



# Shawnigan Focus

Volume Ten - Issue Six

June 2019

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## TICK, TOCK, TICK, TOCK, MILFOIL AT YOUR DOCK?

**Netta Bos,**  
*Shawnigan Residents  
Association (SRA)*

If you've been down to the lakeshore recently, you may have experienced first-hand the impacts of milfoil infestation along the waterfront. It interferes with swimming, boating and water-sport activities. There are a number of different species of native milfoil in the lake, but unfortunately, there is also an invasive species: Eurasian Water-Milfoil (EWM). It is believed that EWM has been here since the late 1970's and it is typically found along the shoreline in shallow water that is

between 1m and 4m deep (3' to 13'). This area, where the plant can potentially grow, represents approximately 13% of the Lake.

Just like many other plants, milfoil thrives on nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. The recent increase in milfoil may be the result of human introduced nutrients from erosion (forestry, soil dumping, etc.), leaking septic infrastructure, livestock and/or the application of fertilizer to ornamental planting (e.g. grass, flowers, shrubbery etc.) and agricultural fields.

The invasive plant, EWM, is

spread primarily by fragmentation. Stem fragments are readily dispersed by water currents within lakes, and by recreational boats trailering between lakes. Stem fragmentation occurs naturally after flowering but may also occur as the result of mechanical damage from recreational activities as well as from milfoil harvesting.

So how can we help reduce the presence of milfoil in Shawnigan Lake? Simply put, once EWM is established in a body of water, it cannot be eradicated. The best we can do is to control it and to do the right things to help keep it from

spreading. Question is, how is this done responsibly?

When it comes to controlling milfoil, there are a number of traditional approaches like hand pulling, rototilling, raking and even diver assisted removal. Recently, however, anecdotal information suggests that concentrated oxygen in the form of nano-bubbles may be the solution. In speaking with Dave Munday, President of the Shawnigan Basin Society, we have learned that a scientific trial has been designed to determine whether the use of nano-bubbles could be a viable alternative. This study remains to be done.

Meanwhile the SRA has been granted permission from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and Rural Development to hand-pull milfoil. This permission extends to SRA members. Milfoil should only be pulled after June 15th until it begins to bloom (sometime in August). According to FLNRO, pulling it before June 15th can potentially interfere with the fish, other wildlife and wildlife habitat. Once the plant starts flowering, it becomes too brittle to remove without excessive fragmentation.

Please remember, that milfoil WILL SPREAD if all the fragments are not removed from the lake during the hand-pulling process.

Additional information and instruction on how to remove EWM responsibly can be found at [www.thesra.ca/milfoil](http://www.thesra.ca/milfoil). On the website you will be able to find diagrams that illustrate the ten varieties of milfoil found in Shawnigan Lake along with

photographs that show the difference between the native versus invasive species of milfoil. There is also a video link that shows how best to hand-pull the invasive plant.

If you elect not to hand-pull the milfoil yourself, we recommend engaging divers to harvest, properly collect and dispose of the plant material. Failure to remove all the fragments will result in the spread of milfoil despite best efforts. If you would like assistance removing milfoil, please contact the Shawnigan Residents Association and we will recommend local companies/divers that are available to help with removal of the plant.

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.

Collectively, we can make a difference.

The SRA has recently switched to a new membership system which will allow you to manage your membership online and update your contact information and preferences. The new site will easily navigate you through your membership sign-up. Your membership matters! Please consider joining the SRA or log-on if you are a member to ensure that your membership is current. Be informed. Join theSRA.ca.

Questions can be directed to [shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com).



### GALLAND PARK UPDATE :

MAY 23, 2019

#### Background

Galland Road Park was created through an agreement signed in April 2001 between the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Strata Corporation #VIS4189 who owns the property. The agreement states the strata will maintain its septic field infrastructure on their property and the CVRD is permitted to create a community park and that costs associated with the development and maintenance of park amenities will be funded through the Shawnigan Lake Community Parks budget. The agreement, however, does not make any reference to what types of park amenities or improvements may or shall be built.

In 2002, the CVRD invested \$9,000 for the purchase of the playground equipment. Installation of the playground complex and landscaping was also funded through CVRD at a cost of around \$5,000, with community participation in assembling the playground and other park improvements. The CVRD has maintained the playground and designated park area over the years through the Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake Community Parks budget which is funded by Shawnigan Lake taxpayers. A new playground of similar size installed today would cost over \$35,000.

