



SIA: ONE YEAR LATER

100,000 Tonnes of Contaminated Soil Remain a Threat



100,000 tonnes of contaminants perched next to South Shawnigan Creek

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Just over a year ago, on February 23, 2017, the permit to dump contaminated waste at the SIA site on Stebbings Road was cancelled. This was a tremen-

dous victory for the people of Shawnigan. We had fought for years against a senseless threat to our drinking water which was made all the more difficult because it had been sanctioned by the Liberal Government, then in Victoria.

Now the NDP Government faces an impending decision that has serious implications for the future of Shawnigan water quality. The Minister of Environment, George Heyman, must decide what to do with the 100,000 tonnes of heavily contami-

nated material that remain at the site. He will either allow a “final closure” of the facility or instruct that the soil be removed.

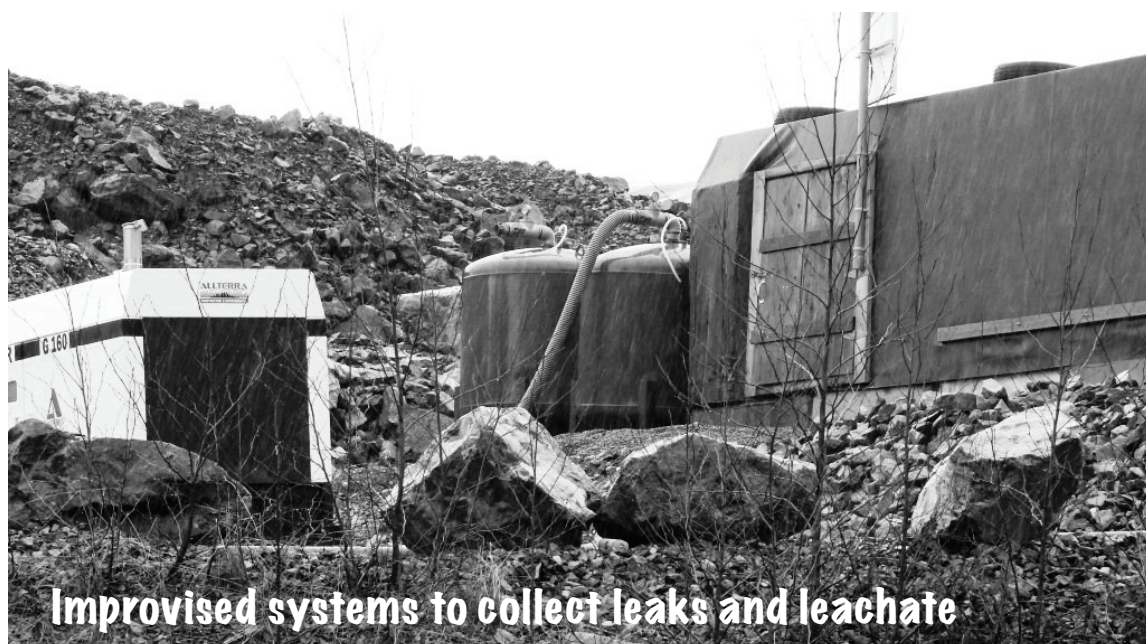
Last summer some of the inadequate infrastructure at the site had minor improvements made to shore-up portions of the landfill and enable the collection and analysis of leachate coming from the pile. Monitoring has been occurring over the winter and will be one factor which will aid the Minister in his decision.

The Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) is composed of capable volunteers who have also been providing technical reports to the Ministry based on formal observation and analysis. The SRG work suggests that the site is leaking unacceptably and that the base liner is inadequate. They

view the term “final closure” as doublespeak for a politically expedient ploy to defer the problem for a few years. The SRG has long maintained that the site was never appropriate to begin with; that the persistent risk is unacceptable, and the material must be removed.

Another factor that the Minister will take into account is our community voice. Shawnigan has earned a justified and respected reputation for standing up to protect drinking water as a fundamental right. We should remind Minister Heyman, and Premier John Horgan, that we continue to care, and that their Government needs to listen.

The Shawnigan Residents Association and other community groups are asking for public support at the following event below!



Improvised systems to collect leaks and leachate

Rally for Removal!

