



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Ten - Issue Eight

August 2019

A Non-Profit Community Publication

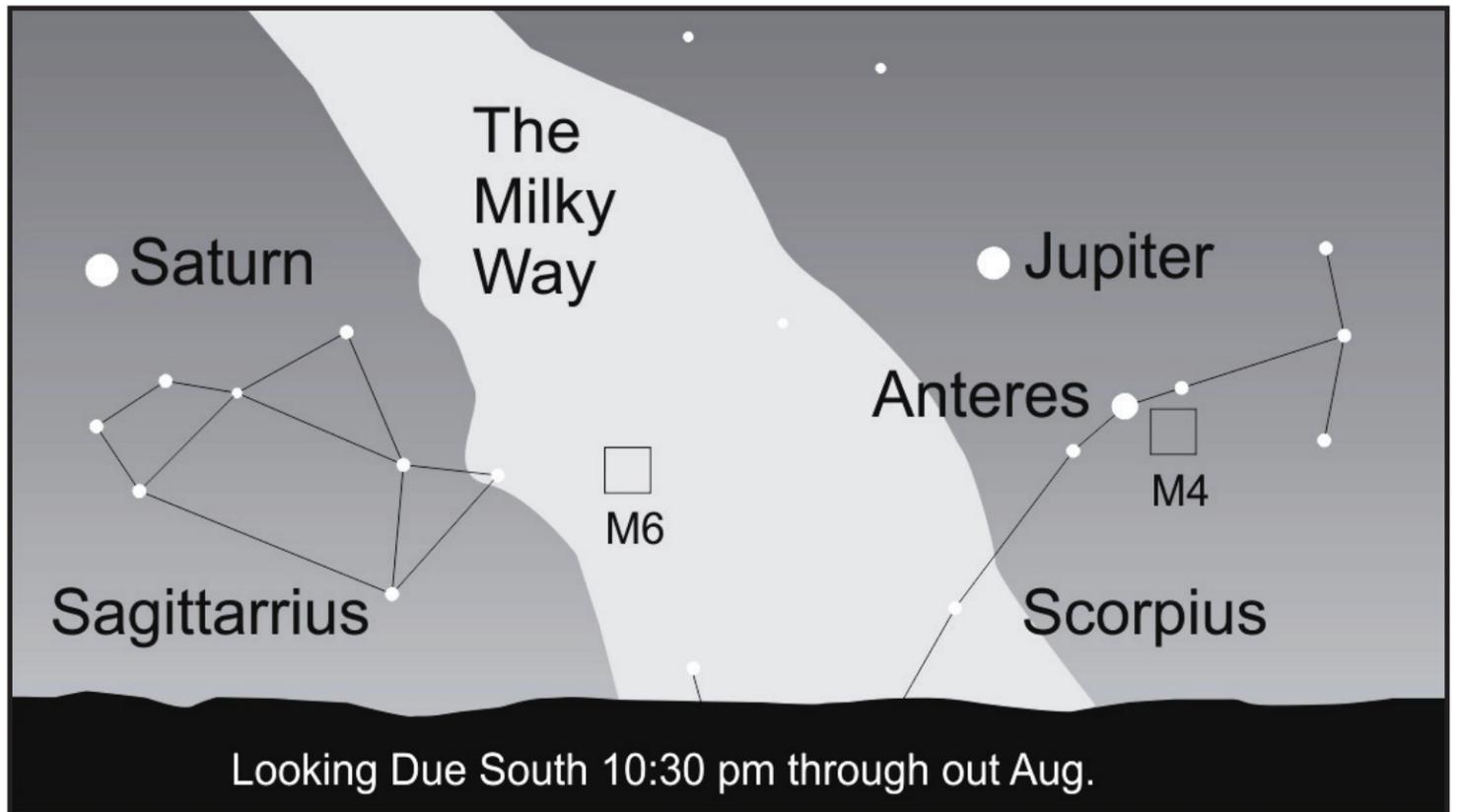
## SHAWNIGAN STARGAZER

Colin Frostad  
Shawnigan Focus

### August: Scorpius "The Scorpion"

This month we will tackle one of my favourite constellations, Scorpius "The Scorpion". You have seen Scorpius many times in past issues of the Stargazer because Jupiter and Saturn have been slowly moving through the constellation; however, we have yet to look at it in detail. Similar to Orion and Ursa Major, Scorpius actually looks like the mythological character for which it is named, with the three prominent stars Graffias, Dschubba and  $\pi$  Scorpii making up its right claw. The brightest star, Antares, represents the Scorpions head, and the deadly tail consists of a series of stars gently arcing towards the horizon. Orion and Scorpius are intimately linked in mythology.

Orion "The Hunter" boasted that he could kill any animal in the world. In response, Gaia released the Scorpion to slay the great hunter, which it did. To this day Orion the Hunter is constantly running away from the Scorpion; however, out of respect to Orion, the two constellations were placed at opposite sides of the night sky. Orion is the promi-



nent winter constellation in the southern sky; Scorpius is the dominant summer constellation in the night sky.

With the naked eye the brightest star, Antares, is easily spotted and noticeably red in colour (Antares means "rival of Mars", due to its colour).