#### Current Status

CVRD playground equipment is regularly inspected for structural conditions and safety. In 2018 inspections of the Galland Road Park playground did not raise any concerns, other than noting the age and condition were beyond the typical 15 year lifecycle for these types of playground structures. At the time the playground appeared functional for at least a further year. It was therefore, unexpected, that in late April 2019 a scheduled playground inspection identified deteriorating conditions and issues which deemed the playground structure had reached end of service life more quickly than previously anticipated. The CVRD is obliged to take action based on the inspection assessment to protect public safety and address potential liability issues. This involves thorough removal of the playground structure, as there are not serviceable parts or the ability to replace components.

The playground is being fenced/closed off from use pending removal at a later date. This is unfortunate, as the intention for 2019 was to review options for Galland Road Park in advance of closure/removal of the playground that had been anticipated for later this year at earliest. With closure of the playground the CVRD will continue to maintain the designated park area whilst decisions are made for the future of this park maintained under agreement on the Strata Corporation's property.

#### Next Steps

The number of parks, trails and built park amenities within Shawnigan Lake has grown since the Galland Road Park was set up on the Strata Corporation #VIS4189 property in 2001. Funding for parks in Shawnigan Lake owned by the CVRD and other properties maintained under use agreements such as with Strata Corporation #VIS4189 is provided through annual taxation of properties in Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake. For the playground at Galland Road Park, a number of factors will need to be considered inclusive of community input, proximity of this park to other nearby parks with similar amenities, option(s) for replacement of the playground and annual funding capacity of the community parks service for Electoral Area B – Shawnigan Lake. A decision to replace the playground could involve similar arrangements as in 2001 or cost-sharing contributions with third-parties. If the outcome, however, is not to replace the playground other options could be considered for Galland Road Park that are in keeping with the agreement between the CVRD and Strata Corporation #VIS4189.

A process and timeline for making decisions on Galland Road Park is being prepared and will be shared with the community. In the interim, questions or comments concerning the park can be directed to Graham Gidden, Parks & Trails Planner with the Cowichan Valley Regional District at [Graham.Gidden@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:Graham.Gidden@cprd.bc.ca) or 250-746-2639.

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

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### Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department: Campfire & Cooking Stoves ONLY Effective May 30, 2019

Outdoor burning is restricted in the Shawnigan Improvement District to small campfires & to cooking stoves that uses gas, propane or briquettes. Use extreme care, don't leave the fire unattended and extinguish completely before leaving the area. Fireworks, sky lanterns, tiki torches, burn barrels or burning cages of any size, & binary exploding targets are banned.

For more information check the BC Forest Fire Information website: [www.Bcwildfire.ca](http://www.Bcwildfire.ca)

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS... EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

Dear Editor,

## Thoughts on the Rail Trail, Tom Buss, May 2019, a different point of view.

Currently, Shawnigan Lake is surrounded by homes with very few access points to the lake for those Shawnigan Lake residents who do not live on lake front property. The three beaches on the east side of the lake, Mason's Beach, Government Dock and Old Mill Park are connected by the old E & N railway tracks which passes between homes located to the east of the tracks and the beach to the west. Homeowners along this stretch have basically laid claim to the 100 ft. wide rail corridor between their homes and the beach. Local residents (most without beach access) have made use of the rail bed to travel between the three beaches by foot with trails crisscrossing back and forth over the rails as the terrain allows.

However, the 'trail' as it sits right now is not a trail that

can be used by everyone. Currently, foot paths travel alongside the track whenever possible, as walking on the rail bed is treacherous due to the spacing of the ties. The side paths crisscross the tracks and disappear as the rail bed drops off and users are forced to try to negotiate the ties/gravel railbed as best they can. Folks with young children in strollers, folks with mobility issues and folks that use mobility aids cannot use this trail that has been 'happily used' for over 100 years. In fact, it is an exclusive trail for those able-bodied folks who can negotiate it. Those folks whose property is separated from the beach by the 100-foot-wide rail corridor don't need to use 'rail trail', they already have their own 'private' beach.

Mr. Buss decries the loss of the 'popular grassy area near Government Dock'. His photo shows a few plucky folks vying for the few shady spots on the hot, dry and dusty lawn. As the 'grassy

area' is actually part of the 100 ft wide rail corridor, there has been no opportunity to develop it as a park with shade trees and picnic tables. However, the Rail Trail will connect this area to the more user friendly areas at Mason's Beach and Old Mill Park.

Mr. Buss questions where the tax dollars will come from and suggests that the trail will incur property tax increases. Funds for the trail will be through the CVRD budget for Area B Shawnigan Lake Community Parks Service. Your tax dollars have already been paid to the CVRD, and dollars have been allocated for parks. However, plans for development of parks and trails are dependent on community support. Shawnigan Village is decidedly lacking in parks and assessable and inclusive walking trails.

Mr. Buss also wonders about environmental impact of the proposed rail trail. Environmental impact studies are part of the overall plan and will come out of the Parks budget allocated to Shawnigan Lake. While piers and floating decks line the beach front, Mr. Buss does not suggest that environmental impact studies be done to study the impact of piers, pilons, boats and removal of vegetation to create private beaches have had on the health of the lake and the riparian area.