Friday, April 20th - 7:30 to 9:00am

Stebbings Road and Shawnigan Lake Road Junction

Discovery School
Drama and Science
Challenge

Shayla Symes
Discovery Student

Soon our school will be participating in the district drama challenge. We are very excited to have students represent our school. First, we had a school drama challenge. The challenge was to use two characters from riddles or two fairy tale characters, such as Rapunzel, Cinderella, Goldilocks, Humpty Dumpty and many more. Our prop was a hula hoop. The judges watched our skits to see who met the criteria, who was the most creative and who was the most entertaining. Then they decided who would go

on to the district challenge to compete against other schools.

Some of the classes also did a science challenge! The grade 6/7 classes built gravity cars. We raced them on a wooden track to see how fast they would go. The students with the fastest cars went onto the district challenge. The grade 5/6 classes built Rube Goldberg machines - a machine that performs simple tasks. Pretty amazing! The grade 4/5 science challenge was to make a marble mountain.

The object was to make a structure that the marble can roll down for the longest possible time.

Sportacular Event



L-R: Lori Treloar, Jim Taylor, Rob McLean.
-Photo by E/A Photography

On March 24th, the **Shawnigan Lake Historical Society** held a Sportacular fundraising event at Enrico Winery. With much enthusiasm from attendees and supporters, the event was a great success. Contributions and participation helped raise money towards Project Impact – the plan to enhance and expand the existing Shawnigan Lake Museum facility for future sustainability.

Special thanks go to featured speaker, Jim Taylor, for an entertaining talk about his experiences during his award-winning writing career – also to Lorin and Enrico Winery for providing a beautiful venue and superb service!

Our thanks also go to sup-

porters and donors of the event:

- ★ Highland Pacific Golf
- ★ Tesla Tours
- ★ Victoria Aqua Ski Club
- ★ Il Terrazzo Ristorante
- ★ Excellent Frameworks Russell Treloar, artist
- ★ Dan Nikirk, artisan
- ★ Island Savings Credit Union
- ★ Chemainus Theatre Festival
- ★ Black Swan Pub
- ★ Red Arrow Brewing Company
- ★ Heritage House Trophies
- ★ Wedderspoon
- ★ Patty Oldfield
- ★ Shirley Hunter

- ★ Rob Hunter
- ★ Jill Camden
- ★ Rob McLean
- ★ Doug Robb

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society Board of Directors:

- ★ Marcy Green
- ★ Gaileen Flaman
- ★ Anne Sharpe
- ★ Sally Davies
- ★ Cathy Waet
- ★ Pieter Devries
- ★ Lori Treloar
- ★ Grant Treloar

Stay tuned for future events, and thanks again for supporting the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

South Cowichan
Library - April

Join us for our monthly Family Storytime on April 7, 11am to noon. Songs, stories, and crafts for children 2 to 8 years with a caregiver. Free.

LEGO® Club meets on April 11 (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.

Parent-Child Mother Goose starts again on Friday, April 13, 10:30 to 11:30am. Rhymes, songs, and stories for babies and toddlers and their adults every Friday through June 1.

Wills & Estates: learn the basics of Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Representation Agreements, and how these documents are essential for end-of-life planning and estate planning. Lawyer Elizabeth Robinow will explain what each of these documents does and why they can be important, depending on an individual's needs on Thursday, April 19, 6-7:30pm. Free.

Beginning with Watercolour: a card-making workshop: this free program on watercolour techniques for making your own cards is Thursday, April 26, 5-7:30pm. Hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild. Please register by calling, emailing southcowichan@virl.bc.ca, or stopping by in person.

Paws 4 Stories: if you know a child who would enjoy reading aloud to a trained therapy dog on Monday afternoons, please call or come by to find out about openings.

Monica Finn - 250-743-5283

Thank you from the SLCA

Thank you to all those who came out for the Shawnigan Lake Community Association's annual Easter egg-sellent event!

This year we would like to encourage non-perishable food items for donation to our local food bank. It's easy to forget that hard times are felt year round and not just during the holiday season. We

will have a donation bin set up for accepting donations at each of our events. Thank you to those who brought donations for Easter.

The Shawnigan Lake Community Association would also like to thank the continuing support of the Village Chipperry, the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department, the Shawnigan Lake Focus, the

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre and the volunteers of the organization.

If you would like to become a volunteer or get involved in any of our events, please contact Marian Davies at Shawniganlakeco-massoc@gmail.com.

You can also find us on Facebook!

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS - APRIL 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

Peter Nash
Bev McCooy
Marcy Green
Grant Treloar
Janet Neilsen

ACCOUNTS:

Kim Hennecker

COPY SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:

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Please send copy in by
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attachment using Microsoft
Word, text, or pages.

