

I LOVE SHAWNIGAN LAKE & SKIING



Lee Curtis
Victoria Aquatic Ski Club
President

Water skiing has been synonymous with Shawnigan Lake as long as I can remember. For a few years however, it seemed to be going out of fashion as other towed water sports emerged, but this year skiing appears to be gaining in popularity again. Most summer mornings I saw many tournament boats out pulling skiers; starting the day with the thrill of the ride. If water ski tournament attendance is any measure of popularity, attendance was up at both our Victoria Aqua Ski Club Tournament and the BC Provincial Tournament at McIvor Lake in Campbell River. The Provincials had sixty-eight entrants from around the province competing in the three events of slalom, trick and jump.

Skiing has been “a thing” on our lake for a very long time and it has been in my life since childhood. It has been a few years since mom and dad first brought me to Shawnigan Lake and introduced me to the sport. That’s me in July 1951 in my mom Ellie’s arms sitting in the “ski boat” my dad Bob built a couple years earlier. It had a flathead straight-six Studebaker motor and transmission from a WWII landing craft. It could pull a skier at about 50 Km/Hr. (Behind us is the dock that belonged to the Salmon (Cham-

pion) family at the time, on the west side near Memory Island.)

My parents and my aunt and uncle, Vivian and Dave Sharpe, thought of themselves as trend-setters in waterskiing. It was 1948 when they started. At that time hemp was the ski rope of choice, most times the handle was previously a broom and steam-bent skis with running shoes screwed to them for boots, were all the rage. Those skis were about the only thing dad and Uncle Dave could make to get involved in the new post-war sporting craze spreading from Cypress Gardens in Florida. Mechanics Illustrated was the inspiration for some of their ideas. It was a few years until “store-bought” skis and bindings were readily available around the Victoria area. Water skiing was apparently first invented in 1922 when Ralph Samuelson used a pair of boards as skis and a piece of clothesline as a towrope in Minnesota, so although Shawnigan was early into waterskiing, it wasn’t where it started.

Over the years our family and many others on the lake made skis, disks, jumps, hydroplanes, sailboats and just about anything that could float that led to water fun. When I wasn’t skiing, my summer fun included many of the activities that are still popular today, such as building forts, climbing trees, hiking, cycling, cruising in my “sea flea”

and trying to find a summer girlfriend. Hanging out at the Hungle cabin was fun because they had a television and a really cool ski-boat. The Hungle’s were also involved with competition and working to improve skis and advance the sport.

Over the years equipment and technology, both in boats and water skis and related apparatus, have dramatically improved and varied. Now there are lots of different water toys available and people can today be seen having fun on Shawnigan fishing, swimming, paddle-boarding, kayaking, wakeboarding, tubing and so on.

Competitive skiing and jumping are a big part of summer fun for many Shawnigan residents and for members of the Victoria Aqua Ski Club. Skis have improved markedly through research and fine tuning. Many ski-boats are now equipped with computer programs that control the speed and some even adjust the wake for skier weight, boat speed and rope length.

The ski club is where I spend a lot of time each summer. The club is a little younger than me, but one of the oldest in Canada. It is now in its sixty-second year and it has been a focal point of competitive skiing and skier development since its inception. The VASC has helped facilitate the evolution and development of many aspects of competitive waterskiing over the years, along with other residents of the Shawnigan water ski community.

Many fabulous local skiers have honed their skills at the VASC as well as at the south-end course and jump; many of them progressing to national and international podiums. In recent weeks our members have been on the lake many mornings, running kids training camps and practicing for tournaments as well as hosting

Learn to Ski evenings.

I joined the VASC more than a decade ago and I have gotten to know so many fantastic people, both in the club and all around the lake since doing so. The water-ski community at Shawnigan is a large group of like-minded people who love the thrill of carving through the flat water (when you can find some) and being caught up in the “obsession” of performing better and better. Some of us get a bit edgy if we haven’t had a ski in a few days. I’ve been told by Jim Entzminger (Pokey) that there is no real cure for the obsession, so I am resigned that many of us just have to ski to maintain our emotional health. Jim Lindsay joined the VASC a few years back and his “obsession” is the strongest I have witnessed in some time. Members like Cliff Moffat are still skiing into their eighties because they did not have successful ski-obsession interventions, so I’m afraid we are going to see Jim Lindsay and other “untreatables” skiing in all seasons for many years to come. If there is snow on the ground but it is not stormy give Jim a wave as he skies by.

The VASC held its annual novice tournament August 10 & 11. This year it was named the Jim Leech Memorial Novice Tournament in honour of his passing last summer. Jim and Betty Leech were founding members of the club. Jim was not only a good skier; he was a great husband, father, friend and mentor. His sons and grandchildren all became podium water skiers and they remain very active in the club and waterski community today.