Shawnigan Lake residents would be well served by a multi-use, inclusive and accessible trail where all the residents (those who don't own boats and those who can't afford beach front property) could enjoy all that Shawnigan Lake has to offer.

*Diane and Darrell Mellott  
Shawnigan Lake*

## RE: Tom Buss, May 2019, a different point of view.

Thank you for finally showing the destruction of our beautiful area!!! and that pic does not even show how bad the finish is! Huge ditches on either side of the Trail which is actually a road! We live right there and watched everything being mowed down including are much loved little Rail House! We have already had ATV'S roaring up and down it! The wonderful grass area where families set up their little camps for the day is gone! And yes the parking is already a problem as a lot of us have our driveways blocked by happy beach goers. I would have thought that if they were going to put money into the area that the parking would have been the issue to address! All in all a really sad affair and needless waste of money and loss of privacy for those who live here!

*Sincerely Kerry Poulsen*

## RE: Tom Buss, May 2019, a different point of view.

I think the proposed trail will be a waste of taxpayers' money. Where are all the walkers? I walk every day down Mckernan/Radway thru the Old Mill Park past the Ski Club and only occasionally see some dog walkers. Most of the trails in and around Shawnigan Lake are barely used.

*William (Huck) Finn  
Shawnigan Lake*

## RE: Tom Buss, May 2019, a different point of view.

Our lake is being seriously assaulted! Our contaminated soil issue has not been fully resolved. We have a huge problem with milfoil in the lake, which needs to be addressed. How bad does it have to get? Now the CVRD wants to build a trail beside the rail, from Mason's beach to Old Mill Park. This will necessitate the removal of heritage trees and cause irreparable damage to our sensitive riparian area. So much fill will be required to build the proposed trail, as well, there will be heavy equipment used in the process. More destruction close to the lake-front. Not to mention the wildlife that will be adversely affected. Is this what we want for our beautiful lake? Please get involved before it's too late. Once it's gone, we can never get it back!!!

*Kathryn Temple,  
Shawnigan Lake Resident*

## RE: Tom Buss, May 2019, a different point of view.

Doug Griffiths, author of *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, recently spoke to a large crowd about how to build community in Shawnigan Lake.

While Doug was in the area, he had the opportunity to visit several key spots in the community including the Kinsol Trestle; the contaminated dump site and the village in general. When he was introduced to the new rail trail along the E & N right of way, he declared that... "If I lived here, my wife and I would walk this trail every day"...and, he also deemed that the trail was one of the best assets in the community.



## Shawnigan Lake - Area B Director's Meeting with Director Sierra Acton

### FireSmart - Wildfire Preparedness. Protecting your family & property!

Presented by : **Shawnigan Lake Fire Department**

Date : Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
Time : 7:00PM  
Location : Shawnigan Lake Community Centre  
2804 Shawnigan Lake Road

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

www.cvrld.bc.ca @mycvrd facebook.com/mycvrd

# South Cowichan Library

**Tablet Workshop** on Wednesday, June 5, 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.

**French Conversation Group** is on alternating Thursdays (June 13 & 27) from 5:30 to 7pm. Come by and practice parler en francais with a native French speaker. Then, on se voit en septembre!

**LEGO® Club** meets on Wednesday, June 12, 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. No sessions in July or August.

**Family Storytime** is Saturday, June 8, 11am to noon. Join us for stories, rhymes, songs, and crafts. Last one until after sum-

mer! For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults. Free.

**Chess Club:** This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, June 28, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

**Summer Reading Club** starts July 2 but registration begins on Tuesday, June 18. The Vancouver Island Regional Library invites kids aged 0-12 years to embark on a reading adventure at the library with this year's theme: Imagine the Possibilities! SRC encourages children to read a little every day by providing colourful reading records, tattoos, and medals; chances to win cool prizes; free events like live theatre, engineering experiments, a puppet show, a musical storytime, a stuffie sleepover, and an amazing magic show to wrap it all up in August.