ShawniganFocusEditor@gmail.com
Hard copies can be left at
The Chipperry:
1- 2740 Dundas,
Shawnigan Lake

AD SUBMISSION
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shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

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

Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

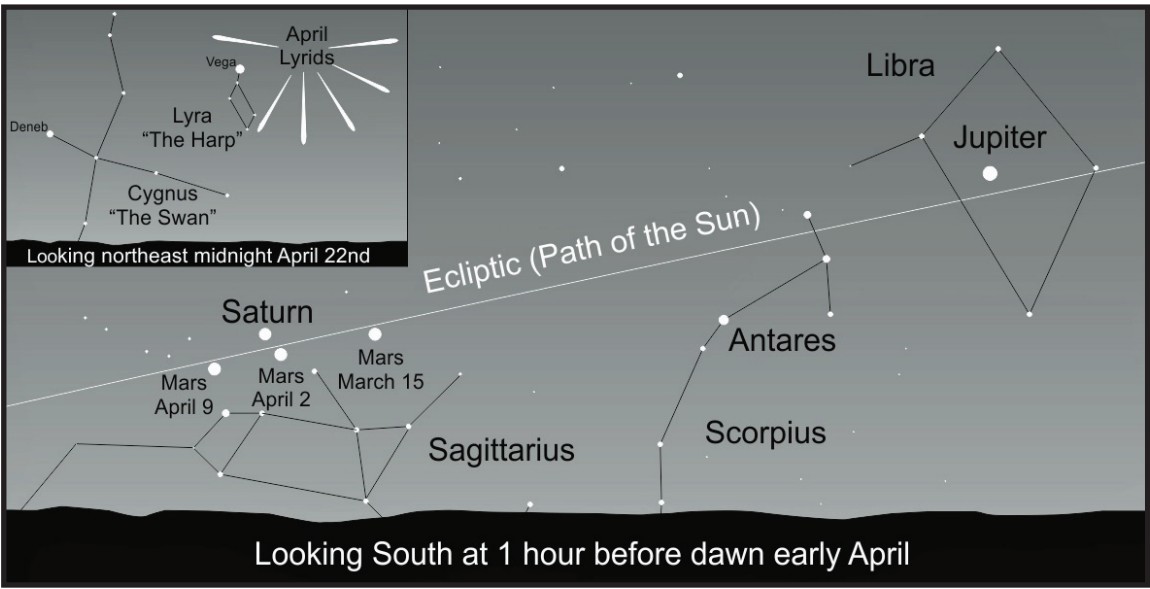
April: The Ecliptic, the Planets, and the Zodiac

Orion and Ursa Major were pretty straightforward, and a good starting point for us in February and March. We will revisit these constellations in months to follow as they will be used as markers to locate other celestial objects. This month we are going to use the rendezvous of Saturn and Mars in early April to learn about the position of the Sun, the Moon and the Planets relative to Earth.

The Ecliptic: The path that the Sun tracks across the sky is called “the ecliptic”, and it is a fundamental concept to Astronomy. The ecliptic represents the orbital plane that the Earth travels around the Sun, so is also a proxy for

the plane of the entire solar system. This means that objects that rotate around the Sun, including the Moon and all the planets, will follow this path through the night sky. By viewing the movement of the planets along the ecliptic we are replicating the ancient Greeks who realized, in the 4th century BC, that the planets wander through the sky relative to the background stars. The word planet is derived from the Greek word for “wanderer”.

The Planets: We can view this transit of the planets in the morning sky throughout April. At dawn on April 2nd, Mars will be right below the ringed planet Saturn. Find the Moon to the southwest and create an imaginary arc that goes through the brightest object in the south sky (Jupiter). Continue that arc to



the east and you will find the next two brightest objects in the sky: Saturn, right above Mars. You will note on days prior to April 2nd, Mars will be to the west of Saturn, and on the days following, Mars will move away from Saturn to the east.

Also note that the Moon follows this “arc” or ecliptic throughout the month.

The Zodiac: The signs of the Zodiac are also linked to the ecliptic. These are the constel-

lations that the Sun and the Planets wander through over the course of a year. If you are lucky enough to be a Scorpio or a Sagittarius, you have prominent constellations associated with your sign.

If you are a Libra, your constellation is nondescript and very hard to make out in the night sky (at least you are well-balanced and can handle this disappointment.)