The tournament was well attended and we saw several new kids participate. There were also new adults entering. Bruce Geary entered after years away from the sport and was happy to be back. By the way, if anyone is interested in giving the tournament a try next summer,

it is always the second weekend in August. And, you don’t have to be a pro skier. Local tournaments are supposed to be fun! Luke Raymond from south Shawnigan entered this year and he had only skied the course a few times. A week later he entered the Provincial tournament at McIvor Lake in Campbell River for slalom and jump. The funny part is that Luke had never gone over the jump before he entered. He landed his third jump! Now we have another obsessed skier to watch for.

The Cadillac Ski School at the south end of Shawnigan has several avid skiers and they like to show other people how to carve and jump. This summer Ken Worth and his friends organized the “Canada Day Ski” as they have done for many years and they hosted an “Old Time Jumping” event. They had sixteen jumpers enter! Unlike competitive tournaments, there were no distance measurements taken, fashionable attire was worn and it was just a for fun! Spectators cheered from the safety and comfort of their boats then we had a great time socializing afterward.

The season is winding up for many as kids are heading back to school, but for some of us who are retired, the best water is yet to come. If the weather cooperates, the winds stay low and the surf boats stay away from the slalom course we can work on our obsession.

I would like to thank the community and our sponsors for the support the VASC receives year after year for training kids to in our camps. Also, it does not go unnoticed how many times boaters will be considerate of our training camps or other events, moving their activities a little way down the lake to give the us better water conditions.

Great thanks from all of us at the Victoria Aqua Ski Club. Don’t let your ski get dusty.



Never ending summer affair

So you think the summer fun is over? Not quite!

Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG) will present a festival of music talent and displays of visual arts on the grounds of Elsie Miles Pavilion Park in Shawnigan Lake on September 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park is adjacent to the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

In addition to professional music and over a dozen renowned artists there will be food vendors both on the site and within a short walk to the village core.

The event is family friendly and free and will take place rain or shine. For your comfort bring a blanket and/or chair to prepare friends and relatives to get ready to enjoy the “Never Ending Summer Affair 2019”.

The visual artists/artisans and crafters will not only be displaying their products, but also will have their products for sale. Some examples are hand crafted wooden flutes, hand bound books, art cards, watercolour

prints, oil paintings, quilted and beaded fabric art work and original knitwear.

In addition, the event will host a number of musical entertainers, such as Cheko and the Lion Rockers; The Klez; De La Terra; Uke’s Misbehavin; Tina and Kristin - MC- Bill Levity

Enjoy the Mexican Mafia food truck along with Sarpinos Pizza, Shawnigan Jen’s Sushi and Teriyaki, Shawnigan Coffee House, Compass Mexican Bistro, Subway, Hosuka Japanese Restaurant, Montra Thai Eatery...in the village core of Shawnigan Lake!

Many thanks to the CVRD, Shawnigan Lake Community Centre and the business sectors of Mill Bay, Cobble Hill and Shawnigan Lake in helping to make this Festival happen!

For more updates on the NESA Festival find us at cowichansoutharts.weebly.com and Facebook at... Cowichan South Arts Guild.

If you have any questions please contact Terry @ terry.dheensaw@gmail.com or 250-743-9949



The first wedding at the Shawnigan Pavilion took place in the afternoon of September 1st. The Pavilion was a lovely backdrop for Bride Lisa Finch and Groom Roy Davies to share their vows.

South Cowichan Library

Tablet Workshop on Wednesday, September 4, 6-7:30pm. Learn how to use the tools you already have in your tablet to access digital resources from the library. Free, just bring your tablet.

LEGO® Club meets on Wednesday, September 9, 3:30-5:30pm. 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. DUPLO available for little ones. Second Wednesday of every month.

French Conversation Group is on alternating Thursdays (September 12 & 26) from 6 to 7pm. Come by and practice parler en français with a native French speaker.

Songwriter Workshop with the Cowichan South Arts Guild: 6 – 8pm on Thursday, Sep 19. Learn tips and techniques in the art of songwriting at

this free session.

Chess Club: This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, September 27, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program: Another round of Mother Goose sessions starts on Friday mornings in late September. Check in again for more details. In partnership with Island Health.

Family Storytime returns next month and now it’s weekly! Join us for a classic storytime of stories and songs starting Saturday, Oct 5, 2 - 2:30pm. For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults. Free.

Keep up to date with the library at our Facebook page: VI Regional Library South Cowichan

Bill...

Shawnigan Resident

We may never know how he came to the lake or what unknown tragedy caused him to flee the safety of his home and come to our welcoming shores - being cloaked in radiant white, with a call that echoed from shore to shore. He was named Bill, to some, Howard to others, but he was Bill the Duck to me, and no matter what name you knew him as, he was an inspiration to all.