As discussed in previous Stargazers, stars that are visibly red are massive cool stars. Antares is particularly large with a diameter over

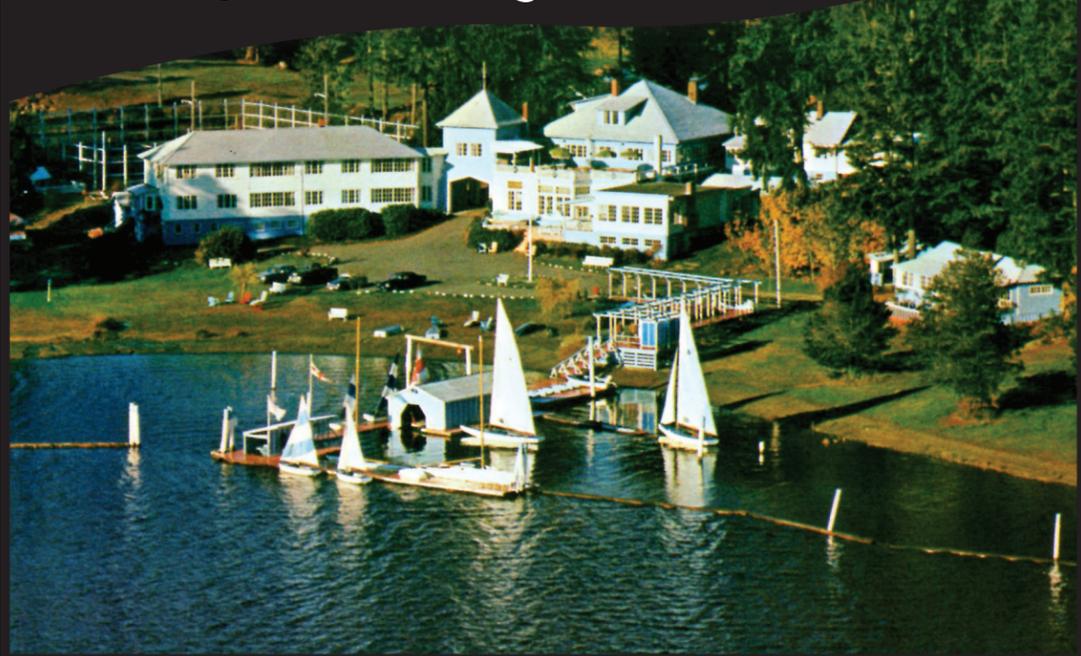
600x that of our Sun. If it were placed at the centre of our solar system, in place of our Sun, its surface would lie somewhere between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, engulfing all of the inner rocky planets.

Since Scorpius is in line with the core of the Milky Way there are plenty of objects to view within its borders, especially Globular Clusters. Globular Clusters are tight bunches of stars genetically

related to each other. Cluster M4 is very easy to find as it sits right beside Antares and, if you have a wide enough field of view with your telescope, both can be viewed at the same time. Another pleasing cluster is M6, or the "the Butterfly Cluster". A little harder to locate than M4, it lies halfway between Scorpius and neighbouring Sagittarius. You will need a large aperture telescope to view those objects.

Planets and the Moon: August will be a fantastic month to view both Jupiter and Saturn, with Jupiter located right beside Scorpius, and Saturn on the other side of Sagittarius (see star chart). Both planets will be visible throughout the night all month long. With the full moon on August 15th, try to get your scopes out either early or late in the month to get the darkest skies for best viewing of the two giants of our solar system.

## Shawnigan Memory



*Shawnigan Lake Country Club...I have many fond memories of the Country Club. There was the bar that served 'Shirley Temples' (we were minors) and the doughnut-shaped pool and learning to sail in Lasers on the Lake. I remember moonlit cruises at night down to Memory Island, swimming, a par 3 mini golf course, tennis courts, volleyball, the first sauna I ever saw, a big dance floor, the drive-through entranceway and a million games of shuffleboard. Kait Martin*

## Changes in the Village...



Congratulations to Patty and John Oldfield on your retirement...the Chip Guy and the Village Chippery will retire with them. Patty and John have been generous community supporters, in every way, for the last 10 years and will be sorely missed. Wishing you a wonderful and well-earned break but hope that you will continue to be involved in the Shawnigan community.

Congratulations to Martine for the sale of Shawnigan House Coffee and Chocolate. You have built a very successful business over the past 'almost 7 years' and it has become the 'hub' of the village. We wish you well in your new endeavours!

# tick, tock, tick, tock. milfoil at your dock?

be  
informed...  
join  
theSRA.ca

## Frequently asked questions.

### When was milfoil first noticed as being in Shawnigan Lake?

In the late 1970's.

### Why are we seeing milfoil in the lake now even though it's been here for decades?

It may be the result of human introduced nutrients from erosion (forestry, soil dumping, etc.), leaking septic infrastructure, livestock and the application of fertilizer to ornamental planting (e.g. grass, flowers, shrubbery etc.), agricultural fields or pastures.

### Can we get rid of milfoil forever?

No, but there are ways that we can safely manage it without tipping the ecological balance of Shawnigan Lake.

### What can we do to manage and control the spread of milfoil at your waterfront?

1. Be informed.
2. Physical removal. Follow proper removal procedures collecting all fragmented parts. **Fragmented parts will propagate!**
3. Don't operate boats in shallow water.