Meteor Shower: The April Lyrids, so named because

the meteor shower originates around the constellation Lyra, will be from April 16th to 25th, peaking on the night of the 22nd into the morning of the 23rd. At midnight on the 22nd, look to the northeast and spot the bright blue star Vega. It will be the brightest star in that area of the sky.

This shower is not a show-stopper by any means (approximately 10 shooting stars per hour) however the moon is in its first quarter, so you will have a



Hearts in Action - Taking the trash out of our treasure

Kim Barnard

When Spring arrives in the Cowichan Valley, it gives us an opportunity to put our best face forward! We are entrusted with wonderful outdoor living spaces that we should be very proud of, but, if you’ve ever walked along the roads and trails in your community, you may have come across some unwelcome and careless piles of litter. This is hardly the sight that we want to greet the many visitors and BC Summer Games attendees expected this year!

As a community we can take action to remove the trash from our treasured outdoors. In Shawnigan Lake, we are organizing a Clean Up Day on April 22nd, from 10am to 2pm, with a coordinated effort launched from the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre in the heart of our village. Teams will be dispatched to zones around the lake and along our high traffic areas, equipped with bags, gloves, and tongs and the means to gather and deal with all of the litter that must be sorted

and hauled away. With any luck we will also find lots of returnable beverage containers we can deposit for refund!

This event is going forward with the support of the South Cowichan Rotary Club and the CVRD – together with P.A.N. Disposal, Fisher Rd Recycling, and Mainroad South Island Contracting – in partnership with Shawnigan Area B Director Sierra Acton. We will be involving groups, schools and businesses to participate during the 4-hour event across zones around our lake and throughout our community. Participants will enjoy a celebration of “Spring Cleaning Our Area” with opportunities for families to carry the momentum forward in their own neighbourhoods.

Registration for eager volunteers 12yrs and up will be online beginning in early April at www.southcowichanrotary.org under “I Love Shawnigan” Clean Up Day 2018.

Many hearts working together will make a lasting difference!

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

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Precious Cargo
(*My year of Driving the Kids on School Bus 3077*)

by Craig Davidson
Published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada
Copyright 2016 by Craig Davidson

CBC Radio has a book competition called Canada Reads. A theme is selected and then five somewhat interesting people select a Canadian book which they feel best illustrates this theme. They have heated debates about the relative merits of their book choice and each session they vote off a book. The theme in 2018 is “One Book to Open Your Eyes”. Today, those people voted off my favourite book

of the five, “Precious Cargo”. This review is my revenge.

Craig Davidson explains that before he wrote this memoir he was a 32 year-old writer convinced that he was a failure. His last book had “tanked” and he had no more inspiration or ambition. He didn’t even have a job, so when a flyer came through his mailbox advertising for school bus drivers he took it. He thought that after some training he’d get a big school bus, drive kids to and from school and that would be it. He wouldn’t have to be involved with anyone, which suited his then depressive state.

Luckily for him, he got the special needs run with a much smaller bus and a little group

of students who transformed his life. Gavin, Nadja, Vincent, Oliver and Jake had physical, mental and social challenges that marked them as different from the other students. But to Davidson’s delight they shared a lot of his nerdy interests: the Simpsons, wrestling, books, and movies, (especially science fiction and Star Wars).

Two of them were also writers and one of them, Jake, especially captures our imagination with his charm and intelligence. Davidson said of his new job, “Here’s the thing. Every day was the best day. Even the worst days.”

Although one of his charges was non-verbal, and a few had self-control issues, he was able to use his offbeat humour to engage and communicate with them. The conversa-

tions started as soon as the bus started rolling and the sharing could be intimate, hilarious or touching. The reader quickly realizes that these are young people with all of the issues that “regular” kids have except they are viewed by everyone else as different. We learn to care for each one of them in all of their beautiful imperfection without the author being cloying or condescending. At the end of the book Davidson addresses his charges: “You’re all characters, odd balls and castoffs with tragic histories and secrets.

But you are also extraordinary, even though your powers remain unknown at first, even to yourself.”

In an interview, Davidson says, “They picked me up at a time when I needed it the

most, and I was able to help them in a small way.” Because he relates to his charges and is able to describe them so well without treating them as different or separate, we learn that their biggest challenge of all is the isolation we put them in.