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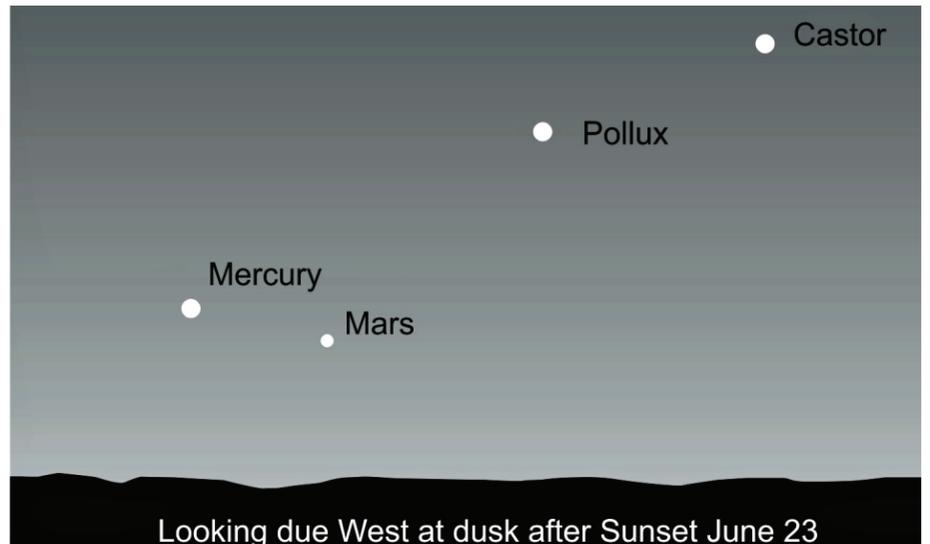
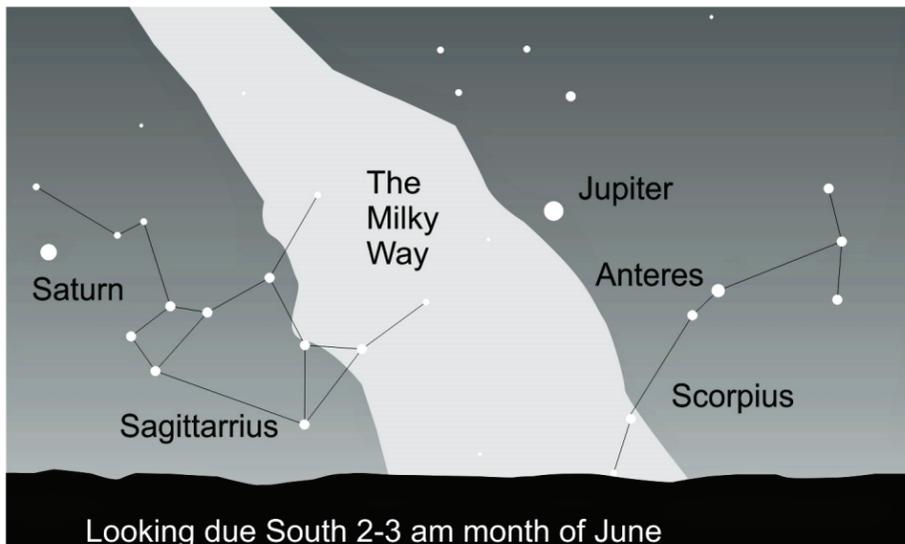
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1:00 - 4:00 PM  
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NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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Royal Canadian Legion Br 134

## Shawnigan Stargazer



**Colin Frostad**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

### June: Jupiter and Mercury

As we move into the warmer months we can start shedding our sweaters; however, with the longest day of the year on June 21st, we also have to stay up much later to enjoy the night sky.

On the night of June 10th Jupiter will be in opposition, meaning it will be the brightest this month as it will be all year long. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system, and was one of the first objects that Galileo observed

with his newly invented telescope. On January 7th 1610, Galileo observed that there were 3 “stars” that were all close to Jupiter and all formed a perfect line.

On January 10th he observed that one of the “stars” had disappeared. On January 13th he discovered a fourth “star” had appeared, and he correctly concluded that these were 4 moons that were orbiting around the planet Jupiter. These moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto, are now known as the Galilean Moons. This may sound

like a rudimentary observation but at the time it was completely earth shattering, and almost got Galileo killed. In the early 1600’s it was firmly believed that the Earth was the centre of the universe and that all heavenly bodies revolved around it. Clearly showing that the Galilean Moons orbited Jupiter (not Earth) put Galileo in serious hot water with the church, which oversaw scientific doctrine at the time.

Even with a very basic backyard telescope, or a somewhat powerful pair of binoculars you can easily

spot the same four moons that Galileo first witnessed some 400 years ago. I still find it fascinating to see how the moons change from night to night. With a larger backyard scope you can make out the equatorial dark red cloud bands of the gas giant, and even make out the great red spot.

Jupiter is not the only show stopper this month. On the night of June 23 the innermost planet Mercury achieves its greatest eastern elongation, meaning it is the furthest away from the sun it can get. This is important

for us because Mercury is very difficult to observe because it is usually too close the Sun.

Slightly after sunset, look west and try to spot the twin stars of Castor and Pollux. Looking slightly down toward the southern horizon, try to spot both the setting Mars and Mercury.

New Moon is June 3rd, Full Moon is June 17th.