### What do I need to know to remove milfoil?

It is important to remove as much of the root as possible. This is only possible by diving the site. **Raking the milfoil from a dock will only break the milfoil and cause it to spread.** It's advised to work with professional divers to remove the milfoil.

### How does milfoil spread?

When milfoil is in bloom it becomes fragile and the tips easily break. These fragments, if not captured and removed, will propagate in other parts of the lake.

### Why can milfoil only be pulled after June 15?

To protect the fish habitat.

### How are residents removing milfoil?

Many are hiring the services of Storm Coast Dive Services to professionally harvest, collect all fragments and properly dispose of the milfoil away from the lake.

### Do I have to use professional divers?

No. You can remove milfoil yourself.

### How do I pull the milfoil myself?

It's recommended that you watch the video at [www.theSRA.ca](http://www.theSRA.ca) -> about -> milfoil to learn what is involved. Removal requires you to dive within the affected area, get your hands underneath the root of the plant and bring the milfoil to the surface.

### Is there a special tool that I can use to remove the milfoil?

No. Hand-pulling only.

### My neighbours are using other methods. Why can't I do what they are doing to remove the milfoil?

Any method to remove milfoil requires a permit. The only approved method at this time is hand-pulling.

### How can I get a permit?

Removal of milfoil requires a permit. The SRA have been given permission from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and Rural Development to pull milfoil. This permission extends to SRA members for pulling of milfoil only.

### Why do we have to hand-pull milfoil?

Think of milfoil like the invasive broom weed. If you pull milfoil ineffectively it will spread. Like broom, milfoil will spread to neighbouring properties if all the fragments are not removed from the lake during the hand-pulling process. If everyone removed milfoil with care ensuring all fragments are collected, as a community, we could make headway towards minimizing the impact of milfoil in the lake.

### Where can I get copies of the tick, tock flyer along with the map of Shawnigan Lake?

Copies can be found at the Museum, Shawnigan Lake Gas Station, West Coast Vintage, Shawnigan Lake Coffee House, Victoria Ski Club and at the Kinsol Cafe or by contacting the SRA.

### Why is it important to have a SRA membership?

Together, we draw strength as a community with a strong voice that allows us to make our issues known to governments, public and private bodies which impacts our ability as a community to influence decisions that effect Shawnigan Lake.

### How can I become a SRA member?

The SRA has a new membership system that allows you to manage your membership on-line and update your information. The new site will easily navigate you through your membership sign-up. Please join.

### What can I do to support the SRA?

Collectively, we can make a difference.



Instagram

follow + like us @  
shawniganresidentsassociation

Facebook

share + like us  
@shawniganresidents

Get involved.

ShawniganResidentsAssociation@  
gmail.com

Storm Coast Dive Services

t. 250.732.4061  
e. storm.coast.ds@gmail.com

## Shawnigan Focus

# Broombusters at work



A small but keen crew worked with Broombusters on the Kinsol trail near the Glen Eagles parking lot and we made significant progress.

Although late in the season several sections of broom were eliminated and hopefully will not show up again next summer. We want to thank Wendy Macpherson who was our lead on this project from Broombusters for coaching us on the best practices.

Next spring we will be organizing several opportunities to help us rid Shawnigan Lake area of broom. It is amazing what a small group can accomplish using the techniques from Broombusters who have had an excellent success rate of assisting groups eliminate broom from North Cowichan to Campbell River.

Watch for the Focus for the opportunities next spring.

For more information on the work that Broombusters does and how they are so successful please visit the website below

[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org). There is also a very good video at:  
[www.broombusters.org/how-to-cut-broom](http://www.broombusters.org/how-to-cut-broom).

## Upcoming Events:

### Community Town Hall Meeting

Regarding the SIA Closure Plan

**Thursday, August 8th at 7 PM**

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

### 7th Annual Heritage Fair and Family Picnic

Pack a picnic and bring the family

**Sunday, August 11th from 10:30-2:30**

Elsie Miles Park. Fun, Free Family event

Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Museum

### St. John's Anglican Church 35th Annual September Festival

**Saturday, September 21st**

St. John's Anglican Church,

3295 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill from 10am to 2pm.

The gigantic yard sale offers an embarrassment of riches for sale and many activities to enjoy.

Funds raised will support St. John's Anglican Church and other projects.

Help us Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at this Zero Waste Event.

Credit/Debit cards accepted.

phone 250-743-3095, email [stjohns.church@shaw.ca](mailto:stjohns.church@shaw.ca)

[www.stjohnscobblehill.ca](http://www.stjohnscobblehill.ca)

## South Cowichan Library

### Summer Reading Club is in full swing!

Self-directed activities are available every day with weekly changes between Straws & Connectors, puppets, and Gears! Gears! Gears!

### LEGO® Challenge:

Saturday, August 10, 1-2pm  
We're putting out all our LEGO and issuing challenges.  
Come prepared to build!

### Musical Storytime:

Monday, August 12, 2-3pm  
Come join us for a fun-filled storytime with rhymes, raps, silly songs, dances, and an action-packed musical roam around the library. Bring your energy! Musical instruments are provided and

we'll finish with a short craft activity. Ages 0-6.