I first noticed him early one morning across the arm, paddling around, yellow bill gleaming in the sun. The Duck seemed lost and mournful, a plaintive Qua-aack Quaa-aack as he searched for companionship. The bank is low with some low hanging shrubbery ‘neath which he found a refuge, soon came small children and a dog. Gadzooks I thought, he’s a goner now, but no, the family were naturals and they embraced his very duckiness - the dog sniffed, the child gently watched and Bill was welcomed into the arms of the family. They didn’t care about his background, his looks or his beliefs. He would pal around all day with them, frolicking in the Shawnigan summer sun. I kept watch and feared that he was not too up on his survivalist skills and food may have been an issue.

Feeling the need to be part of something bigger than myself I bought Duck feed and frozen peas, and being extremely fluent in Duckinese I would go down early in the morning with myself clad in a rather less than fetching fuzzy white dressing gown which gave me a decidedly ducklike appearance and would call across to Bill Qua-aack qu-aack. Bill would call back soon, a din of reciprocal quacks that could raise the dead and that only ceased after he had paddled over at a ferocious pace and nibbled down the victuals I had to offer. Bill would let me stroke his chest before turning and, with a saucy wiggle and fluff of his nether regions, sail back to his people.

This morning ritual continued almost daily, and listening to him softly murmur

“nyuka nyuka” as he nibbled and nobbled down the peas and kibbles put me into a very Zen like place, a spiritual voyage of pinion perfection, a nirvana of avian attitudes. With so much goodness to be shared, I worried that some lesser soul, a mink or racoon, might bring all this to a halt, or things would turn bleak if a safe winter haven was not found.

I first turned to Facebook, many good and caring suggestions. I attended the Cobble Hill Fair and espying a young 4 H lad holding a duck, I gleaned from him much knowledge of Ducks. The lad ascertained by my spot-on replication in Duckenese of Bills’ call, that Bill was Indeed female but the names Bill/Howard stuck - his greatness transcended gender, and he needed to be saved. While ruminating on a home placement as I sat in my rubber floatie, Bill swam up to me for some duck chat. It was late afternoon, a dangerous time to paddle across the West Arm...Boats were flying up and down and I was sure he would be hit, but he somehow made it back to his leafy bower of safety and his true people.

The worry was real. After a restless night I hurried down very early with his morning meal, calling and quacking all the way down the stairs to the dock. Fear struck my heart when no call was returned, the lonely lake merely echoing my quacks but no Bill, not even a feather.

Heartbroken I returned to the house and opened up the Shawnigan Facebook to post his loss. What a joy to see Bill, standing tall and majestic in a sturdy cage, blanket and water at his side and the announcement that Bill/Howard had been rehomed to Coombs with other buddies. That’s why I love Shawnigan, we are all Birds of a feather, and take lost souls under our wing.



Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Marian Davies, SLC&A Secretary Treasurer

Canada Day in Shawnigan Lake was a great success with so many friends and neighbours coming out to celebrate our nation’s birthday!! To those who entered our parade, making it one of the best, and to those who watched from the curbside we extend our appreciation for being there to start the fun!! A special thanks to the owner of the dog carts for adding joy to our event.

Hundreds gathered on the field to sing O Canada as the Fire Department raised their huge flag to show our colours!! Without the participation of the Fire Crew, RCMP, Malahat Legion, the youth volunteers, CVRD staff, RBC Team, Lake Road 7-11, Shawnigan Museum and all who provided games and entertainment for the families our event would not have been the success it was. We look forward to enjoying

your contribution at future events!!

We thank the Government of Canada, the Province of BC and the RBC volunteer grant program for their support in funding our events.

Our next event will be our Halloween Hoedown on Saturday, October 26th from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Community Centre. We welcome volunteers who have a passion for event planning and volunteering their time! Watch the October Focus for more details.

You will also meet some of our team at the GATHERING on Saturday, September 21st. We will offer a light lunch from the kitchen and display details of all the events we host each year. Stop by for a chat and learn more about what we bring to our community and how folks can join our team. Our membership is small but our hearts are big and full of fun ideas!!

Community gathering places

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Lake Museum

The first ‘community centre’ in Shawnigan Lake was the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association hall, built in 1910. This beautiful structure was built on land donated by Anna Koenig, at the bottom of Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Although it was financed by selling ‘shares’, the investors knew that there would not be any return on their investment other than the pleasure of the activities held there. The SLAA Hall became the centre of community with weekly dances, annual flower shows, regattas, a variety of sports, a library and much more. Sadly, the building burned to the ground in 1930.

With the insufficient insurance money, a much more utilitarian building, without a lovely veranda overlooking the lake and decorative features, replaced the original hall on the same site. Initially, it did not even have heat. Many locals remember the



Shawnigan Lake Community Hall with fondness. Again, it was the place for P.E. classes, sports, drama, dances and Christmas festivities. It was the heart of the community.