The take away I got from this book is: look at, smile or go up and talk with someone who has special needs. Treat them as you would anyone. Don’t ignore them because you feel uncomfortable. Going out of our comfort zones makes us all more human.

So, Canada Reads, I think this book very beautifully opened my eyes. (And should have won. But that’s another conversation.) To the rest of you, if you enjoy a unique story, read the book. It’s funny, touches the heart and the mind, and I read it in a day.

Rating: 5/5 stars

Health Care - Riverpool Farm

Bruce Fraser
Riverpool Farm

Our Highliner has become a low life! Somewhere along the way into Spring she lost all her rump feathers and is parading about the yard with a pink bottom displayed to all the world. We are not sure whether she is lampooning the Kardashians, twerking for effect on the circling ravens or making a statement on the affairs of state below the border. We call her “barebottom” to distinguish her from her more chastely feathered flock members.

One or two of the flock tend to squawk with raucous aban-

don having successfully laid an egg. They seem to think this is an amazing anomaly for which they should be congratulated. They are not satisfied with a mere “twitter” and can be heard as far away as Cowichan Station.

It is not them however who is heard the farthest. Shepherd Zaya, upon hearing the egg chorus, joins in with a protracted and mournful howl. Perhaps she is lamenting the likely fate of those eggs, or could be celebrating their eventual appearance in her dog dish. Just a suggestion of course.

It is no use locking the

bathroom door in the morning. First Islay must pay a health care visit, flopping on my feet expecting a neck rub, a foot massage, and belly rub before departing. The health visit is about her health, of course. This is followed by a more respectful visit from Zaya, who merely wants to be acknowledged and hasn’t quite figured out what Islay was up to. Then Quidi Vidi appears, looking carefully over her shoulder to make sure the dogs are done. She wants a nose rub, a belly rub and a back scratch, all the while pretending that this is an outrageous imposition on her sovereignty.

Just as well the chickens are still in their coop at this point because I’m sure that “bare-bottom” would be next and heaven knows what she would want. I don’t dare pee standing up.

Alice is no slouch at health care demands. She will not come out of her stall in the morning until her neck has been scratched, her ears warmed and Amber head-butted into a corner in case there is fresh alfalfa in the offering. There is one Americana that races out of the coop, heads right past the morning scratch and into the goat barn

as soon as the door opens.

Muttering all the way about an urgently impending blue egg and being late for a very important date, she flutters into the hay loft and rustles her way into the nest she has prepared there in preference to the prescribed nest boxes in the coop. Her sister likes to lay her eggs in a tool box on the back porch.

Every day is an Easter egg hunt. I know there are more out there somewhere.

By eight am I am exhausted and in need of a health care break myself.

home
grown
is where
the  is



www.craftcannabis.ca



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MEDICINAL CANNABIS CENTRE

www.warmlandcentre.ca



Shawnigan Research Group Member, Cliff Evans monitoring the SIA site
-Photo by Laura Colpitts

CopperBlue
Photography

Director’s Report - Together we are stronger!

Sierra Acton
Director Area B

This is an important time to take action and stay informed. In the next few months many issues will be brought forward by various levels of government for the community’s discussion and input. Regionally, the CVRD will be reaching out for input on a variety of initiatives such as water management and housing. In addition, the Province will be sharing their plans for the contaminated soil facility, the Shawnigan Lake RCMP Detachment and policing in South Cowichan.

Love it!

The Province is working on a closure plan for SIA that may include leaving more than 100K tones of contaminated soil in our watershed. Love of community and our watershed will give us the strength for this last push to get it removed. There are three ways you can help:

- 1. Attend a Panel discussion

given by the Shawnigan Research Group on Monday, April 9th at 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

- 2. Write to Minister Heyman and Premier Horgan to “do the right thing”
john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
george.heyman.mla@leg.bc.ca

- 3. Attend the “Rally for Removal” on April 20th @ 7:30am-9am at Stebbing’s Rd and Shawnigan Lake Road.

To stay up to date with the plans, double check that you are on the Shawnigan Residents Association’s mailing list (www.thesra.ca). And now would be a good time to start working on some clever signs.

Share it!