### "Imagine the Impossibilities!"

Magic Show with Magician Leif David: Thursday, Aug 22, 10:30-11:15am  
Step into a world of imagination where the impossible is possible. Watch as drawings come to life, pictures leap off the page from popular children's books, and toys misbehave with hilarious surprises. This action-packed family magic show features magic, comedy, music, and a lot of audience participation. 45 minutes and free!

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

# Shawnigan Residents Association

**Thomas Lupton**  
SRA

Summer is my favorite season. It is our reward after a wet autumn, a cold winter, and an uncommitted spring. With summer comes long days of hot weather, ice cream in the village, beautiful sunsets and, for my family, a visit to Vancouver. Vancouver is a great city with some of my best friends living there, but one of the parts of Vancouver that I like the best is when I leave and come home to Shawnigan Lake. I can barely contain my excitement when I get off the ferry and even more so when I turn onto one of the rural highways that leads to our slice of paradise.

I know I'm not the only one. Other disparate groups of people seem to enjoy our lake. For instance, those who operate old quarries and who like to put people's drinking water at risk really like Shawnigan Lake and our lack of regulations. Day trippers love Shawnigan. They come up with their massive boats

and flood the wholly inadequate government docks and surrounding roads with their trucks and trailers. It sure makes for fun driving as kids and dogs seem to dart out of nowhere as they make their way to the lake! Even those from elsewhere who simply want to come and swim in the beautiful waters of Shawnigan Lake make our streets busier and in the process contribute to the degradation of the roads, especially those near Mason's and around the railroad tracks. And boy, do we all want to get to that lake, and get there fast. I mean really fast! I mean, breaking-the-law and putting lives in danger fast.

Who can blame these people for wanting to make a quick buck by dumping soil, or rushing to the lake to enjoy our natural beauty (the deep irony of these two competing activities is patently obvious)? If I lived in a big city in the summer I would want to get to Shawnigan Lake or somewhere like it as quickly and often as possible, so the driv-

ing motivation for our guests is well understood.

The problem is that it is the local population that pays the price. After the boats are gone, the milfoil will remain. After the drivers have left, the potholes still lurk. After the dump is capped, the toxins will still leach. And when the day-trippers go home, they leave with the same reckless speed that they arrived in. And so we are left with proverbial bills to pay and a lake to restore and much of it is from the actions of others.

Our current recourse is to rant on Facebook, gripe at the coffee shop, pen mediocre articles for local newspapers, or petition governmental organizations that seem to pay little heed to our plight.

Or we can explore incorporation to see if it's feasible, and if it is, we can start better protecting this little gem of ours so that when the seasons change the sanctity of our community doesn't change with them.

## Shawnigan Quilters

**Elaine Scott**  
Shawnigan Quilters

The Shawnigan Quilters is a group of just over one dozen dedicated women ranging in age from early 60's to early 90's. These quilters have been keeping the traditional craft of hand quilting in the Cowichan Valley alive for the past 35 years.

The quilters provide a valuable service to the community through the donation of quilts to a variety of nonprofit organizations in the area including Somenos House, Abbeyfield House, Ronald MacDonald House, Victoria Hospice, Sorrento Retreat, Clements Centre and Cairnsmore. Quilts are also completed for family and friends.

The Shawnigan Quilters hand quilt a range of quilt sizes from baby crib quilts to large king bed quilts. Hand quilting requires that a quilt be stretched over a frame thereby allowing the quilters to hand quilt around the quilt. King size quilts require their frame boards to be ten feet in length. At any one time the quilters could have as many as three quilts in progress, thus requiring a large area for the set-up of frames. One quilt can take



up to three months to complete by hand.

The Shawnigan Quilters meet each Wednesday throughout the year from 9am to 2pm at the Lions Club hall (formerly the Sylvania School) on the corner of Mill Bay-Shawnigan Lake Road and Cameron-Taggart Road.

Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to visit us on a Wednesday to see us in action. We intersperse the quilting with lively discussions on new projects over tea, coffee and our picnic lunches. Fabrics, colour

combinations, new designs and quilting techniques are subjects for lively discussions.

By keeping this traditional art alive in the Cowichan Valley, the quilters contribute to the rich culture of this unique area.

For more information contact Elaine Scott at [TheScottRogers@aol.com](mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com) or visit our Face Book page at "Shawnigan Quilters".

Look for the Shawnigan Quilters, who will be demonstrating their craft, at the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society's Heritage Fair on August 11th, from 10:30-2:30 in Elsie Miles Park.

## SHAWNIGAN NOVICE WATER SKI TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY VICTORIA AQUA SKI CLUB  
@ Shawnigan Lake - August 10 & 11

### 3 EVENTS

**Slalom \* Trick \* Jumping**

\*\*\* MONEY JUMP \*\*\*

Saturday (Aug 10) 7:00 to 4:00

Sunday (Aug 11) 7:00 to 2:00

### AWARDS TO FOLLOW

Competition Registration \* \$35 for one Event  
(\$5 for each additional Event)

\* WSWBC Registration | Membership - REQUIRED \*  
(\$40 for Water Ski Wakeboard BC Registration | Membership)

Competitors please register Friday evening (Aug 9) from 6  
(or online @ <http://wswbc.typeform.com/to/Pahd1D>)

**EVERYONE WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION**  
2586 Lavinia Road

(off Munsie Road - limited parking)

**CONCESSION \* SILENT AUCTION \* CLOTHING SALES**



# 110th Cobble Hill FAIR



Saturday

August 24

7:30 am to 5 pm

*Celebrating Our Past...  
Cultivating Our Future*

Rotary's Legendary Pancake Breakfast  
Hall Displays ~ Vendor Village  
4-H Horseshow ~ Parade of Champions  
Live Entertainment ~ Fish Pond  
Livestock Displays ~ Vintage Farm Equipment  
Bike Decorating ~ 4-H Shows & Judging  
Sheep Dog Trials ~ Crane's Eye View  
Wide Variety of Food Vendors  
'KIDS ZONE'  
and so much more!