In the mid 1980’s, the community recognized the need for a larger, more modern community centre. Renovations and upgrades needed to bring the existing 1931 hall back to health were considered too costly and it

was determined that the building no longer met the needs and demands of a growing, family oriented community. In 1989, public meetings were held and a design research team was struck. In the early 1990’s a referendum to gain the approval from the community for a new community centre passed successfully, but soon met with objection from the Shawnigan Lake Waterfront Owners Association who declared that the process was flawed

– they felt summer owners were not duly notified. In spite of their claims, the second referendum that was required passed.

The project became a true community labour of love. The Shawnigan Artists’ Collective, consisting of seven local artists were responsible for guiding teams of volunteers in the crafting of a building rich in integrated crafted detail. This included tile painting by kindergarten

classes for the tile mural, carving of lintels by a group of mostly novice carvers, textile hangings and mixed media murals. The community came together, old and young, to create a unique space that was later given an award. Most of those elements are still there.

The old hall was sold to help provide funds for the \$1.4 million project as was the old Library building. The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre officially opened on February 5th 1994. On September 21st 2019, the community will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre at the Shawnigan Gathering. There have been exciting upgrades over the past year including new floors, new lobby furniture and new trim paint. The most impressive change, however, is the Boulderling Wall in the gym that will be officially unveiled at the Gathering. There will also be an opportunity to have your voice heard about the future of the Shawnigan community. Don’t miss this great opportunity...come out and gather with your community.

Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

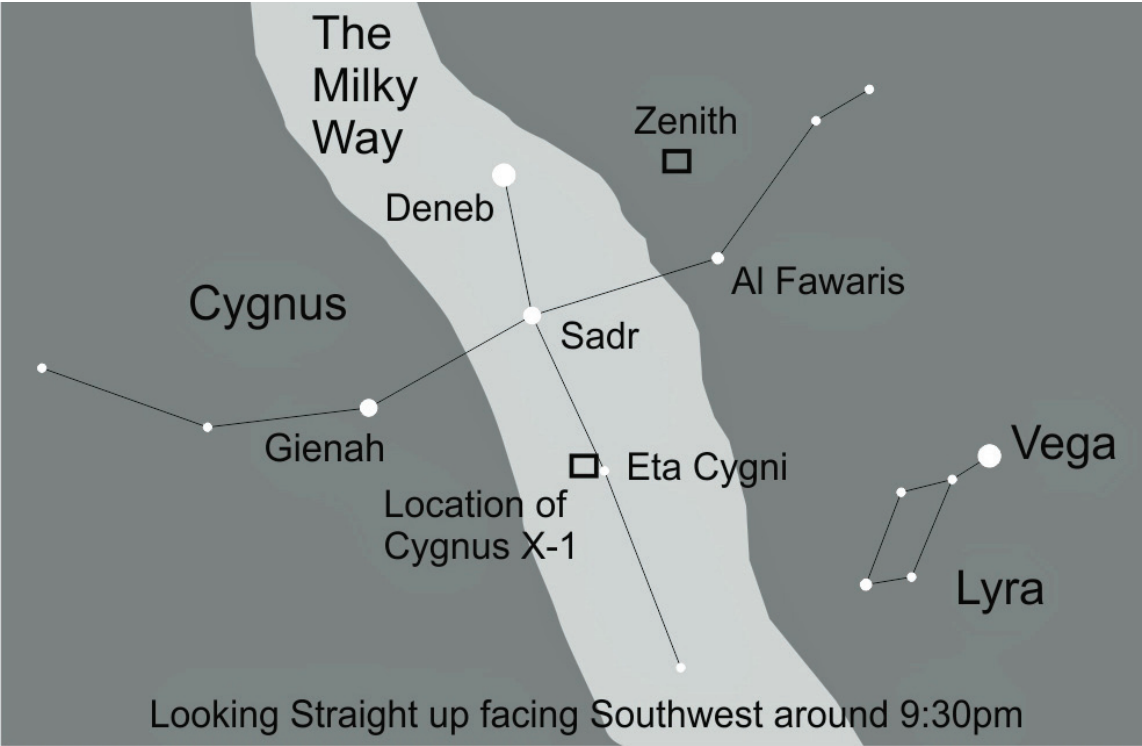
September: Cygnus “The Swan”

Being the last month of summer I thought it fitting to follow up on the September 2018 article on Lyra and discuss another constellation in the Summer Triangle, Cygnus the Swan.

