



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Eleven - Issue Three

March 2020

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Time is NOW to ThinkShawnigan

Sierra Acton
Area B CVRD Director

On the evening of February 25th the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre was standing room only as the implementation of the Think-Shawnigan Village Plan was passed to community by Micheal Von Hausen Inc. A total of nine public and stakeholder engagement opportunities helped shape this plan over the past nine months. Residents, visitors, and businesses have been contributing ideas and suggestions from as early as Doug Griffiths' presentation in April 2019. This collaboration continued through Canada Day, The Gathering and the Community Design Charrette from October 17th to 19th. Supplemental site and policy analysis brought further local details to the Think Shawnigan Plan. Over time the plan has evolved into six actions (Activity Nodes) and ten strategies. This Plan is about action and it starts now. From the October preliminary unveiling it was clear that the Four Corners design may be an exciting project to start with. To that end, we are having a workshop on Saturday March 28th at 9am. At our first Take Action Workshop we will work together to plan, delegate and strategize on how to implement the plan to improve Four Corners NOW.

Think Shawnigan Take Action Workshop

- ★ Where: Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ When: Saturday March 28th 9am-noon (snacks provided)
- ★ What: Bring your positive and can do attitude!
- ★ RSVP: thinkshawnigan@gmail.com

The Think Shawnigan Plan provides priority, choice, and necessary details for implementation now and in the future. It includes six Activity Nodes:

1. Village Core (Old Village)
2. Community and Cultural Centre

3. Viewpoint at Lakefront
4. Government Wharf Beach
5. Shawnigan Station and Lakefront (land north of existing Village area)
6. Masons Beach

Ten Strategies:

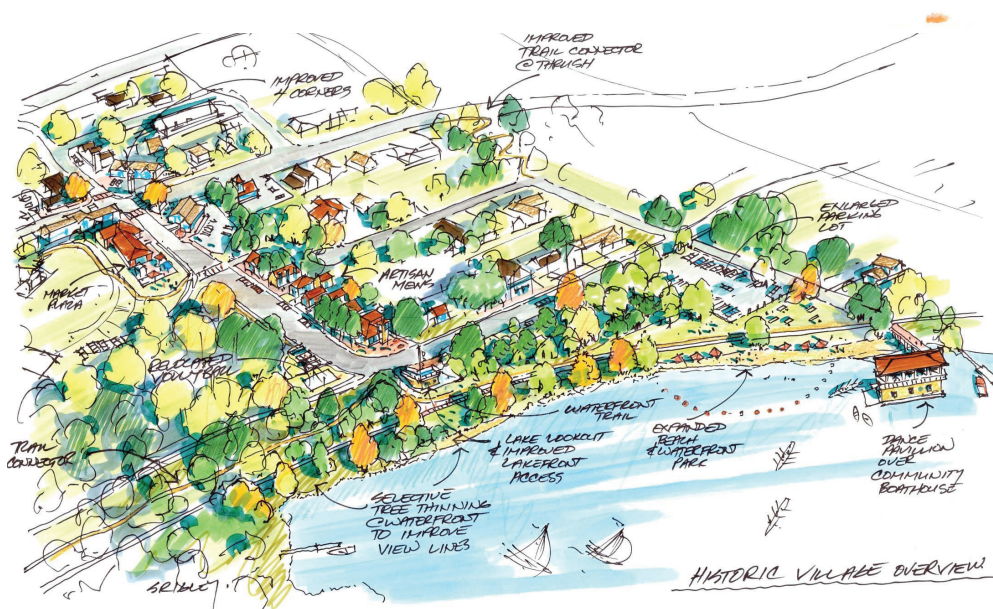
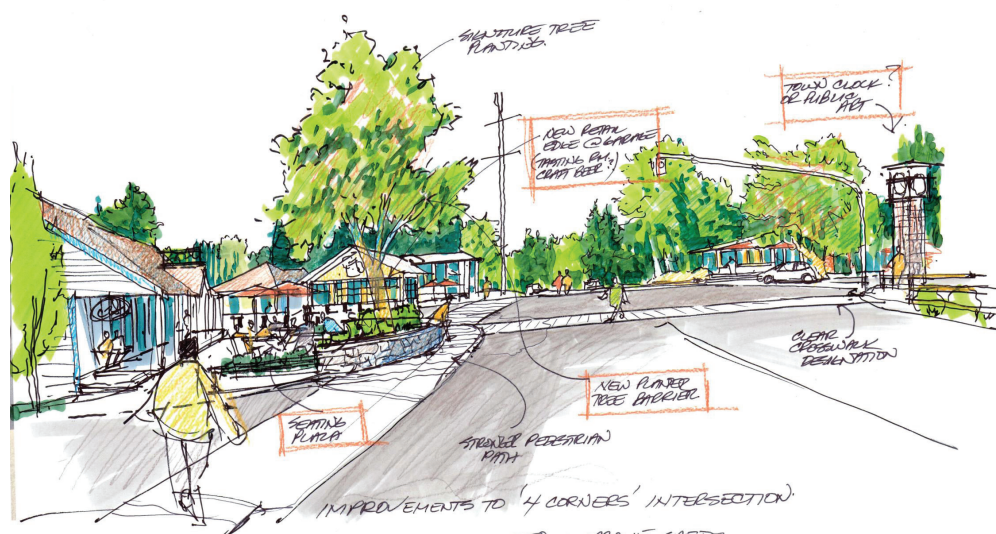
- ★ Village Core streetscape improvements
- ★ Village and Community Centre improvements
- ★ Village connection to lakefront
- ★ Public waterfront and activities
- ★ Village mix of uses and innovative businesses
- ★ Design guide and building/site Improvements
- ★ Trails connections and completion
- ★ Housing infill
- ★ Shawnigan Station (land north of existing Village area)
- ★ Policy amendments

This Plan links the six activity nodes by a comprehensive trail network to create a cohesive and concentrated Village area, while conserving the natural rural setting. The strategies provide necessary details for implementation and are based on community input. These strategies will enrich and improve the Shawnigan Lake community while retaining its unique character and qualities - keeping the essence of Shawnigan. In addition to this Plan, the separate Shawnigan Lake Village Design Guide gives detailed direction to future development and improvements in the Village Plan area.