*Family Fun For Everyone!*



[www.cobblehillfair.ca](http://www.cobblehillfair.ca)

## Book Review

**Marcy Green**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

**Mrs. Everything**  
by Jennifer Weiner  
Published by Atria Books  
Copyright 2019

I thought this would just be an enjoyable and easy summer read. To my surprise and delight I discovered a powerful history of women from the prescribed life of the 50's through the social upheavals of the 60's to the #MeToo movement of the 2000's. Being the same age as the two main characters, I recognized and related to all of the changing times. From Civil Rights to Woodstock to Viet Nam to the Women's Movement, it's all there and showcased very well

This is a novel about two sisters of Jewish descent, born in Detroit after the war, who grew up in a "Leave it to Beaver" family, where the mother wore starched aprons and raised her girls to be pretty and attentive to men's

needs. The father was kind and strong, a good male role model, but taken by tragedy too soon. As Bethie and Jo move through the decades, we see how the changing culture impacted their lives as they, too, adapted and grew, although not at all in the ways they planned or might have expected.

Issues of racism, sexuality, abuse and failed career aspirations are threaded through the narrative. And we learn how, as the sisters lived through joyful and tragic times, they still managed to somehow reach out to each other, even though there were painful separations and differences.

"You lose sight of who you are, or who you want to be, and then you remember, and if you're lucky, you have sisters or friends who remind you when you forget your best intentions. You come back to yourself, again and again."

This is a book people my age will enjoy as it elicits

many memories. I would also recommend it for a younger generation who may not be aware of how different (and sometimes the same) the struggles for women have been.

It's no coincidence that the author named her characters after the classic, "Little Women" with its enduring themes of love and family. Jo and Bethie are flawed and human and their lives, like those of the originals, are very relatable.

The novel's dedication is to Weiner's mother and apparently is based on her life and times. In the acknowledgments in the end, she says, "I hope I got it right, Mom". That made me cry. Because she did. Oh, yes, she did.

Recommended for those who love history, have lived through it and for those who want to understand what "We've come a long way, Baby" really means.

**Rating: 5/5 stars**

## Walk Talk

**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Isn't it fascinating when you have a cogitation about something and then suddenly that very same thing appears everywhere?

Perhaps it's due to the struggle to protect our old growth trees, or maybe because it's summer and we are all getting out more. Since a recent visit to Port Renfrew, I've thought of writing about Big Lonely Doug and the Fairy Lake Nature Trail.

Fairy Lake Nature Trail, until coming across it by happenstance online, was unknown to me. I think it is safe to say most are familiar with the notable tree on a protruding log (fairy lake bonsai tree), however the trail is not where you would expect it (campground), but rather down the road a wee bit, and over the bridge. Use your childhood I-spy techniques to watch for an almost hidden sign on the left revealing the entrance.

The trail is lovely with some sections that have been well reclaimed by nature. Nonetheless it is still doable and quite adorable. For about 30 minutes you are led through thick ferns, tall protective Douglas Fir and abundant fungi meandering over and under fallen trees, and eventu-



ally to a creek bed. During our visit it was void of water but must fill up with a great amount at some point judging by the full grown trees strewn about. Apparently, there is a link to the campground and lake; however we didn't want to run the risk of stumbling onto someone's campsite as the connection is not visibly evident and instead chose to walk up the dried creek bed to the bridge and back to the car.

Next adventure for the day was to stop and say hello to Big Lonely Doug. We have visited (and written) about the Avatar Grove in the past but if you haven't had the pleasure, we encourage you to check it out as it is quite magical.

After passing the grove there will be a right turn that leads you to Big Lonely Doug. He

is the one of the largest firs in the country with his very own fan page. Standing at about 70 meters tall and 4 meters wide, he symbolizes just how mankind can help to make a difference and save these ancient giants. Many of us are so very thankful to Mr. Cronin, the logger who made it possible to sit in the shadows of the thousand year old Doug when he refused to allow the tree to be cut. Since 2011, Doug has been an icon of the efforts in saving our diminishing old growth.

Thinking of a Sunday drive? Maybe add Big Doug (and Avatar Grove) along with the Fairy Lake Trail to your summer to-do list before the season ends!

Check out the photos from this hike and more The Om Tree page on Facebook.