Summer Solstice is June 21st marking the first day of summer and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

## The Shawnigan Basin Society: Moving Forward Got clean water?

**Valerie Williams**  
*Shawnigan Basin Society*

Currently the Shawnigan Watershed provides us with drinking water. However, we want to ensure we can protect this valuable resource with continuing community input and investment. Increasing development, recreational lake use and a lack of cohesive governing regulations are all affecting water quality.

The Shawnigan Basin Society’s (SBS) newly elected Board of Directors, and increasing number of volunteers, will be continuing with past initiatives, while working towards a holistic campaign to secure clean water for current and future generations. Ongoing projects include building & maintaining partnerships to working efficiently as a community; awareness raising and outreach to keep the focus on our drinking water health; working with the community on best water health practices (such as seeking solutions to the invasive species of Milfoil) while ensuring that Shawnigan Lake can remain a fun recreational destination as we safeguard our watershed.

Thus far, 2019 has been a transformative year for the SBS.

Past President Bruce Fraser retired in February. Executive Director Kelly Musselwhite completed her contract in April. We thank both Bruce & Kelly for their many years of work & volunteer contributions to the SBS and to the community of Shawnigan Lake. We are pleased to welcome Dave Munday as our new President. Additionally, we welcome new board members Terry Lineham and Bernhard Juurlink as Vice-President.

We are investing a tremendous effort into our community fundraising campaign to support core funding for the SBS. Thank you to everyone who has already joined and we look forward to welcoming more sponsors over the summer.

The SBS board meets the first Tuesday of every month and Milfoil Community Education events on the third Tuesday of every month. The next SBS board meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup> @7pm and the next Milfoil Education event is June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org

**Cobble Hill Sunday Market**  
Sundays 10-2 Cobble Hill  
June 2 - September 15 Community Hall  
Facebook: cobblehillsundaymarket Instagram: cobblehillsundaymarket@gmail.com

**SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL**

*Shawnigan Lake School would like to thank local residents for their support and collaboration during the May 10-12 rowing regatta. Your efforts to minimize wake near the racecourse, your understanding on the roads, and your supportive messages online were all greatly appreciated. Thank you!*

*The result was hundreds of high school aged rowers from across western Canada having an amazing weekend of racing on the lake. Many of these kids were in final preparations for national championships and some have dreams of rowing in the Olympics one day, so your support means a lot.*

*We've received some helpful feedback on how to improve next year's regatta for local residents, and we promise our best effort as we plan for the 60th Annual Shawnigan Regatta, to be held on May 8-10, 2020. Save the date!*

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## 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*

Mount Wells Regional Park is a 304 acre wilderness park northwest of Langford. It is a favorable destination for rock climbers and a spectacular heart thumper of a hike!

The summit trail is 1.3 kilometres long with an elevation gain of 352 metres. That math alone should give you an idea of the heights to be acquired. From the parking area (No. 2), next to the Humpback Reservoir, pass the map board and cross over the road to quickly begin the climb upwards. Please be aware beforehand that this is considered a demanding hike and, yes, it truly is. What's that saying? *"The view at the top is worth it!"*

Rocky sections will require some extensive efforts. But, lucky for us there are ropes and chains installed to help with the pull and the dragging of our bodies upwards. And even though it can be a bit on the tough side for us two legged creatures, our four-legged friends should have no issues, but be sure to pack extra water, as there are not many water sources to speak of.

The forest along the way features mature and old growth trees, with Manzanitas, Arbutus, Garry Oak and fir trees mixed in with lush mosses and rich ferns. And I've read that, in the spring, there is a beautiful display of wildflowers. Also, if you are lucky, like us, perhaps a lizard may come out of hiding to say hello.

After some sweat and possible tears, you will

reach the first viewpoint with plenty of rocky sitting areas to take in views of Langford Lake, downtown Victoria and the Salish Sea in the distance. Then from this point you may choose to head back down or continue upwards a little longer through another patch of forest to the next viewpoint

Due to the nature of the terrain this trail is best attempted during drier and warmer months as the rocky surfaces have the potential of becoming slick and dangerous if either wet or under snowpack.

In 1913 the Humpback Dam and Reservoir was built as a holding area to distribute water from the reservoir at Sooke Lake to various parts of Victoria. The Dam was constructed to close off the sloping valley and fill it up with water before making its way to other areas via a 44 kilometre flowline pipe.

It is reported that in 1995 the water from Humpback became contaminated with a parasite causing 100 people to become ill. As a result, the reservoir was deemed unsanitary and subsequently decommissioned. The pipe itself, however, remains in place to this day under various states of erosion. It can be seen from different remote locations and there are even accounts of people using it as a means of backcountry sightseeing ... at their own risk of course. I'm not quite sure I'm ready for that challenge!