Cygnus will be relatively easy to find as it is located right beside the zenith (straight up) throughout the month in the evening sky. Looking straight up you will spot two bright stars, the bright blue Vega, and white Deneb. Deneb is the brightest star of Cygnus, representing the swan’s tail. The rest of the constellation resembles a cross, pointing toward the southwest, when viewed around 10:30 in the evening. The sides of the cross represent the swan’s wings, with the stars pointing toward the bright Jupiter, which represents the swan’s head. Note that the Milky Way extends up through Scorpius and Sagittarius and right through the middle of Cygnus (see last month’s article.)

Probably the most intriguing object in Cygnus is an object you cannot see. In fact, even the best optical telescope

known to man could not see Cygnus X-1, as it is a black hole, swallowing all light due to its extreme gravity. Cygnus X-1 was discovered in the 1960’s because it emits X-Rays, indicating that there is a lot of really hot gas in that region of the sky. In the early 1970’s the X-Rays were discovered to be emanating from a supergiant star (HDE 226868). There was a problem however, because there is no way a star of that type could emit X-Rays - it is not nearly hot enough. It was also observed that over a 5 day period the wavelengths of light coming from HDE 226868 changed rapidly, shifting from the red end (longer wavelength) of the spectrum to the blue end (shorter wavelength). This is known as the Doppler shift. You experience the Doppler shift on a daily basis, but with sound waves, not light. When an oncoming car or train approaches you the sound waves compress (become shorter) and the pitch of sound becomes higher. As the car passes, the sound waves stretch, and the pitch lowers. This is what is happening to the light leaving HDE 226868. As the star is moving towards Earth the wavelength compresses, making the light appear blue. Then, as the star moves away from us, the



light appears redder as the wavelength stretches. The staggering conclusion from this observation is that HDE 226868 is orbiting another object every 5.5 days, and the mass of this mysterious object must be enormous. So what object has a super massive mass, emits X-Rays but no visible light? A black hole is the only celestial object that fits all the criteria. To view some awe-inspiring artistic renderings of Cygnus X-1 and its companion star, use Google and search for Cygnus X-1 images.

Planets and the Moon: With the Sun setting earlier in the evening both Saturn and Jupiter are still prominent in the evening sky (see last month). Full Moon is September 13th, New Moon is September 28th.

ThinkShawnigan
Gathering
2019
@ Shawnigan Lake Community Center
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9:30 to 2:30
Saturday, September 21st
Grand reveal of our NEW Boulderling wall
to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the
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community?
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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Almost Everything
Notes on Hope
Anne Lamott
Published by Riverhead Books
Copyright 2018 by Anne Lamott

“I am stock-piling antibiotics for the Apocalypse, even as I await the blossoming of paperwhites on the windowsill in the kitchen”.

So begins Lamott’s tighrope walk of a book, always moving back and forth between the terrifying reality of life in these troubling times and the hope and optimism that pull her back from despair.

Anne Lamott is one of my favourite writers and a New York Times best-selling author. When interviewed about writing her latest book, she had this to say:

“I accidentally wrote this book on hope. It was originally called Doomed”.

She is open and vulnerable. For example, she freely discusses her alcoholic past and the demons that bedevil her family,

including that of her son, whom she could not save. She finally walked away and left him in jail, her heart broken. Fortunately he achieved his own sobriety without her help, a situation she acknowledges as difficult for her.

The chapters are almost haphazard, dealing with topics like family, death, writing, God, dieting and surviving these difficult political times. (“Don’t Let Them Get You to Hate Them.”) At times her stream of consciousness style of writing is rambling and somewhat chaotic. At other times she nails it:

“Chocolate with 81% cacao is not actually a food. Its best use is as bait in snake traps. Also as a shim to balance the legs of wobbly chairs. It was never meant to be considered an edible”.

Her humour makes me giggle and snort. That is, when I’m not holding back a tear, or pausing to reflect on some beautifully turned phrase, full of wisdom. I value her experience and her ability to mine her life for reflections that either mirror my own or cause me to rethink some old

points of view.

She doesn’t sugarcoat life or people, but has a deep compassion for humankind :

“This is how most of us are-stripped down to the bone, living along a thin sliver of what we can bear and control, until life or a friend or disaster nudges us into baby steps of expansion. We’re all both irritating and a comfort, our insides both hard and gentle, our hearts both atrophied and pure.”

And, after taking us through the ups and downs of several chapters on brokenness and hope, she finally concludes, with John Lennon , that:

“Everything will be okay in the end. If it’s not okay, it’s not the end.”

Recommended for those who know firsthand how terrible the world can be, and for those who look for hope and still believe in everyday joy. It’s all there. An easy read, except, if you’re like me, you’ll want to go back and read it again, especially all the pages you’ve marked.

Rating: 4.8/5 stars

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

Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

It truly amazes me how many places we have explored and written about over the years with yet so many more that remain!

Take the Crofton area for example. It’s a charming little town with more to it other than the ferry to Saltspring and the infamous live music pub, as there is also some pretty appealing back country to explore as well.