**TO OUR FRIENDS IN SHAWNIGAN & BEYOND**

*It is time to hang up our hats and say Goodbye! Thank-You, for allowing us to 'Live the Dream' ... for 10 Great Years!*

**Patty, John and the Village Chippery Crew**

Lets meet again & share @  
**The Heritage Fair on August 11 & The Gathering on September 21**

**THE CLAY HUB COLLECTIVE**  
*Pottery for Everyone!*

We offer a wide variety of pottery workshops and classes for ages 5+. Find out more at:  
[www.theclayhubcollective.com](http://www.theclayhubcollective.com)

**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](mailto:rhoda.taylor@viha.ca)  
FACEBOOK : **Healthy Beginnings Cowichan**

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[emily.black@rbc.com](mailto:emily.black@rbc.com)

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\* We will pay the basic title insurance fee (not including migration fee), appraisals/property valuation fee and one discharge/switch out fee at another financial institution (up to \$300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance \$50,000. \*Savings based on \$100,000 secured line of credit with interest being paid over 10 years comparing a 3.5% annual interest rate to a 4.0% annual interest rate. The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. Rate is effective as of September 20, 2011. Personal lending products and residential mortgages are provided by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. © / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. 39106 (09/2011)

## Director's Report, Area B Director



**Sierra Acton**  
Area Director,

Think Shawnigan Gathering comes together to celebrate COMMUNITY!

**“Love it! Share it! Protect it!”**

In Shawnigan Lake we are very conscious of the future we want to create. We don't believe in just “letting things happen”. We create our opportunities and reach for our goals. From October 17th to

October 19th the Shawnigan Lake Community will be involved in an Intensive Design and Planning process for the future look and feel of the Shawnigan Village. During this process we will look at the area from Government Wharf Park to Mason's Beach, and from Bellendean Road in the west, along Renfrew and Hipwood Road and Wallbank Road to the east and Thrush Road to the south. This area was chosen because the community has expressed a desire

to see our village developed thoughtfully and with the community's needs in mind.

This intensive process will also develop detailed three dimensional drawings that will be grant and project ready. It is expected that some of the challenges tackled will be: mobility improvements, level of desired development, amount of future retail space, amount of future commercial space, and a more detailed assessment of housing needs. These design guidelines will aid future development decision making and provide clear design directions for the streets, public areas, and other improvements. More event details: <http://www.ilove-shawnigan.com/events.html>

In September the past, present and future come together to celebrate. The Think Shawnigan Gathering is all things Shawnigan under one roof at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. You can sample and experience all the

Community has to offer from its businesses, groups, performers, artisans, services and associations. We will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Community Centre itself and commemorating the anniversary by unveiling a brand-new Boulderling Wall! This is your chance to be one the first to try it out! Free admission to the community and did I mention, free birthday cake!!! The Gathering will also be an opportunity to introduce and highlight many of the assets of our amazing community to the Design

Team of the Think Shawnigan Intensive; throughout the day artists will be sketching community ideas. Come share your ideas and celebrate all that is Shawnigan.

Think Shawnigan Gathering When: September 21st Where: The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Time: 9:30-2:30 [thinkshawnigan@gmail.com](mailto:thinkshawnigan@gmail.com) to reserve a table or offer entertainment.

[Sierra.Acton@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:Sierra.Acton@cverd.bc.ca) (250) 715-6763 call/text [iloveshawnigan.com](http://iloveshawnigan.com)

## Permaculture Programs in the Cowichan Valley

**Blake Wilson**  
Ecovillage

A principle of permaculture is to “obtain a yield,” so in permaculture we are looking to the future. What is our reward, how can it benefit us, and others? OUR Ecovillage has always been an intergenerational, intercultural and interfaith Regenerative Living Demonstration Site and Education Centre, as demonstrated from June 28th to July 14th, when world travelers came, aged 4 to 63, to join OUR Permie Camp and the Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) course.

OUR Permie Camp is an educational immersion program for children/youth, where they discover the possibilities of what living and learning together in community can offer them, and how they can use these principles to live in harmony with the world they will inherit. In mud

and with laughter, each day was filled with learning. Their experience was evidence-based education in action. Exploring food forests, baking bread, then onto working with their parents in the PDC program. In this comprehensive instructive event, participants looked inward/outward to local/global, and to the prospects of integrative living and a healthy, thriving planet.

The PDC was truly a global opportunity. From dawn to dusk, time was spent “in class” with Starhawk and Charles Williams (two leaders of the permaculture design field), followed by helping in the kitchen (serving 100 with a diverse diet!), and keeping spaces liveable for everyone. The PDC program course covers many subjects providing a holistic overview of permaculture/ecological pattern systems and sustainable living, culminating with a design activity, pushing the edges of

teamwork. The projects were created by participants to repay the South Cowichan community by doing group work with Discovery Elementary School and Mill Bay Nature School with environmental mapping examples that are both scientific and artistic.