See more at;

<https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/3205/Think-Shawnigan>

This is not a CVRD plan, this is a Community Plan and will require community groups, stakeholders and community volunteers to make it happen and come together. Love it, Share it, Protect it!



Meet & greet event in Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

At the beginning of February, about 60 community leaders from local organizations and businesses came together to network on how they can work together for the benefit of our Shawnigan Lake community.

The SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION hosted the evening and provided a wonderful buffet dinner. The objective was successfully met as new comers and longer time leaders met and talked and learned about each other's purpose in Shawnigan Lake.

Twelve months of calendar pages were distributed around the room encour-

aging dates of important events or promotions by businesses be added to build a Community Calendar. It is hoped the calendar will be posted and kept up-to-date so everyone will have a base to plan on.

Businesses were welcomed by local Organization Planners and encouraged to show off their products at events. It would be a win-win for both if one would offer space while the other offered an activity to enhance the event.

We met new business leaders who have been drawn to Shawnigan Lake by its beauty and peaceful environment. By meeting others they felt more at home and

not as strangers. Business cards were gathered for a draw for great prizes donated from our community.

From the 'comment' cards filled in at the closing there was a loud and clear call to have more of these gatherings!

Appreciation was given to the Malahat Legion for the use of their hall, to those who donated draw prizes, to 'retired' Patty Oldfield (Village Chippery) and Bill Davies for cooking the dinner, to the SLCA for hosting and to all who attended!!


Thank you to the following participants:

- ★ Sierra Acton, CVRD Director

- ★ Shawnigan Basin Society
- ★ Kali Yoga Studio
- ★ Shawnigan Coffee House and chocolates
- ★ Sarpino's Pizza
- ★ Daughter's Painting
- ★ Relax Collective
- ★ JE Electric
- ★ Articelate
- ★ Shawnigan Lake Museum
- ★ Malahat Legion
- ★ Trillium- Acacia Ty Mawr
- ★ YSAGS
- ★ The Lakehouse At Shawnigan
- ★ South Cowichan Rotary
- ★ Shawnigan Hills Park Run
- ★ Jobs Done Right
- ★ Island Pharmacy
- ★ Big Awesome Entertainment
- ★ Cowichan Valley Cleaning Services
- ★ Cobble Hill Taxi
- ★ A&R Tax Services
- ★ DFH Real Estate
- ★ Compass Mexican Bistro
- ★ O.U.R. Ecovillage
- ★ Bradley Travel and Tours
- ★ Shawnigan Garage
- ★ Keyworks
- ★ Freedom Accounting
- ★ My Great Housekeeper
- ★ Style Centre Barbershop
- ★ Synology Signs

Shawnigan Weather February 2020

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Average High	7.8	7.7	2.8	8.3	3.9	8.9	4.0	7.8	3.4
Average Low	0.4	0.6	-3.0	0.5	-2.7	1.2	-2.8	0.5	-3.0
Extreme High	18.3	12.1	7.8	12.4	8.7	12.7	9.1	11.0	8.5
Extreme Low	-16.7	-2.6	-8.8	-2.6	-8.4	-2.3	-7.5	-3.0	-8.0
Precipitation	134.7	96.7	108.0	91.7	104.6	69.9	103.8	80.0	101.8
Days w precip	16	17	12	16	12	13	12	15	12
Year Precip	350.0	533.6	322.6	301.1	301.1	432.5	286.5	545.8	328.4
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	888.5	919.1	828.3	842.2	708.2	866.1	870.8	905.5
Rank since 1914: 39 th warmest, 26 th driest									
Lake Temperature: Feb 2 nd : 4° Feb 9 th : 4° Feb 16 th : 4° Feb 23 rd : 5°									
Lake Level Change: Feb 2 nd : +46 cm Feb 9 th : -56 cm Feb 16 th : -56 cm Feb 23 rd : -31 cm									
Surface Elevation: 117.92m 117.37 116.82 116.51									

February 2020

February started with the highest lake levels of the season, but quickly dropped off in the second and remaining weeks. This month turned out to be drier than normal with heavy rain happening over 5 days.

Temperature wise, the month was close to normal. The warmest day was the 26th and the coldest was on the 19th. Last year's heavy February snow never returned. There was a total of 10 cm of snow in the 3rd and 4th.

South Cowichan Library

International Women's Day Display: Mar 2-7, check out books and DVDs about women you may not have heard of but will want to learn more about!

Book a Librarian: Make an appointment for one-on-one help on a Tuesday 1-2pm or another time in the week.

Newcomers: Art with Your Neighbours is people new to the area meeting 2-4pm on most Wednesdays. Join Francoise from CIS to talk with other new community members while creating art.

LEGO® Club meets every Wednesday, 2-5pm. This free event is best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO® is welcome.

DUPLO available as well.

Paws 4 Stories happens 3:15 – 4:15pm on most Wednesdays. Young readers can sign up for a 15-minute reading session with Kit Kat, a trained therapy dog. Ask how!