“Affordable housing” “The Missing Middle” and “Housing Strategy” are one of the many terms being discussed lately around housing at the Provincial level and at the Regional District. Last Month, I was fortunate to hear Minister

Selena Robertson present her commitment to Housing in BC. Her mandate to Protect housing for British Columbians was very clear and thought provoking. She acknowledged that the local governments have to play a role since they are closest to the communities that they serve and have a better understanding of the issues. Her government has committed \$5M over the next 3 years to help local governments gather the data and create strategies around the housing shortage. Housing Cowichan has partnered with the CVRD and will be looking to the public for input and support in the creation of a tax requisition. This is crucial in order to be ready for the significant funding promised by the federal government.

Protect it!

Thank you again Shawnigan Lake School for hiring an environmental firm to research and write a Milfoil study and plan. Currently the CVRD

is reviewing it and will present it to the Board along with the invasive species plan for consideration. The community is all set to work together on what seems to be a daunting task. Stay tuned more to come.

I met with our local RCMP and their Provincial Representatives this month. Locally, I met with Cpl. Dave Williams, who had a few reminders to pass on to community: lock your cars, report suspicious people (like someone knocking on your door pretending to look for someone), lock your house up, and don’t consider a comment on Facebook a report to the police. He also advised that if you suspect an illegal grow op, report it to the office to open a file and the RCMP will check with Health Canada. Cpl. Williams confessed that the biggest challenge to our local detachment is paperwork. This is where the Province can help.

South Cowichan Directors and local RCMP met recently

with the Provincial RCMP and the Provincial Government. The province has designated \$2-3M for renovations to the Shawnigan Lake Detachment and are hopeful that they will work with North Cowichan by sharing space and resources. Bottom line is, we will have more service coverage and keep our officers locally. The province will communicate the whole plan in a few months and will look for input from the community on design and planning.

I look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with the community and hearing all your input in the months to come.

Let’s connect:
cell/text 250-732-0368
Sacton@cvr.bc.ca
FB: Sierra Acton Area B
www.iloveshawnigan.com

Next Director’s Meeting:
April 8th at the SLCC @7pm
Information Session on Contaminated Soil Dump (SIA)

Another loss for the community... in memory of Ken Waet



Jennie Stevens
Shawnigan Resident

Earlier this month we lost a dear friend, neighbour and dedicated community member. Ken Waet passed away on the evening of March 5th, surrounded by his loving family, not 3 days after discovering he had a form of very aggressive untreatable cancer. Barely two months previous to that, he had been in hospital with a blood clot and, inconceivably, things progressed from there. This larger than life, healthy and active, friendly, musical, loving family man spent his final few days in hospital, singing, joking and connecting with the people he loved most - his beloved wife Cathy, partner of 13 years; his family and the 10 grandchildren that he and Cathy share.

Music was his first passion,(that is, after Cathy who is left with a legacy of original songs, the better part of which

were inspired by her!) and it is fitting that Ken was participating in music until the end. Ken was actively involved in Shawnigan life from the moment he arrived.

He joined Cathy at the tennis club and became the social director for three of those years.

He also joined the Cowichan Musical Society(Sound of Music) as well as the Shawnigan Players (Robin Hood Panto), and played the role of husband to Sally Davies in Pride and Prejudice. Years later, Sally’s spontaneous words of wisdom about life and death gave Ken a freedom from fear of what lies ahead for us all in the cycle of life - a gift to Ken that she couldn’t have known would be so timely.

Whether he was volunteering at the Shawnigan Lake Museum or socializing in the coffee shops he frequented, doing his daily crossword puzzle(unless

a certain someone got to it first), swimming in the lake, or hiking up Baldy, Ken was busy and involved.

As a youth, he had been a strong hockey player, but knee injuries interfered in later years. Sports were very important to Ken and one of his highlights, most recently, was meeting sports writer, Jim Taylor, just days before he passed. Ken had dreamed at one time of doing the same work.

Before his years in Shawnigan, Ken had worked with disabled adults at Glendale Lodge and in the years after his retirement he tried a variety of things before finding a job very close to his heart. At Cedars Rehabilitation Centre he found a perfect fit and felt a wonderful sense of purpose working there.

He also found time to join the many who stood strong together to Save the Water, which inspired another song that he played at the local Shawnigan Coffee House Open Mic. Ken was always singing - it was part of his soul and just flowed from him always. His original tunes, along with the enormous repertoire of songs that he knew were always an integral part of any circle of friends and family that gathered. This beautiful legacy he has left is

now carried on in his grandchildren, all of whom are incredibly talented with their own special musical flair.