September 13th-15th OUR Ecovillage will host the “West-coast (+ North America) Communities Conference: Restoring Our Cultural Commons”. We welcome the world to the fantastic landscape that we share in Shawnigan Lake. Participants will celebrate the diverse communities that exist, expand the potential of inclusiveness, and explore community models designed to impact social change. More information can be found here:

[ourecovillage.org/5th-annual-west-coast-communities-conference/](http://ourecovillage.org/5th-annual-west-coast-communities-conference/)

## Shawnigan Weather JULY 2019

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	23.3	24.5	28.4	23.0	27.5	23.6	27.5	23.6	27.0
Average Low	12.0	12.7	13.5	13.1	14.0	14.1	14.4	13.0	13.3
Extreme High	37.2	31.2	34.6	29.0	33.2	28.7	33.4	31.0	32.5
Extreme Low	3.9	9.3	8.4	10.0	8.9	11.1	9.9	9.5	9.0
Precipitation	23.2	26.4	1.5	25.1	0.5	17.3	0.8	26.2	1.8
Days w precip	6	6	1	6	1	6	1	9	2
Year Precip	654.9	495.3	596.4	435.5	570.4	406.8	529.0	481.5	617.2

Rank since 1914: 24<sup>th</sup> warmest, 36<sup>th</sup> wettest

Lake Temperature: July 7<sup>th</sup>:21° July 14<sup>th</sup>:23° July 21<sup>st</sup>:21° July 28<sup>th</sup>:21°  
 Lake Level Change: July 7<sup>th</sup>:-1cm July 14<sup>th</sup>:-1cm July 21<sup>st</sup>:-2.5cm July 28<sup>th</sup>:-4cm  
 Surface Elevation: 116.26m 116.24m 116.22m 116.18m

July seemed to be “different” from the past few years. The main difference was it was cloudier and windier than normal. Numerous days started off sunny then turned cloudy, then turned sunny again by evening. The lake temperature was also lower than most years, due to less sun.

## Cobble Hill Sunday Market

Sundays 10-2 Cobble Hill  
June 2 - September 15 Community Hall

[cobblehillsundaymarket](https://www.facebook.com/cobblehillsundaymarket)   
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## SHAWNIGAN LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*A Night at the Lake With EJ Hughes & Friends*



### A BIG THANKS to the following Special Guests, Donors and Volunteers:

Robert Amos Patricia Martin Bates David Goatley Richard Shaw Russell Treloar Judy McNish Cadorette Kristine Paton Tracey Otto Chrystal Phan Eve Daniell 328 Taphouse Grill Amanda Kiezebrink Sandra Nixon - Avon Cobble Hill Taxi Compass Mexican Bistro Crown Isle Golf Esthetics by Lois Excellent Frameworks Holiday Inn Express & Suites —Victoria-Colwood Jolene Esthetics Kristine Paton Lighthouse Brewery Oma's Bakery Dogwood Bling SLHS Board of Directors Marilee Pearson	Sarah's Soap Garden Scoops Shawnigan House —Coffee & Chocolates Shawnigan School Shawnigan Subway Angie Ross - That's My Jam Thrifty Foods Village Chippery Vintage Barn Netta Bos Virginia Bauder Westcoast Vintage Janice Jacob Linda Gudgeon John & Brenda Krug Roz Dorge Loni Wium Taryn Treloar Alison Adamson Sheila Warneken Sara Blair Veronica Brown Nikki Klein Phoebe from SLS Ben from SLS
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## 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 18 incidents in AUGUST*



- ★ Thursday, July 4 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 5 – Assistance on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 6 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 7 – MVI at Shawnigan Lake & Northgate Rds
- ★ Monday, July 8 – MVI on McKernan Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 10 - 1st Responder off Gibbs Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 10 – Hydro Lines on Baron Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 10 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 14 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 15 – MVI at Shawnigan Lake & Northgate Rds
- ★ Monday, July 15 – Burning Complaint on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, July 19 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, July 19 – Burning Complaint on Forsyth Ln
- ★ Sunday, July 21 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 21 – MVI on Ingot Dr
- ★ Monday, July 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 25 – Assistance off W Shawnigan Lake Rd

## Cats...and dogs, at Shawnigan Lake School

**Romy Dolman and Jon Zacks**  
 Shawnigan Lake School

The grounds at Shawnigan have long been home to feral cats.

For many years, this sorry-looking lot survived by catching vermin and getting their paws on the occasional kitchen scraps.

In 1995, the School established a caretaking program which is still in existence to this day - 365 days a year, volunteer staff members feed them. In addition, we live-trap and take them to our good friends at Cobble Hill Animal Hospital where they get a check-up, spaying or neutering, and preventative shots. The adults are then brought back to campus, kept in 'hospital' for a couple of days, and then released to join their friends. Kittens, mean-

while, are adopted through either the vet or Cowichan Cat Rescue.

Sometimes, it seems that every time we have caught up on spaying and neutering, a pregnant female will wander in and return us to the beginning of the cycle. Sadly, cats and kittens have also been rescued from bags thrown in our lake.

We now have two colonies – both in very good shape. Because their mothers have access to healthy food, the kittens are born healthy and make great adoptive pets, as almost every Shawnigan staff member will testify!

We do worry about our colonies, and do our best to protect them. Almost every cat on campus has a name, and all have distinct personalities. Of course, we are aware that these are wild animals



that will suffer predations and accidents, though of late, we have had three cats killed and several more injured by dogs running loose.

Shawnigan has always been an open campus and we welcome walkers – with or without dogs. We do, how-

ever, ask guests to respect our property and keep all dogs on a leash.

PLEASE keep your dogs on leashes and help us protect our 'Rodent Patrol.' These kitties are not just working members of staff, they are our friends.