Be sure to check out photos from this hike (and others) on our Facebook page – The Om Tree.

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**SUMMER READING CLUB**

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## Broom Busters

Broom Busters sounds like the Ghost Busters and we are not too different. Our technology is a little less sophisticated, but the outcome is the same... eliminate the target - in our case broom.

Broom Busters is a group that leads other groups on a broom elimination expedition for trails, roadways etc. around the Cowichan Valley. Their logo is "Cut Broom in Bloom" and although we are getting to the end of the bloom season we are going to host a broom busting event in Shawnigan Lake focusing on the Kinsol Trestle as our first point of attack. This will provide us with some positive ex-

posure for the Broom Buster program, and our community effort, as many visitors travel to the trestle each summer.

The event will be on June 10th from 9:00 AM till Noon. We will meet in the parking lot for the Kinsol Trestle (Gleneagles Rd) and walk to the trestle to begin our broom cutting on both sides around the trestle.

Participants will need to wear good foot wear, gloves and suitable clothing (preferably long sleeved tops) as it can be a tad nasty. Please bring pruning shears and loppers if you have them...and drinking water and/or snacks. We will

have a limited number of loppers to share.

Wendy Macpherson from Broom Busters will lead our group and will provide us with the best techniques to ensure the death of the broom as well as appropriate site remediation after the cutting. We will not eradicate all of the broom in this one session but it will be a great start for our community and we can do more next year.

There is no need to register. Just show up at the parking lot on June 10th and we will get organized and begin the process of broom eradication Broom Buster style.

## Director's Report, Area B Director

**Sierra Acton**  
Area Director,

### Love it!

We all love our playgrounds and Galland Park is no exception. Recently the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) received a playground assessment report declaring that the play-structure in Galland Park was unsafe and would have to be removed. This decision was unexpected. This year the Parks Commission (a community volunteer group who make recommendations in regard to Parks) was working towards replacing Old Mill Park's playground and was just starting to discuss the Galland playground, which was expected to be replaced next year. Playground replacements are a conversation for the whole community to take part in, since the funding comes from our annual property taxes. Now, with the removal of the Galland structure on the horizon, our community's priorities need to be reassessed. Unfortunately, since the removal of Galland park was unexpected, there may be a delay before this play-structure can be replaced. On June 24th there will be meeting to discuss our four core Village Parks at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre (SLCC) from 6pm to 8pm. This will be an opportunity to look at these parks/playgrounds and how they complement each other. It will also be an opportunity for everyone to give their input on future playground design and planning. From there, ideas will be suggested, and further community input will be requested. If you have ideas or feedback on this issue, please email me and I will forward it to the right person at the CVRD.

### Share it!

Many homeowners have contacted me about their Property assessments this month. Unfortunately, taxes have gone up more than 7%. Half of the increase is due to the two new taxes created by the two referendum questions: Area B voted yes

for the Affordable Housing function and for the Watershed function. The CVRD has started planning for next year's budget already. I personally put forward a motion to implement a capped increase on the base budget for 2020 (similar to the model of the Strathcona Regional District) and this will come to Board as an option. Previously, I was told that it wasn't possible for a Regional District to do this, but I attended a presentation that stated otherwise while I was at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conference. You have my commitment to advocate for better fiscal

responsibility. However, we currently have a system that is designed to operate regionally and, through it we are trying to deliver services at a local level. This is sometimes difficult to accomplish. If you have any questions about the budget/taxes please let me know. I am happy to talk more about it.

### Protect it!

The Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) and the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) continue to push for removal of the contaminated soil dump on lot 23. Recently, during question period at the Legislature, Sonia Furstenau

lined up 3 questions about the removal of the soil and over 3 days addressed them to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, the Minister of Environment and the Premier. Many community members were in attendance to support her efforts. Thank you for your perseverance and commitment to the removal of the contaminants. The decision to bury a 100,000 tonnes of contaminated dirt forever in our watershed is before Minister Heyman and his decision is expected soon. If any of the letter writers in the community wish to help put pressure on the decision please do, ENV.Minister@

gov.bc.ca

Our community gets noticeably busier in the summer. Please watch for bikes, kids and more traffic in general. Hope you all have a safe and fun filled summer!!!

Director's meeting June 11th 7pm, at the SLCC. Come see the Shawnigan Lake Fire Department Firesmart presentation

Community Playground Discussions and Open house, June 24th 6pm-8pm at the SLCC

I look forward to connecting;  
[Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca) - (250) 715-6763 [iloveshawnigan.com](http://iloveshawnigan.com)

## Celebrate Canada Day in Shawnigan Lake!

Monday,  
July 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2019

11:15 am

Parade leaves Cairn Park and travels through the Village arriving at Elsie Milles Park

12:00 pm

Raising of the flag and singing of "Oh Canada!"