Ukulele Workshop is 6-8pm on Thursday, Mar 5. Free and fun, led by David K and presented with the Cowichan South Arts Guild. All levels welcome. Bring your uke, guitar with a capo, or just yourself! Some ukes available. Call or drop by the library to register.

Tablet Workshop is 2-3pm, Saturday, Mar 7. Find out all that your tablet can do! Bring your tablet and your questions on the

first Wednesday of each month.

Beginning Guitar with Cowichan South Arts Guild is 6-8pm on Thursday, Mar 19. All levels welcome! Instruction by Bryon Thompson, just bring a guitar. Stop by or call to register.

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

Puppet Show: Three Little Fish & the Big Bad Shark: 2 - 3pm, Saturday, Mar 28 Join us in celebrating spring with a puppet show, stories, and songs. Open to children who don't mind getting wet!

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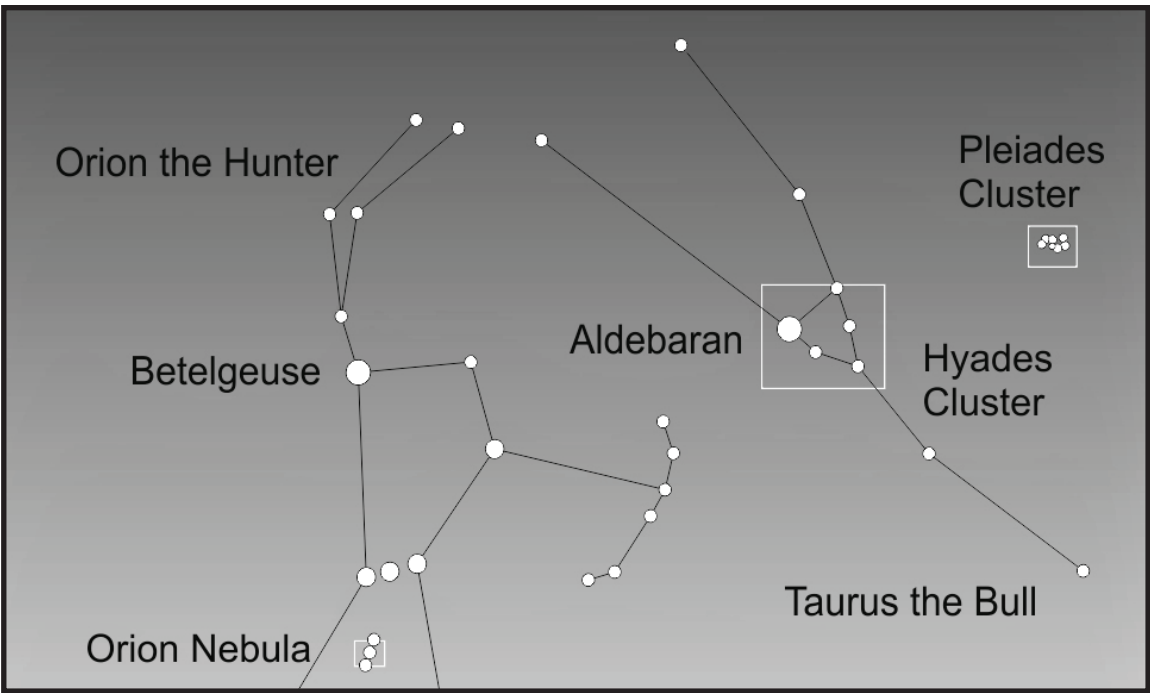
Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

March: Taurus the Bull and the Hyades Cluster

In the very first edition of the Stargazer (February 2018) we viewed a very large region of the sky and addressed Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull and the Pleiades. Being so ambitious in one article I self-admittedly blew past some other amazing objects that are not only easy to spot, but equally beautiful, especially the Hyades Cluster within Taurus the Bull.

The Hyades Cluster is a very large, loose cluster containing hundreds of stars. To find the Hyades Cluster simply find the three stars that make up Orion’s Belt and trace an imaginary line to the west. You will quickly intersect a “V” of stars, the brightest one being the eye

of Taurus the Bull, Aldebaran. The remaining bright stars you see represent the Hyades Cluster (see star chart). All of the stars you see with your naked eye in this immediate area of the night sky are roughly 152 light years away, meaning the light that is hitting your eye left the stars in 1868. The aforementioned Aldebaran is actually not part of the Hyades Cluster as it is much closer to our solar system, about 66 light years away. As we discussed in the August 2019 Stargazer, clusters are a grouping of stars that are genetically related, i.e. formed from the same molecular cloud / region of space. What makes the Hyades cluster somewhat unique is the fact that it has held together so long. Astronomers can trace the origin of the cluster to about 625 million years ago, roughly 100 million years



before complex life evolved on Earth.

Hyades is an old cluster, but we can view one in its infancy. Spot the Pleiades Cluster, a much tighter, densely packed group with much younger stars (see February 2018 Stargazer).

Planets and Moon:

Refer to last month’s article and continue to view Ve-

nus in the southwest evening sky (see corrections below). With some good binoculars, or a telescope, you will observe the planet seems to get larger throughout the month as it progressively shows more of its shaded night side. The southeast pre-dawn sky continues to impress as Mars, Jupiter and Saturn line up beautifully along the ecliptic. On the pre-dawn morning of March

18th, the waning crescent moon will lie just below the three planets, making an ideal visual just ahead of the spring equinox, one day later, on March 19th. Full Moon is March 9th and New Moon is March 24th.

Corrections from February: Venus is 465°C (not 4650°C, as printed). Diagram is indeed phases of Venus, not the Moon as referred to in the credit.

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Shape of Family

by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. - Copyright 2019 by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

I eagerly looked forward to reading this book. The author’s first two novels, “Secret Daughter” and “The Golden Son” were well written, and her third is equally satisfying.