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 ~Les Brown**

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Office hours by appointment. Email [sacton@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:sacton@cverd.bc.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA  
Contact: Bruce at [jenniebruce1@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Office hours:  
Tues., Thurs., Sat. 10-4 Contact: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [blogysag.ca](http://blogysag.ca) - email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Wednesday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)  
[www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com)
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**  
Contact: 250-929-7222 - [www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**  
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: [Gloria\\_gsolley@shaw.ca](mailto:Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca)
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at  
Mill Bay Community League Hall. [southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com](mailto:southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)

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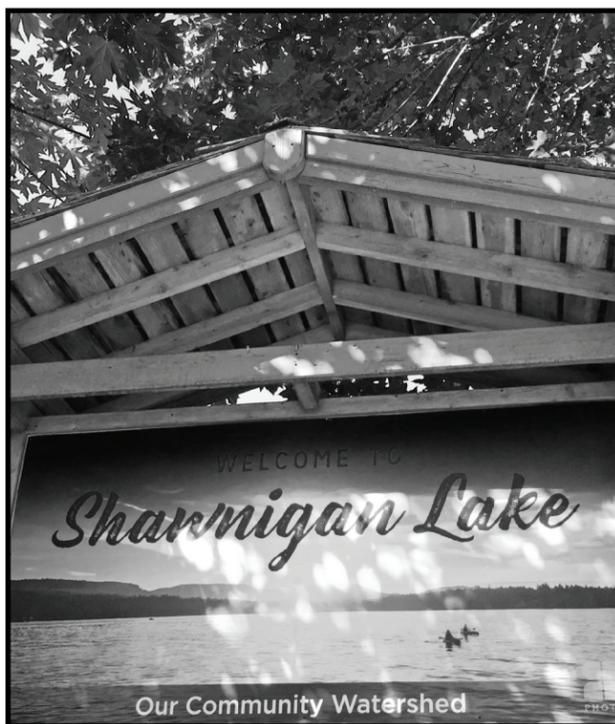
#### CHILDCARE

#### EMPLOYMENT

#### AUTOMOTIVE

#### LOST - FOUND

## 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](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)

## CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for July is Amy Clintonbaker who recognized the map on the dock wall of the Read Crew House at Shawnigan Lake School. The map shows the rowing routes of Shawnigan Lake.

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# Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company



### Kendalle Freeman, Summer Student Shawnigan Lake Museum

The Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company began a simple start in the late 1880's. This meant the company went into production just before the boom on the Prairies. William Lossee was the founder of this company and the site he chose for the saw mill made it so that it was dependent on railway access. His reasoning for this was that the property was inexpensive, it was available, and it was next to good timber. The site was also centrally located as the railway gave access to all of the major markets as well as four different export facilities. Lossee had a lease for all the timber that was a mile back from the shoreline.

He soon sold his interest in the company to William Munsie and Theophilus Elford. Munsie and Elford developed the enterprise into a firm of significance and distinction. Later, their sons, William Munsie Jr., Frank Elford and Ray Elford, ran the saw mill.

Forestry developed slowly until the 1890's but by the turn of the century it was the leading industry in the province. The very first sawmill of North America started in 1611 and the first one in Canada was in 1646. By 1889, 33 sawmills were in business with 6 of them on Vancouver Island.

What affected the Shawnigan Lake mill and logging operations also affected the Shawnigan Lake community

as the mill was a big factor in the establishment of the community. Many of the men on the lumber crew became the first settlers on the lake. If the industry left it would have had a huge impact on the community.

The Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company was most successful in the area of technological innovation. The company waited until difficult logging conditions forced them into adopting the new techniques. This meant that most improvements happened to the already existing equipment and methods. The saw mill went from circular head saws to band saws and they went from oxen to steam power to electric power. Originally trees were cut down by axes, wedges, long crosscut saws, and springboards until power saws came along. At the start of the company the logs were hauled on skid roads using oxen or horses. Then donkey engines (steam engine) replaced the oxen. Donkey engines allowed the loggers to cover new area while logging at a greater speed. To get the logs off the rails and to the mill the loggers would dump the logs into the lake and have them towed by boat.

By 1914 the company experimented with high lead logging. This made it possible to transport logs over rough terrain. Shawnigan Lake was the first to attempt the high lead logging method. The decade 1921-1931 was the last prosperous decade of the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company as it had started to

become financially weaker due to the Great Depression. There was also climate disaster during this time as there hadn't been much rainfall. Another blow to the mill were the three fires it had with the last one completely destroying it.

The saw mill did get rebuilt in 1936 with the cost being just over \$12,000. After the rebuild four different operators were unable to get the company into a profitable production. William Munsie Jr. ended up selling his shares to Christopher Boyd who started operations again but he was also unsuccessful in reviving the company. Boyd sold to a partnership of E.L. Robson, Fred Price, and Grant Hawthorne. Soon after though, the H.R. MacMillan Export Company had bought it from that partnership. By the time this company had bought the mill, though, it was falling apart and the logging equipment was reaching a point where it wasn't worth maintaining. On August 14, 1943 the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company closed permanently. The closing of the saw mill was a huge blow to the Shawnigan Lake community but the community was able to survive as the area had been established as a resort centre and many individuals had taken up residence.

If you are interested in learning more come to the Shawnigan Lake Museum and watch the movie that goes with this as well as being able to look at the logging displays!



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2019

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