Cathy and Ken had numerous wonderful trips together: Australia twice, Europe, including Norway, twice, to reconnect with relatives, a cycling tour along the canals in Netherlands, hiking the Cinque Terra, and a honeymoon Alaskan cruise, to

name a few. The memories of the incredibly full and well lived, deeply loving times they shared in the years they had together will sustain Cathy, as Spring with her restorative powers, brings sense to the deep loss experienced in this cycle of Life.

“Come on baby now don’t be blue, remember what I said to you, that eagle you see in the sky holds memories that will never die!”

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G. J. Solley
Malahat Legion

The MALAHAT LEGION has been up-grading our building. New lighting has been installed throughout; one ladies washroom and the handicap washroom have been up-graded and a new handicap door opener installed. A new heat pump will be the next major item, along with fixing the drainage and the main entrance. The games room has been painted and the main lounge is next. Come check us out.

Once again we are offering a bursary to a Frances Kelsey student who is proceeding

with post-secondary education at a recognized trade school or apprenticeship. Info:

Up-coming Events.

- ★ Friday, April 20th - return of our STEAK NIGHT DINNER followed by our local Jammers.
- ★ Friday, May 13th - Mothers' Day
- ★ Friday May 18th - Steak night starts the Victoria Day Weekend. (music t.b.a)
- ★ Saturday, June 9th - Flea Market - \$15.00 a table (must purchase ahead of time)

- ★ Saturday, June 16th - Annual Walter Hall Memorial Fishing Derby In connection with the Family Day Weekend www.bcfamilyfishing.com/events/index
- ★ Monday June 26th – Friday 30th - LEGION WEEK
- ★ Sunday, July 1st - Canada Day Celebrations starting with the annual pancake breakfast put on by 8:30 – 11:00 am the Legion and the Mill Bay Lions Club. This is followed by a flag raising and our local parade.

MORE INFORMATION:

- ★ Legion Galley WEDNESDAYS – Soup & Sandwich Lunch only \$7.00
- ★ SATURDAY MEAT DRAW MENU - from 3:00pm - 5:00 pm
- ★ FRIDAY DINNER - twice a month

We also cater events and private functions. We have a busy season coming up in May, June and July 1st.

We need volunteers to help. If you are able to help, please contact us on Face Book (Royal Canadian Legion Br 134) or call us at (250) 743-4146

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 21 incidents in March

- ★ Thursday, Mar 1 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 6 – Assistance at the Rock Quarry, Thain Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 6 – Chimney Fire on Wellwood Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 6 - 1st Responder off Treit Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 7 – Lift Assist off Sylvester Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 7 – Alarms Activated on Skylar Cir
- ★ Thursday, Mar 8 – Chimney Fire on Heald Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 9 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 11 - 1st Responder off Briarwood Dr
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 14 – Unknown Fire on Colman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 14 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire with Malahat Fire
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 22 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 22 – Alarms Activated on Bob'O Link Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 24 – Alarms Activated on Baron Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 25 – MVI on Worthington Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 27 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd

Community input needed:

Shawnigan Village Rail Trail Project:

Community input is invited on the proposed 1.75 km Shawnigan Village Rail Trail project within the E&N Corridor between Mason's Beach and Old Mill Park.

Project information will be on display at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre until April 27th.

CVRD Parks & Trails staff will be at the Centre to answer questions and share project information on the following dates:

April 5 - 9 AM - noon

April 9 - 5:30 PM - 7 PM

April 12 - 11 AM - 4 PM

Comments can also be sent via Placespeak (www.placespeak.com) or my emailing parks@svrc.bc.ca

More info: Brian Farquhar at bfarquhar@cvrld.bc.ca

Shawnigan Village

RAIL TRAIL PROPOSAL

TRAIL CONCEPT PERSPECTIVES



PERSPECTIVE #1
Looking North from Shawnigan Wharf Park towards Elsie Miles Park and the Shawnigan Train Station.



PERSPECTIVE #2
Looking South from Shawnigan Wharf Park where the trail crosses the railway and continues along the west side of the rail corridor heading south towards Old Mill Park.



PERSPECTIVE #3
A typical view south along the trail where a fence likely would be required due to constrained space between the tracks and lake foreshore. Fencing would be for safe separation of rail operations from trail users.



PERSPECTIVE #4
A typical view north along the trail where a fence is likely not necessary as the trail is aligned with sufficient separation from rail tracks and lakeshore.