Canadian-born of South Asian parents, Gowda is able to describe a family where the parents are from different cultures with ease and understanding.

Jaya, the mother, is the sophisticated daughter of diplomats from India and has lived all over the world. Keith, the father, is an American businessman proud of his hard work and financial success. Karina, the daughter, is a teen-ager on the cusp of independence and already showing a little attitude. The youngest, a boy named Prem, is everybody’s pet and yet remains unspoiled.

Early in the story a tragic death occurs, shattering the peaceful existence of

the remaining three. Guilt and shock trap each member in a suffocating web of isolation and despair. While outwardly looking like they are still connected, the gaps widen and we see how each of the survivors develops mechanisms to escape and deal with their gutted lives. As a reader, I was alternately heartbroken, frustrated and even angry at their behaviours. It was hard to see the remaining child so adrift.

Over time, the parents separate and the daughter goes to university, happy to get away and be independent. She doesn’t want to be beholden to her parents for anything and is excited about creating something entirely new. Things are alright for the first year with new friends, great grades and a loving boyfriend. But when the relationship ends, Karina is devastated and quickly spirals down into isolation.

The tension in the story ratchets up as the vulnerable girl is the target of a charismatic leader who gently and skillfully leads Karina into a commune where the other members have equally needy backgrounds. What starts as an idyllic existence

quickly disintegrates into a dangerous situation where gradually breaking the law is smoothly rationalized away as bringing new awareness to the planet. Sounds sadly familiar, doesn’t it?

The last part of the book has the parents waking up to the shocking realization that their daughter is in trouble. She hid it well by spinning lies they were willing to believe, engrossed as they were in their own separate lives. Together the two of them leap into action.

There is no fairy-tale ending, but the three of them do come together in this crisis and there are signs that as their lives continue to rebuild, they will be more connected. Lessons are learned and the three of them find that the love remains.

Recommended for those who appreciate reading stories about the realities of family relationships. The author creates believable and recognizable characters, lovable and flawed, and we learn to care about what will happen to all of them. As well, her ability to blend cultures so effortlessly makes her narratives rich and interesting.


Rating: 4.5/5



20th Annual Seedy Saturday
Saturday, March 14th 2020
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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<https://cobblehillseedsaturday.weebly.com>



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When your neighbourhood becomes a dumping ground

Kathy Code,
Shawnigan Basin Society

While a much-needed re-charge of our local aquifer and surface water lakes, the rains of January 2020 brought about their own series of problems, with serious flooding affecting businesses and residents across the Cowichan Valley. The rains have been particularly worrisome for Shawnigan Lake residents.

Shawnigan Lake, long considered a pretty little resort village, is home to dozens of landfills, some of them regulated, some of them contaminated, all of them posing serious issues. Landfill dumping has occurred over decades, with most of the fill coming from the Capital Regional District (CRD) since

CRD fill deposit regulations are deemed too onerous for compliance by the building industry.

Regardless of legality or contamination, landfills become vulnerable under the pressures of excessive precipitation. During the rainy season, silt and sediment flow off the landfills and enter creek systems that drain into Shawnigan Lake. These massive plumes (Figure 1) dump excessive nutrients into the lake promoting algal blooms and unwanted plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil.

The January 30, 2020 rains caused a massive landslide from a landfill on Cougar Ridge in Shawnigan Lake, blocking the entry and exit points of the loop with a

metre of mud. Figure 1 shows Cougar Ridge Road late on February 1st following clearing of one of the road loops. The landslide greatly increased the turbidity of the drainage systems that enter Shawnigan Creek (Figure 2). Measurements taken five days after the landslide continued to show excessive rates of turbidity in various drainage systems.

Contaminated landfills present their own special nightmare, with heavy metal runoffs streaming across the terrain and down into creeks, ending up in Shawnigan Lake and local aquifers. At least one potable well has been affected, with lead levels more than five times the allowable drinking water quality guidelines.

How many contaminated landfills are there? In 2012, the Ministry of Environment tested numerous fill sites in the South Cowichan region, finding eight of them had metals and/or hydrocarbons exceeding standards. These sites were entered into the Contaminated Sites Registry, with no further action from the ministry. Dumping continues, some of it legally, all of it unwelcome.

The situation begs a lot of questions. Who is responsible for regulating landfills? Who is responsible for cleaning up the contaminated ones? Who will remove the illegal ones? And just who decided that the beautiful community of Shawnigan Lake would make the perfect dump site? The message over time is that

anyone can set up a landfill, contaminated or not, profit from dumping fees, then enjoy the rewards while taxpayer money is used to address the problem when the owners declare bankruptcy.

Governments are all too eager to encourage business at any cost. Such short-sighted vision costs citizens a great deal of environmental angst, health and property worries, and ultimately tax dollars.

The Shawnigan Basin Society supports residents in the stewardship of the local watershed and appreciates your participation. Donations gratefully accepted at info@shawniganbasinsociety.org or phone Shirley Astleford at 250 216 2896



Figure 1. One loop of Cougar Ridge Road has been made passible while the other loop is still blocked by the landslide (loop with the Trucks prohibited sign). Photo taken by a member of the Shawnigan Basin Society.