12:15 pm-3:00 pm

Endless activities for all ages! Live Music, Concessions, Games, Inflatables and cake!

We are again encouraging non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for donation to our local food bank.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Frances Kelsey

**Paige Henry,**  
Shawnigan Lake Museum  
volunteer

Dr. Frances Kelsey is easily one of the most significant figures from this area, and from Canada for that matter. For three years I have attended the school named in her honour and, only recently, I have learned her full story.

Born in Cobble Hill in 1914, Kelsey's education began at Leinster Preparatory School, a small private institution in Shawnigan Lake. She graduated high school at fifteen and hoped to pursue biology, but

had little idea who to consult. "We did not have college counselors at the school at that time," she explained in her memoir. "Universities did not go around 'drumming up' students, and few of the girls in those days went to college." Kelsey's introduction to biology came from an encounter with Dr. Anthony Kingscote, who gave her "a most marvelous overview of the field."

She attended Victoria College and, later, McGill University, receiving her Bachelor of Science in 1934 and her Masters degree the following year. She then worked as a research

assistant at the University of Chicago, where she gained both her Ph. D. and M.D. She taught pharmacology at the University of South Dakota from 1954 to 1957. Kelsey continued researching and practicing medicine until she was given an offer from the Food and Drug Administration, asking her to become one of their medical officers. These people reviewed medical applications, ensuring manufacturers gave adequate proof of their drugs' safety before marketing them

Kelsey joined the FDA in 1960. One of her first applications was for thalidomide, a drug used as relief for insomnia and morning sickness in pregnant women. It had already been approved in twenty-one countries, including Canada. "I was the newest person there and pretty green, so my supervisors decided, 'Well, this is an easy one. There will be no problems with sleeping pills.'" However, the application began a conflict that lasted over a year. Even with continuous pressure from the company, Kelsey refused to approve the drug due to insufficient evidence of its safety. In an interview, she remarked that the company "thought [she] was nuts." During the dispute, reports of birth defects emerged in countries where thalidomide was used. By December 1961, thalidomide had been pulled from markets in West Germany and the U.K. The application

was withdrawn the next year. Kelsey's persistence saved the U.S. from the drug that affected over 10 000 children worldwide with symptoms like nerve damage, arthritis, deafness, blindness, and shortened, flipper-like limbs.

This incident led to the creation of the 1962 Kefauver-Harris Amendments, which introduced several procedures to strengthen control of new drugs entering America's market. Kelsey also received the U.S. President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1962. "I thought that I was accepting the medal on behalf of a lot of different federal workers," she said. "This was really a team effort."

Recognition of Kelsey continued to grow. In 1995, a small planet was named in her honour. She was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in 2000, and became a member of the Order of Canada on August 6, 2015, the day before her passing.

With such an incredible list of achievements, it's not surprising that my school has made such an effort to preserve Kelsey's legacy.

At its 1995 opening, she addressed the 560 students present: "You can be leaders of the future in all fields and this is a great place to begin."

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Non-emergency  
Phone: (250)812-8030  
shawniganfire@shaw.ca

*Department members attended  
22 incidents in MAY*

- ★ Friday, May 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, May 6 - Structure Fire on Elford Rd
- ★ Monday, May 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 7 - Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 8 - Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 9 - Burning Complaint on Wilmot Ave
- ★ Friday, May 10 - Mutual Aid Bush Fire w/Malahat on McCurdy Dr
- ★ Monday, May 13 - Assistance on Hartl Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 15 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 16 - Assistance on Wilmot Ave
- ★ Saturday, May 18 - MVI on Carlton Dr
- ★ Saturday, May 18 - 1st Responder off Gibbs Pl
- ★ Saturday, May 18 - Burning Complaint on Deloume Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 19 - Burning Complaint on Lovers Lane
- ★ Sunday, May 19 - Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, May 20 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 23 - 1st Responder off Glen Eagles Rd
- ★ Friday, May 24 - Burning Complaint on Moncur Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 25 - Burning Complaint on Wildflower Rd
- ★ Saturday, May 25 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 26 - MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd

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

be informed...  
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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Office hours by appointment. Email [sacton@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:sacton@cverd.bc.ca) For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **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. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.
- ★ **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: [blog.ysag.ca](http://blog.ysag.ca) - email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Friday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca) [www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com) Summer Hours: July and August: Wed - Sun
- ★ **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)