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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: May 7, 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**
April 16th - 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: 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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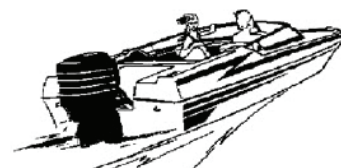


*One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca*

CONGRATULATIONS

The winning answer for March was submitted by Lora Favor (on behalf of biking group: Team Awesome) who observed that "anyone who has been on the crazy grades of the newer trail in the region knows it's the two sided carving on the Malahat Band portion of the Great Trail (section from Sooke Lake Road to Stebbings Road).

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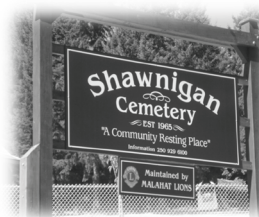
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Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

It took me almost 6 months...not all at once mind you.

Oh, how I wish I could just take 6 months to hike and explore but that's just not a feasible option for the average doe. So what's a weekend warrior to do? Break it down in chunks of course!

Since its official launch, I've been dabbling in the Great Trail near the Shawnigan Lake region. Prior to the new name I had covered most of the 'Cowichan Valley Trail' and was quite excited to get into the back country.

First, it was Sooke Lake Road to Stebbings Road. Driving between really doesn't take very long at all but on the feet it's quite a bit longer. Up and down through the forest on gentle crushed gravel and over a few creeks and bridges. Approximately 3ish kilometres along is the Shawnigan Creek trestle which hosts the sentry Yos pole. The Yos pole is a totem that features a Thunderbird cradling a salmon under each wing. Can you spot the Sasquatch poking out of the far side? The pole was erected to commemorate the part of the trail located within the Malahat Nation lands.

As you pass the pole, take in a deep breath - a big one - as what comes next is what I like to call a real 'butt burner'. It goes up...then up...then up some more for what I swear is over a kilometre to Stebbings Road where you then will have the luxury of stretching out (or laying in a heap) in

a large parking lot. Across Stebbings, the next section will wind you around behind the scenes of grandiose homes under various stages of construction, up at the birds eye view of Goldstream Heights. You will catch fabulous glimpses of the ocean along with...more inclines and declines for at least a few kilometres.

There are a lot of tempting logging roads that criss-cross the peak area. Please keep in mind that the trail is there for a reason and it's best to stay on it. Otherwise adventurous spirits will find themselves bushwhacking upwards through thick brush just to locate the trail once again. This leg of the journey crosses you over from the Cowichan Valley Trail to the Sooke Wilderness Trail. Exactly on the borderline are two mapboards and, at the time of my adventure, a cement slab for what I hope to be another totem one day.

The end of this section reaches urbanism and soon intersects across Goldstream Heights Road. At the onset, the trail is subtle and puzzling as it is not like the previous legs. It is a beautiful rough and tough section with a rugged outback and quick elevation gain that meanders up, around, and down again dropping out within the Elkington community.

Follow the crosswalk over to the more recognizable crushed gravel trail that leads you through the last part of Goldstream Heights and off towards Sooke Lake.

And that is where my 6 month adventure ends... for now! See the photos from this hike (and others) on our Facebook page - The Om Tree.



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Shawnigan Weather March 2018

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

	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
Average High	10.4	10.1	8.5	11.2	8.7	11.3	9.0	10.3	9.1
Average Low	1.7	1.0	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.2	0.9	1.9
Extreme High	22.2	16.6	13.9	17.8	15.7	19.5	14.8	17.5	15.5
Extreme Low	-11.7	-1.7	-1.4	-1.5	-2.3	-1.1	-1.6	-2.0	-2
Precipitation	119.2	52.2	211.0	43.8	186.3	46.5	167.4	47.4	192.4
Days w precip	19	14	30	14	30	14	30	13	30
Year Precip	469.2	417.2	493.1	392.1	468.3	373.3	414.4	437.2	467.8
Precip since Oct 1	1003.9	999.9	1244.4	953.2	1191.8	884.1	1073.1	990.2	1197.7

Rank since 1914: 44th warmest, 8th driest

Lake Temperature: Mar 4th: 4° Mar 11th: 6° Mar 18th: 6° Mar 25th: 6°

Lake Level Change: Mar 4th: -10 cm Mar 11th: +3cm Mar 18th: +11cm Mar 25th: +4cm

Surface Elevation: 116.33m 116.36m 116.46m 116.50m

Shawnigan Lake - Live auction prize at Sportacular Fundraiser

-Painted by Russell Treloar