En route into town via Osbourne Bay Road is a decently sized parking lot on the right that you may have noticed. This is the launch to both the Maple Mountain and Mount Richards trail systems. Of course, many are familiar with Maple Mountain as it’s synonymous with Maple Bay. Often Mount Richards is thought of as a lesser attraction and thus disregarded.

It is true that Maple Mountain, with its vast heights, amazing views of the narrows, and Garry Oaks is one of the most scenic places to visit around these parts. Mount Richards however, is a quieter, more solitary, and soul searching sort of trek that boasts its own unique beauty. For example, within the first few steps off the main road you are quickly immersed into a



lush forest with the sound of a trickling creek nearby - instant peacefulness.

Shortly up the road presents a pick your own adventure - in a sense. Straight through will get you on the M/L (Main Line) up the summit trail or by following right you will end up visiting Crofton Lake. For the purpose of this article, we chose to burn a few extra butt muscles and headed upwards.

Quickly after making that choice, we then left the lush forest behind and started up the definitive logging road weaving in and around tall trees, open skies, and swirling birds for about 4 kilometres to the peak and lookout. It can feel like a long winding way up so we highly recommend bringing what you feel is excess in water and enjoy many of the shady spaces to stop

and catch a breath. Once at the peak, you are rewarded by a handsome perspective of local giant Mount Prevost and views of the sprawling Westholme Valley.

If a first timer, our best advice is to stay straight on the M/L as much as possible to avoid various dead-ended logging roads that could be the cause of some heated frustration. But good news - according to the North Cowichan website the area is meant to be sanctioned this year with promises of a formal map shortly thereafter.

For now however, it is a secluded and tranquil journey - which sometimes can be exactly what we need.

See our photos from this hike and more at The Om Tree Facebook page.



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4 | SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

Director's Report

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

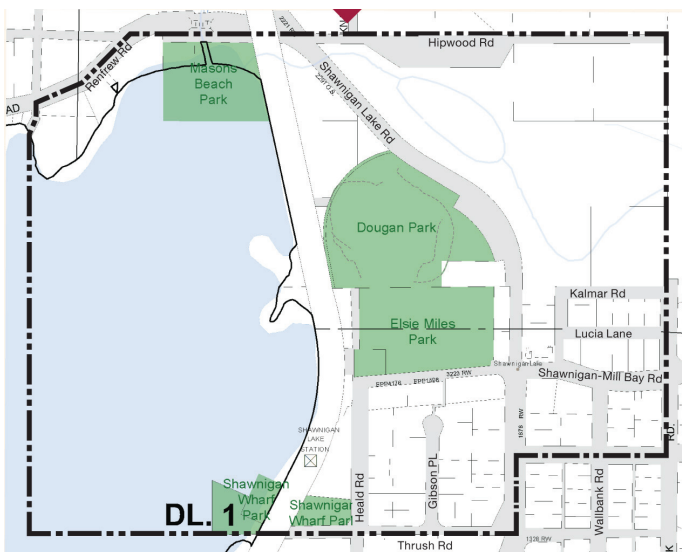
**Community, vision
and our future!**

Love it!

September 21st the community is coming together to celebrate the Community Centre's 25th Anniversary and all things Shawnigan. Learn about local businesses, volunteer groups and services in the community. You can also be one the first to see and try the new Boulderling wall. This entire event is free, so please come out and help celebrate... there will be cake!

Share it!

Since the beginning of summer we have been collecting ideas for the future of our village core. Further design work and gathering of ideas will happen at the Gathering. A design intensive will follow in October where designers, architects and engineers will bring together the all the various ideas and produce detailed documents and actions to be project ready. We have an amazing opportunity to tailor our village! It's an exciting time - mark your



calendars to participate:

- ★ October 17th Ideas Fair 7pm-8:30pm
- ★ October 18th Studio Drop-in 4pm-6pm
- ★ October 19th Public Presentation 4:30pm-6:30pm
- ★ December 2019 Final Designs, report and presentation.

Protect it!

It still remains unacceptable to our community to leave a contaminated soil dump in our watershed. In August about 90 people gathered to hear a technical presentation by the Shawnigan Research Group regarding the proposed

closure plan for South Island Aggregates. We also heard from MLA Sonia Furstenau regarding her ongoing efforts to clean up the site. Sonia Furstenau encouraged the community to reach out to George Heyman ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Andrian Dix HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca and John Horgan premier@gov.bc.ca include her in your communications: sonia.furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca

A happy safe return to school to all the students in the community.

I look forward to connecting; Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca (250) 715-6763 call/text iloveshawnigan.com

Shawnigan Residents Association

Thomas Lupin
SRA

Gathering a Purpose

On the 21st of September, the community will see the return of the Shawnigan Gathering. This is an event catered to local businesses for the purpose of "celebrating all things Shawnigan, groups, businesses, people, past and present."