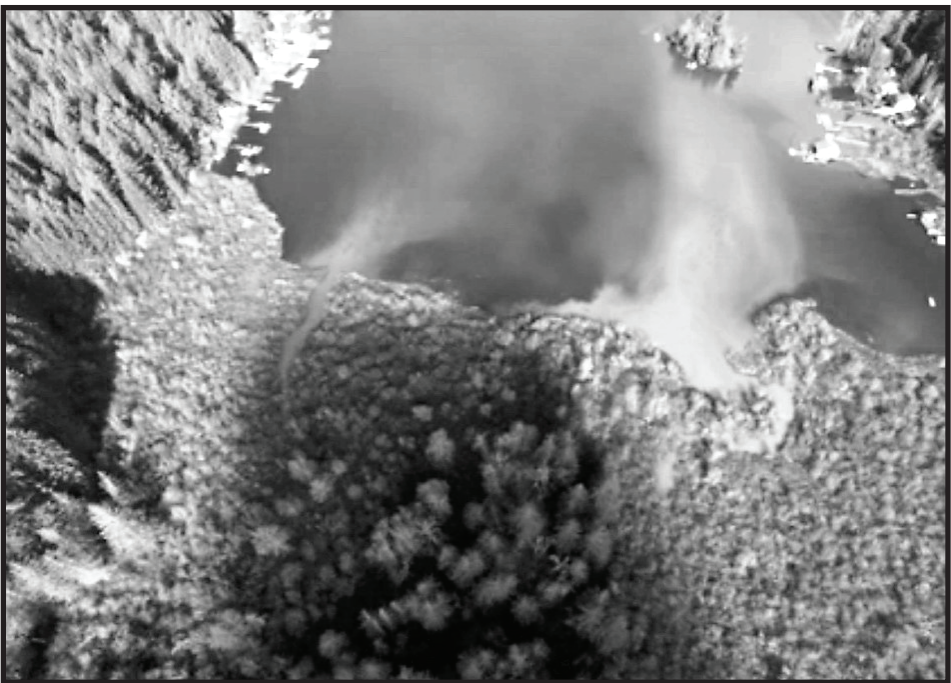



Figure 2. This photo was taken February 20, 2016 and shows silt-laden water from Upper Shawnigan Creek entering the lake. The silt arose from landfill sites in the Shawnigan Lake area. Photo taken by a member of the Shawnigan Research Group.



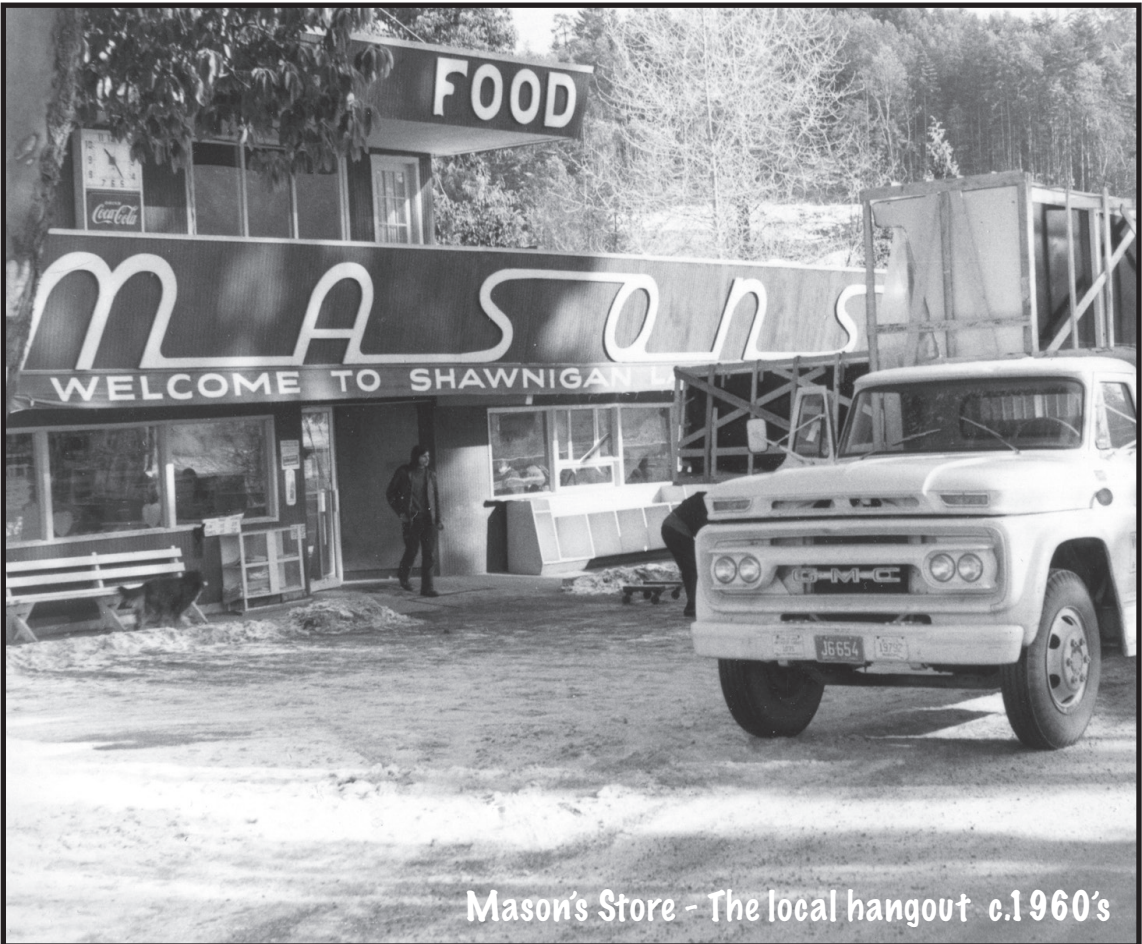
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Mason's Store - The local hangout c.1960's

Our MLA Sonia Furstenau speaking in the Legislature about contaminated soil regulation

The following is a draft Hansard transcript of a speech by Sonia Furstenau during debate in the Legislative Assembly on February 27, 2020. Bill 3 proposes changes to the Environmental Management Act intended to better regulate the management of contaminated soil.

