarms Activated on Stevenson Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 12 – Alarms Activated on Widows Walk
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 13 – Alarms Activated on Treit Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 17 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 18 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 18 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 – Hydro Lines on Sylvester Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 – Hydro Lines on Sylvester Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 – Hydro Lines on Deloume Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 – Hydro Lines on Carlton Dr
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 19 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 20 – Lift Assist off Ingot Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 22 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 23 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 25 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/ Malahat Fire
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Briarwood Dr
- ★ Thursday, Dec 28 – Lift Assist off Deloume Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd



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We welcome submissions (letters, articles, photos and community reports) for the Shawnigan Focus. If you would like to be on our email reminder list please let us know at editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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: lulife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Closed for the annual winter maintenance and administration. Reopening Feb. 2nd, 2018. 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

Classified ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

NO WINNER FOR DECEMBER

The photo for December showed a vintage tricycle decorated for Christmas. It and many more wonderful and fascinating items from our community's past can be found at the Shawnigan Museum. Located in the Village core, just behind the Shawnigan Garage, it well worth a visit!

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Promise Me, Dad by Joe Biden

(A year of Hope, Hardship and Purpose)

Published by Flatiron Books
Copyright 2017 by Joe Biden

Could Joe Biden have won the last US Presidential race had he decided to run? After reading this memoir, one wonders. This is the story of

Biden's last year of being Vice President. It is a recounting of the remarkable foreign affairs portfolio he was responsible for under Obama, particularly the crises in Iraq, the Ukraine and Central America.

While he was absorbed with these challenging issues, he and his family received the news that his beloved oldest son, Beau, had advanced brain cancer.

The incredibly difficult and courageous fight Beau waged is recounted in detail here with the Biden family acquiescing to his request to keep the disease private, as Beau Biden was also a public figure, being the Attorney General of Delaware.

Joe Biden was no stranger to tragedy, having lost his first wife and 18-month old daughter in a fatal car accident when he was a young Senator of 29. His two little boys, Beau and Hunter, were in the back seat of the car and required months of hospitalization before their injuries healed. He married his second wife, Jill, five years later and together they had a daughter and raised the two boys. They were a close and loving family.

The memoir goes back and forth, from crucial dealings with foreign Prime Ministers to tension-filled meetings with doctors to discuss his son's experimental cancer treatments. While attending to these criti-

cal events he also took time to comfort Americans like the father of a murdered policeman or the black families of the nine people shot by a white racist in North Carolina.

Biden's compassion for those who mourned was huge and he often gave out his personal phone numbers to the families. These stories of kindness and his accessibility also illustrate his common touch. He was a man of the people, a boy from the working class of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who never forgot his roots and who fought for progressive policies for the poor and middle class.

Buoyed by hope and his deep faith, Biden navigated this difficult year as best he could. When he was asked by Obama if he had plans to run for President, he was unable to give a definite answer, especially as his boy lay at death's door. When Beau finally died, Joe's political team carried him as he grieved,

and encouraged him with news of positive polls. But he finally realized he just wasn't ready emotionally to mount a campaign, and so left the field to Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. To say the rest is history is an understatement.

Here is a quote from his book that demonstrates what America might have had if he had run and won the Presidency: *"I have come to believe that it is the first duty of a public servant to help bring people together, especially in crisis, especially across different divides, to show respect for everybody at the table and to help find a safe way forward."*

Is it too late? Will this man of great experience and integrity decide to run in 2020? This book may be his first step into the campaign. Recommended for those who are interested in world affairs. And also for those who have suffered great loss.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2018

To receive reports and review accounts for the year
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Date : Sunday, January 21, 2018
Time : 12:30 PM
Place : SYLVAN UNITED CHURCH - HALL
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
Mill Bay, BC
Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR
250-929-6100

Shawnigan Cemetery

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@vina.ca

FACEBOOK : Healthy Beginnings Cowichan

Shawnigan Weather 2017

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

	Dec Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average High	5.6	4.6	2.7	6.6	3.2	6.2	3.8	5.7	3.3
Average Low	0.5	-0.1	-1.4	-0.1	-2.3	-0.3	-1.8	-0.4	-1.7
Extreme High	16.0	9.4	9.5	11.3	8.8	12.1	9.6	10.5	9.0
Extreme Low	-15.0	-5.8	-7.2	-5.7	-8.4	-6.2	-8.0	-6.0	-7.5
Precipitation	194.6	138.3	177.3	119.4	161.5	117.7	152.9	117.2	159.2
Days w precip	20	13	22	14	22	13	22	13	23
Year Precip	1250.8	1339.5	1541.0	1260.0	1564.4	1129.9	1364.7	1248.4	1532.5
Precip since Oct 1	534.7	582.7	753.8	561.1	725.5	510.8	664.3	553.0	733.7

Rank since 1914: 46th coldest, 18th driest

Lake Temperature: Dec 3rd: 7° Dec 10th: 6° Dec 17th: 5° Dec 24th: 4° Dec 31st: 3°

Lake Level Change: Dec 3rd: -22cm Dec 10th: -37cm Dec 17th: -24cm Dec 24th: -6cm Dec 31st: +30cm

	Shawnigan Annual Normals	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Rd	
		2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Avg Temp	9.9	10.1	11.1	9.9	10.7	10.2	11.2	10.0	10.9
Extreme High	37.2	33.8	34.9	34.3	34.5	34.6	35.1	34.5	34.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-8.1	-7.2	-9.2	-8.4	-8.3	-8.0	-8.5	-7.5
Days w precip	174	175	187	181	185	160	186	169	187
Precipitation	1250.8	1339.5	1541.0	1260.0	1564.4	1129.9	1364.7	1253.0	1530.7

Rank since 1914: 22nd warmest, 37th wettest

Lake temperature: warmest: 24° coldest: 0°

Comments

December ended up about a half degree below normal, temperature wise, and significantly drier than normal for the month.

2017, overall, temperature wise, was very close to normal. The first 4 months, being below average, and most of Spring, Summer and early Fall above normal. There were 12 days when the temperature rose to 30° or above and 87 days with freezing temperatures.

Precipitation for 2017 was near normal, with January, the summer months and December drier than normal, and the rest wetter than average. August was the driest month with 4.4 mm and November the wettest with 311.2 mm.

Thanks to Ed Wiebe of the UVic Weather Network for his support and maintenance of the instruments at Cigarmaker's Bay, Discovery School, Shawnigan Lake School and the Museum.



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