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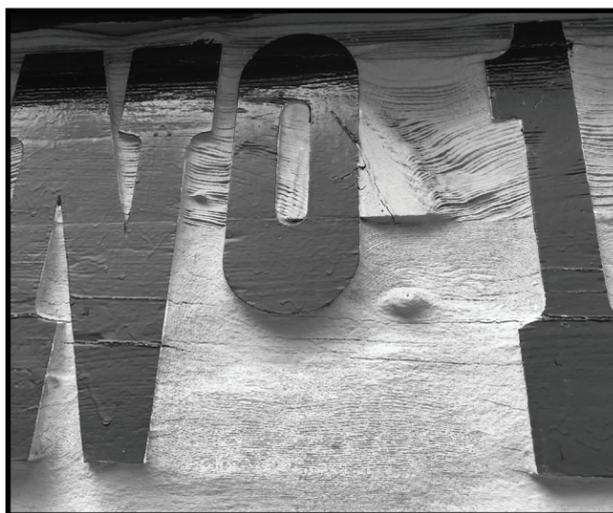
### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

## CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for May is Richard Gilker who identified "Nick's Stop" on Renfrew Road near Linden Lane. The shelter was rebuilt by volunteers after being destroyed March 14 as a result of a car accident. Nick Collins, 15, was struck and killed at that location in November of 2007.

Nick was beloved by many and the memorial is a reminder to for drivers to slow down and use care.



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## Alison McKerrow

May 24, 1921 – May 5, 2019

Many Brentonian girls may remember Mrs. Alison McKerrow (Alex House 1975-1983) who passed away peacefully May 5, 2019 at Acacia Ty Mawr.

Alison Stewart Caldwell (“Alie”) was one of seven children who grew up in Milnthorpe, Westmorland, England where her father had a general practice as a doctor. At the age of 17, she undertook pediatric nursing training at Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital in London. During the London blitz, the nurses were evacuated to nearby towns, and Alison was transferred to a hospital in Stanmore, Middlesex.

Towards the end of the Second World War, she returned to a hospital on the outskirts of London. During a three-day visit to friends, an air raid siren went off and everyone in the house fled to a shelter, except Alison who was soundly asleep. A German “Doodlebug” V1 flying bomb crashed onto the house next door. The explosion threw her bedroom door over her bed against the wall and protected her from the falling ceiling. Her friends rushed from the air raid shelter to find her wandering among the ruins cloaked in white dust.

From this brush with war, she moved to Surrey where she worked as a “Sister”, responsible for the health of boys in three boarding schools near Caterham. In July 1948, she married James “Jim” Kennedy McKerrow, her “significant other and

love of her life” with whom she shared 63 years of adventures.

In 1968, the McKerrows with their nine-year-old son arrived in Fernie, BC where Jim had a high school teaching job. The following summer, they packed up for Lake Cowichan where Jim had a teaching position. This was the start of a lifelong passion for the West Coast

Retired, Mrs. McKerrow and her husband fulfilled their dream of exploring Canada’s national parks, venturing as far north as Pelican Rapids on the Hay River (NWT), the Yukon and Alaska. With their boat, they explored the bays and sounds of their beloved Vancouver Island. Inspired locales included the north end of Lake Cowichan where pink fawn lilies, Erythronium Revolutum, grew in spring. Violas - Viola Adunca and Viola Glabella – were among her favorite flowers as well. Great companionship over the decades came from their beloved dogs and cats. After her husband passed, she wrote five books of poetry and prose.

Mrs. Alison McKerrow passed away peacefully at Acacia Ty Mawr in Shawnigan Lake, on a clear warm May evening, with her beloved son John (Claire) of Strasbourg, France holding her hand. Her husband Jim predeceased her in September 2010. Her ashes were scattered on Cranfield Trail, and in a little park called “Bright Angel” along the Cowichan River.



### The following poems were written by Alison McKerrow:

#### The Special Place

The days are lengthening nicely now,  
As spring brings all alive.  
We welcome back the hummingbirds  
As swallows dart and dive.  
Let’s bid farewell to winter’s gloom  
And banish clouded thought.  
Now is the time to soak up the joy  
That Nature’s skill has wrought.  
Choose and remember the best of times,  
Every happy or well-loved face;  
Store them deep in your heart’s recess  
For that is your special place.

#### My Little Epilogue

Adieu my dear friends, it’s time to go  
My words have been fairly said.  
The sum of it all is now set,  
Leaving behind no regret.  
My dreams and my life are now wed.  
All worries are done, so be it;  
I’ll go out aware and not blindly.  
I’ll go out to the night  
And turn out the light,  
And close the door gently behind me.

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

image: invasive eurasian water-milfoil

### fact...

- Milfoil should only be pulled after June 15 until it begins to bloom (sometime in August).
- Shawnigan Residents Association (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.
- Milfoil information and how to pull it can be found on [www.thesra.ca/milfoil](http://www.thesra.ca/milfoil).
- Milfoil will spread if all the fragments are not removed from the lake during the hand-pulling process.

be informed...

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