I am delighted to rise today to speak to Bill 3. I never would have imagined, maybe ten years ago, that I'd be the one in the chamber that would be talking about contaminated soil the longest, but here we go.

The B.C. Green caucus has long advocated for changes to the Environmental Management Act to address the gaps in legislation that don't adequately protect communities from potential impacts from the movement of contaminated soil throughout the province.

My community has experienced the impact of these risks first-hand. We have, as many people know, spent the last eight years in a relentless effort to try to protect the Shawnigan watershed, which supplies water to 12,000 people. In 2013, the provincial government granted a permit to Cobble Hill Holdings for a contaminated landfill site in Shawnigan. It was revoked in 2017, yet the saga continues.

Now, this bill today doesn't speak to landfill sites or regulated sites. This is about the movement of contaminated soil. What's interesting is that long before we had a permitted contaminated landfill site in Shawnigan, we had a contaminated soil problem in Shawnigan that the Ministry of Environment was well aware of. Indeed, in 2012, Ministry of Environment came to the Shawnigan watershed, sampled numerous sites around the watershed and identified at least 12 that had contaminated soil on the sites.

Despite the fact that these sites had been identified in 2012, nothing has really been done. Currently trucks continue to roll to many of these unregulated fill sites all around the Shawnigan watershed. We don't know what the origin of those soils are, and so I'm very hopeful that this bill will help us identify what's coming into our watershed.

What causes us the most concern and the distress is that the burden of monitoring, the burden of taking samples of water, taking samples of soil, following how much soil is coming in, determining how many trucks are coming, monitoring when soil slides happen and come right into a creek — that burden and responsibility has almost entirely fallen to the citizens of Shawni-

gan Lake and, in particular, the Shawnigan Research Group and the Shawnigan Basin Society, a number of volunteers who have spent many, many years looking at this very serious issue of the impacts of contaminated and non-contaminated soil to our watershed.

Even non-contaminated soil can be an issue when it's piled up, we have heavy rains, and the runoff from that soil goes into a creek that is salmon-bearing or fish-bearing. The sediment can kill the salmon fingerlings and wipe out an entire year of salmon.

Indeed, I just got a report last week from the Shawnigan Basin Society about one of these fill sites that the Ministry of Environment identified as having contaminated soil on the site in 2012.

When MOE sampled the site — it's on Goldstream Heights road — there were certain parameters found to be in excess of 200 percent of the schedule 7 numerical criterion for iron, in 2012. Since 2012, this site has continued to receive soil, including soil from provincial government contracts, despite the fact that the community and the residents of Shawnigan Lake have identified that this is an unregulated site with massive amounts.

What kind of soil has been dumped at this site? Hog fuel wood waste continues to be dumped, infill that has passed over onto the neighbouring property. So, the soil that's been passed onto the neighbouring property has been sampled by the Shawnigan Basin Society to determine what parameters that soil might have. Indeed, iron exceeded the contaminated soils parameter with an average level of 133,600 micrograms per gram, which is 382 percent above the standard of 35,000 micrograms per gram.

This is on a residential property, next to a site that has been used as an unregulated landfill, soil fill, for many, many years. Soil has come to that site from ministry of British Columbia works.

I think that I'm delighted that this bill is coming to the chamber, and I hope that it does pass, but I want to point out to the Speaker and to this House that the movement of soil around British Columbia and into communities and into watersheds has not been enough of a concern to either of the governments in this House over the last decades. It does impact water quality and soil quality and the health of people. We have to take this very seriously. As we look at impacts to our water quality from many areas, we should at least have government regulating

the movement of soils.

I think, ultimately, what brought me here to this chamber was that my community and I didn't feel like we could trust government, because we didn't feel like government was making decisions that were putting our well-being as a community first.

I'm very interested to look at the Edelman Trust Barometer for 2020 in Canada. The Trust Barometer is going down. It was at 56. It's now at 53 in terms of trust. And the people in Canada are feeling a strong sense of injustice, a desire for change and feel a lack of confidence in the institutions that are meant to protect us.

One of the quotes from this report that just came out — this Trust Barometer — was somebody saying: "I do not have confidence that our current leaders will be able to successfully address our country's challenges." I think it's very important that we recognize how important it is — that trust is the factor of a government that matters the very most. People need to trust that we are working in this place in the interest of the well-being of the citizens of this province, current and future.

So back to Bill 3. I cannot stress enough that it is essential that there's accurate information about the location of contaminated soils in our province, including any risk that they may pose to local areas. In that sense, this bill is a positive step towards bringing more accountability and transparency to the movement of soil in B.C., but there is much work to be done to ensure a situation like what is happening in Shawnigan never happens again. An additional step would be to consider the history of operators when making decisions to determine the sites for the deposit of contaminated soil, akin to the fit and proper cause used in other acts.

In an era when droughts are more common and our water resources need more protection, government must have the ability to ensure water security for all of our communities. I welcome the introduction of this bill. I hope it will benefit communities across the province. But I remain adamant that much more needs to be done to protect our drinking water.

From my reading of Bill 3, the main changes are as follows. The bill seeks to repeal the section about soil relocation agreements and introduces a new soil notification process instead. The amended bill, if passed, would require anyone moving soil from commercial or

industrial sites to do a soil characterization first. As I understand it, this is already a requirement in many cases, but it has been found to be unclear as to whom it applied, and so it is severely underused. The government is proposing to change the act to clarify that it is required for all soil from these sites prior to the soil's removal.