At the same time that the community is gathering to promote businesses in and around the community, we are also cleaning up after a busy summer on the lake and, distressingly, a recent spate of vandalism and worrying behaviour. A quick cursory gander across the rather entertaining Shawnigan Facebook group pages reveals a worryingly large number of sometimes quite frightening and discouraging incidents with the unfortunate suggestion that the culprits are often teens, probably with too much time on their hands and not enough things to occupy them.

Hovering over all of this like a Zeppelin is "13 Ways

to Kill Your Community", which states, "Communities, deliberately or accidentally, tell their youth there is no hope in their town, there is no future, and that youth are stupid if they stay." (Griffiths, p. 29)

It seems that every year there is an increase in the instances of vandalism and misguided behaviour during the summer months. Determining a sole reason for this is a bit of a fool's errand, but could this be attributed to nicer weather and longer nights? It's probably a contributing factor, but I would wager that August sees more of this behaviour than does May, a month with similar number of hours of daylight, and so there must be a better explanation. As the saying goes, idle hands are the devil's workshop.

Out of the fog, however, a solution that ties these things together arises: the Shawnigan Gathering is an opportunity for businesses to promote themselves to the community, which most would agree is a good thing. A greater presence of businesses in the community will provide jobs, which would be

great for young people who may have too much time on their hands. Young people investing their time and energy into the community are going to be less likely to damage the very places they rely upon for their employment. The community benefits, young people have opportunities for good jobs, there is a decrease in miscreant behaviour, and it is a win for the community at large.

With school just around the corner, and the weekend warriors returning to the rat-races north and south of here, things are going to quiet down pretty quickly. Yet there is always next summer, and the summer after that.

To better insulate ourselves from the challenges that will invariably come, promoting businesses and opportunities for the young and old in our community will reap benefits beyond what may seem to be immediate. Perhaps incorporation would allow us to divert our resources better into the promotion of businesses and community centres. It's certainly worth exploring.

The Galley Grill
@ Shawnigan Marina



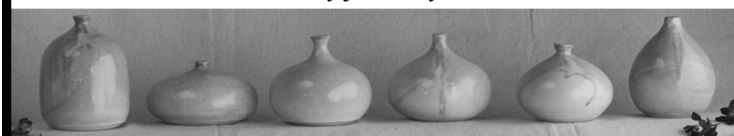
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cobblehillsundaymarket@gmail.com

Shawnigan Lake School Museum

EXPLORE the history of the School and the local community from the 1900s to the 1970s



SHAWNIGAN

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Malahat Legion

Malahat Legion
By GJ Solley

To start off, we would like to give BIG shout out to an amazing couple Vince and Isabelle Hammer and to our Treasurer Virginia Bauder, who has spent most of the summer dismantling and remodelling our kitchen.

We will be holding our grand re-opening on steak night, Friday, September 20th.

- ★ 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Happy Hour with selected beers for \$3.00
- ★ 5:00 pm
Steak BBQ – please reserve by the 18th
- ★ 7:00 – 11:00 PM
Turnip the beet Jammers
- ★ September 25th
Wednesday lunch restarts
- ★ September 28th
Saturday Meat Draw Menu restart

Did you know that you can rent the Legion Hall and you can also arrange food for your event with our Kitchen Staff? For more information, please call the Office at 250 743-4146 or email us at rcl134@shaw.ca

** Children are welcome to attend events as long as our kitchen is open.

Membership in the Legion is open to everyone 19 years and older. Membership forms are available from the Legion.

What’s Happening at the Malahat Legion:

Our meat draws continue every Saturday from 3:00-5:00 pm. All proceeds go directly into our gaming account to be distributed to various approved local charities who have requested help in writing.

Do you like to play pool or darts? There is league play on Mondays and Tuesdays and

open play at other times. The dart boards were replaced last year and our pool tables are going to be recovered and new bumpers installed over the weekend of September 7th & 8th Come and check us out.

Drop-in crib starts up on Wednesday, September 11th, at 7:00 pm and we are also looking into start up a drop-in euchre club. For more information contact Sharon at rcl134@shaw.ca

Back by popular demand. On Friday, September 27th we are holding a CASINO NIGHT fundraiser from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Bingo, Black Jack and Fun Wheels games. We will finish the evening with a fun live auction. Admission includes play money and a finger food buffet. \$20.00.

October will be the start of our Poppy, Memorial and Remembrance Day activities. Information will be posted on our Facebook Page and Website.



SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department members attended 25 incidents in AUGUST



- ★ Thursday, Aug 1 – Alarms Activated on Sylvester Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 1 - 1st Responder off Widows Walk
- ★ Friday, Aug 2 – MVI on Renfrew Rd @ Timber Ridge Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 3 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 4 – Burning Complaint on Stevenson Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 4 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 4 – Assistance off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan -Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 7 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 8 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 9 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd @ Owl Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 10 – Alarms Activated on Gregory Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 11 - 1st Responder off Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 11 – Alarms Activated on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 13 – Assistance off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 17 – MVI on Hawking Rd/ Strathcona Heights Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 18 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 20 - 1st Responder off McKean Rd
- ★ Thursday, Aug 22 – Burning Complaint on Dandelion Ln
- ★ Sunday, Aug 25 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 25 – Assistance off Burnham Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 25 – Structure Fire on Worthington Rd
- ★ Sunday, Aug 25 – Burning Complaint on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Aug 27 – Mutual Aid Alarms Activated w/Malahat Fire on Ebadora Ln

Shawnigan Weather AUGUST 2019
Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	23.6	25.7	26.8	25.0	26.0	24.8	25.6	24.7	25.5
Average Low	12.0	13.6	13.4	14.0	13.7	14.5	13.7	13.5	13.1
Extreme High	36.1	33.0	35.6	31.5	33.9	30.8	33.8	30.5	33.5
Extreme Low	3.3	10.3	11.1	10.5	10.1	11.2	11.4	10.0	10.5
Precipitation	27.9	35.9	2.2	23.6	8.2	17.5	9.0	26.1	6.6
Days w precip	6	8	4	7	4	4	4	9	4
Year Precip	682.8	531.2	598.6	459.1	578.6	424.3	538.0	507.6	623.8

Rank since 1914: 11th warmest, 43rd wettest

Lake Temperature:	August 4 th :23°	August 11 th : 23°	August 18 th : 22°	August 25 th : 22°
Lake Level Change:	August 4 th :-2.5cm	August 11 th :-2.5cm	August 18 th :-2.5cm	August 25 th :-2.5cm
Surface Elevation:	116.16m	116.13m	116.10m	116.08m

The “No Extreme Summer”

Summer 2019 brought cloudier and wetter times than the past few years in June, July & August.

Even though temperatures were warm (83 of 92 days were 20° or above), the mercury rose to 30° or higher only 5 times in the three months, peaking at 31° on July 26th. August was the warmest of the three months.

Rain came almost weekly, totalling 76.2 mm compared to the normal 91 mm for the three months). The longest dry stretch was 14 days from July 18-31.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cvrd.bc.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission(APC)** Meetings TBA
Contact: Bruce at jenniebruce1@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Meetings TBA. Held 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**
Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. General Meetings at 7pm
1st Tuesday of the month. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thursday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at
Mill Bay Community League Hall. southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)

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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
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Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for August is Bernie Lewis
who identified one of three signs
welcoming visitors to Shawnigan Lake.
They have all been recently updated by the
Shawnigan Residents Association. This
one is on Shawnigan Lake Road near the
intersection with Thain Road.

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Something fishy

Bennit Mueller
Avid Fisherman

The other day I found myself fishing off one of the countless docks along the Shawnigan lakefront. This time I used a blank hook with a piece of a arbutus leaf. I was trying to make a point.

After moving to the island, I soon learned that some lakes around southern Vancouver Island are struggling from introduced per- ciforms like smallmouth or largemouth bass or yellow perch as they are lacking predation from both other fish and humans. Lake fish have as close to zero importance for salmon and halibut-spoiled islanders and its seemingly tasteless nature is matched with enduring concerns of elevated mercury content. While I would confirm the ‘delicate’ nature of the fish, the mercury levels fall within those of other fin fish like skipjack or albacore tuna. Alarming mercury levels in

bass is often limited to specific lakes in BC affected by pollution.

The truth is that smallmouth and other bass are taking over the waters where once crayfish and salmonids like cutthroats Dolly Varden or Kokanee used to thrive. It has been a well-documented effect in other countries where bass was introduced as a sport-fishing species and some go as far as saying smallmouth bass is the “*world’s most disastrous invasive species*”.

So what can be done? For the time being the numbers of trout will have to be subsidized.

Shawnigan Lake is stalked with sterile catchable fish, however as anglers, we can also pull our weight (pun) and start targeting these more invasive species, like bass. It is a great fish to introduce young anglers to the discipline as it does not require much to catch one – sometimes only a hook with a leaf on it.



Thank you to all of the volunteers, artisans, dancers and vintage car owners who supported the 7th Annual Heritage Fair and Picnic, sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Museum. This annual event is a wonderful ‘slow’, no-tech event reminiscent of the past. A special thank you to Dave Pollock for arranging the cars. Thanks as well to Mason’s Store for providing an incredible picnic basket that was won by a very happy participant. Hope to see you all next year! Pack a picnic, and join us for this fun, free, family event – on the second Sunday of August.



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