As explained to our office in the bill's technical briefing, following the test, if the soil is found to be more contaminated than the receiving site, it will need to be authorized through regional operations, which would, in turn, require public consultation and an analysis of potential impacts, neither of which, apparently, is happening now. The mover would then have to provide notice that details where the soil is coming from, where it is going, how much is moving and what is in it.

I would appreciate more detail from the minister on the logistics and sequence of events here, because it is crucial that we get this right. That information is already supposed to be included in contaminated soil relocation permits, but the requirements are not very well described and underused, so we really must strive for a sharp balance of clarity and effectiveness here.

Currently it is hard to quantify how much contaminated soil has been moved to unsuitable locations because we have such terrible records. I have heard that there were something like 5,000 soil movements in the past few years, and only seven people used soil relocation agreements. That basically tells me that there's been no tracking as to where contaminated sites exist in our province and what the impact of those sites may be now or in the future.

If we don't even know where contaminated soil has been dumped, we can't begin to understand, let alone address, the harm that is being done to the environment. With a better tracking system, hopefully, government will be able to take compliance and enforcement actions.

Transparency and accountability for communities are critically important, as my riding continues to show. Local communities have time and time again proven to be the best champions and protectors of drinking water.

From the ministry's perspective, these amendments are a better way to keep track of soil being moved. They say it will be much easier to follow and better for soil management.

Bill 3 is trying to avoid situa-

tions where someone is developing, for example, a former gas station. They dig it up and dump somewhere else without doing the paperwork that would allow tracking, community notice or comprehensive cumulative analysis. If passed, it would allow for additional soil-matching opportunities. Soil that was previously going to a landfill, regardless of content, could now be used as fill if it matches the soil profile of the receiving location. If not, it would be disposed of appropriately.

As I said from the opening, my initial reading of the bill looks promising. However, there are a number of sections I'd need additional clarity on in committee stage to ensure the amendments achieve the stated policy goal.

I'm grateful to be seeing some movement on this important issue, but we have such a long way to go with improvements to this act. In fact, in the court decision about the Shawnigan case, Supreme Court Justice Sewell said that what happened in our community struck at "the heart of the integrity" of the Environmental Management Act. I don't think that the heart that was struck at has been healed in the time since this government has come in, unfortunately.

The challenge that we face in Shawnigan remains such that.... The conditions by which the permit was granted for the contaminated landfill in our community and the foundations, literally and figuratively, upon which that landfill was built are not trustworthy. It was not a trustworthy process. It was not a trustworthy construction of the landfill. It has not been a trustworthy monitoring.

In fact, we just found out on Monday that there were very low volumes of leachate coming off the site for — well, let's see — several months, including some of the rainiest months we've had. It took at least two or three months to determine that a valve at the landfill site had been accidentally closed and that water had been accumulating under the soil on to what we believe, as we watched it being constructed, is not a particularly reliable liner. Anyway, we heard during the long process about liners during the Environmental Appeal Board that liners, by their nature, are going to leak and have a very limited lifespan.

It's yet another example of our community being told, "Hey, you've just got to trust that everything is being taken care of," even though evidence piles up, occasion after

Shawnigan Focus

MLA Sonia Furstenuau Article continued from page 5

occasion, month after month, that things are not being taken care of properly. This is another example of why it's very difficult for my community to trust in what has happened in our watershed, not just at the contaminated landfill site but at all of these other sites that have been used for accepting fill for the last decade.

I hope that in addition to the actions that are going to be taken in

this bill, there is a longer-term view about the absolute essential importance of a watershed to a community.

We absolutely need to know that our watersheds are going to provide us with clean, safe water as we move forward with our communities. In order to achieve that, there is going to be a need for a vision for the future of watersheds in this province that far surpasses what has been there for a long time and, in fact, has been degraded over the last

several decades.

Watersheds need to be protected, particularly the community-designated watersheds. This is one small piece of that, but what we need is a full vision. We have the Water Sustainability Act that needs to be brought to life with regulation and with examples like the Koksilah water sustainability plan that was recently signed.

We need to see an urgency

in this government in both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, to recognize that time is running out for us to ensure that every community in this province has safe, reliable, secure watersheds for future generations.

With that, I will end my comments. I will be supporting this bill, and I look forward to canvassing it in committee.



Malahat Legion Branch 134

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion

Things are happening in the Malahat Legion, and they would not be happening without our volunteers. We would like to name a few that help all the time.

Nora and Maureen for making the sandwiches on Wednesdays, and Virginia for making the soup almost every week. Soup & Sandwiches just \$7.00 and includes GST.

Sharon for chairing the Drop-in Crib Nights on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Ev-

eryone is welcome to attend. Denise for teaching fly tying on Tuesday nights.

Isabelle (our new President) and her husband Vince for organizing and making the fantastic meals on the 1st and 3rd Friday nights and various delicious entree's available at the meat draws every Saturday.

In fact, Isabelle needs your help with volunteers for the kitchen which is becoming a lot busier as we have more events and better attendance at the weekly meat draws and regular Friday night dinners.

Volunteers are needed for the Wednesday Lunches (10:00 – 1:00 pm); the Friday night dinners (2:00 – 6:00 pm); and Saturday meat draws (2:00 – 6:00 pm). A Food Safe Certificate would be helpful but is not essential.

If you can help us please contact us by Email: rc134@shaw.ca or just stop into the Legion any time we are open and check out our brand new kitchen.

Please be sure to check out our new website (still under construction) <https://MalahatLegion.ca>

SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

BALANCE OF JANUARY REPORT

Department Members
Attended 10 Additional Incidents in January:

- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Grease Fire on Angus Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Cougar Ridge Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Heald Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Frontage Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Flicker Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Hydro Lines on Glen Eagles Rd
- ★ Friday, Jan 31 – Assistance on Shawnigan & W Shawnigan Lake Rds

FEBRUARY REPORT

Department Members
Attended 10 Incidents in February

- ★ Saturday, Feb 1 – Assistance on Cougar Ridge & Sooke Lake Rds
- ★ Saturday, Feb 1 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/Mill Bay Fire Dept
- ★ Thursday, Feb 6 – Structure Fire on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 11 – Chimney Fire on Morningstar Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Feb 12 – Assistance on Ingot Rd
- ★ Friday, Feb 14 – Mutual Aid MVI w/ Malahat Fire Dept
- ★ Tuesday, Feb 18 – MVI on Stowood Rd
- ★ Thursday, Feb 20 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake & Cliffside Rds
- ★ Sunday, Feb 23 – Hydro Lines on Wooden Rd
- ★ Monday, Feb 24 – Vehicle Fire on Silvermine Rd



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– Albert Einstein

Shawnigan Focus

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvrd.bc.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- ★ **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**
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Tues, Thurs & Sat 12-4. 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 250-743-9675
- ★ **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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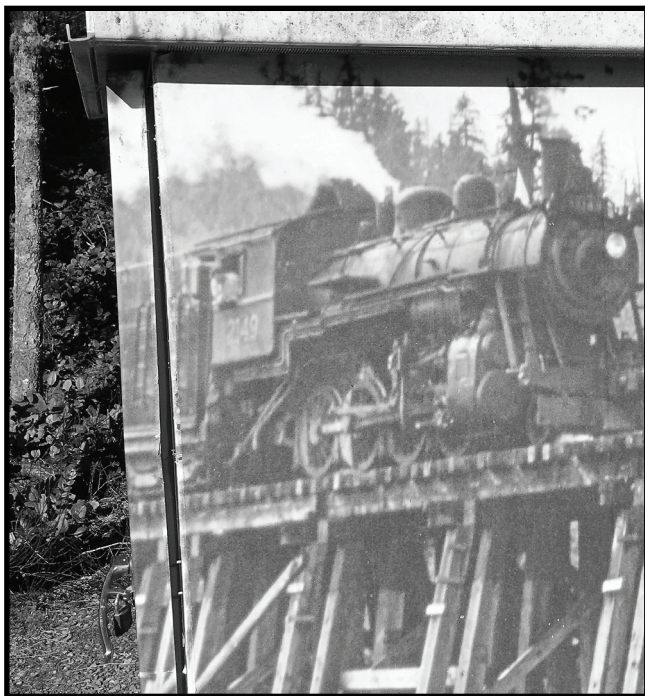
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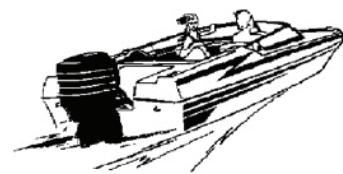


*One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca*

CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you to Marian Myers who expertly identified the photo last month with the following description: "It's the Yos Totem Pole next to the Shawnigan Creek Bridge on the Trans Canada Trail. I walked past this in early February on a rare dry afternoon. The Yos Totem Pole was unveiled in 2017 after completion of the Malahat section of the trail."

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New Board of Directors Announcement

Michael Battler

Chair, Shawnigan Lake Historical Society

As a result of the Board of Directors election at the 2020 Shawnigan Lake Historical Society (SLHS) Annual General Meeting on January 26th, we are happy to announce the following Board members: Michael Battler – Chair, Delphine Castles - Vice-Chair, Lori Treloar - Executive Director, Bill Camden – Treasurer and Suelle Stewart – Secretary. At the same time, we would like to thank the outgoing board, Christine Westland (Chair), Grant Treloar (Vice-Chair), Pieter Devries (Treasurer), Gaileen Flaman (Secretary), Marcy Green and Cathy Waet (Directors) for their incredible dedication as members of the Board this past year.

As those of you who volunteer know, you always get much more in return than you give in service to the community while enjoying a very rewarding and fulfilling experience at the same time. There are so many things on the go at the museum, right

now, such as a newly completed Strategic Business plan and the ongoing efforts for Project Impact (the building expansion), to name few. The whole board is committed to seeing the Society's goals through and to ensure that its mission and vision are preserved, protected and realized for the future.

On behalf of the society, the Board, staff and volunteers look forward to serving and connecting with you, our valued members, visitors and benefactors and look forward to continued support of the museum's programs, events and social enterprise.

If you haven't been in the museum for a while or if you have never been in, we are known for being bigger than we look and hitting way above our weight class for a local museum. We are always happy to share our passion for Shawnigan Lake in person and online. Once you discover who we are today, you may even want to share your passion as a volunteer.



I remember those days, not a bit like today.

We met, we married, a long time ago,
he worked long hours, and wages were low,
no telly, no radio, no bath – times were hard.
Just a cold water tap, and a walk up the yard.

No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors.
We had coal on the fire, we never locked doors.
Our children arrived, no pill in those days,
we brought them up, without state aid.
No valium, no drugs, no LSD,

We cured our pains, with a good cup a tea.
If you were sick, you were treated at once,
not fill in a form, and come back next month.
No vandals, no muggings, there was nowt to rob.
in fact, you were rich, with a couple of bob.

People were happier, in those far off days,
kinder and caring in so many ways.
Milkmen and paper boys would whistle and sing,
and a night at the flicks, a wonderful thing.
We had our share of troubles and strife,

But we had to face it, that was life.
Now I'm alone. I look back through the years,
I don't think of bad times, the trouble and tears.
I remember the blessings, our home and love,
shared them together, and I thank god above.

-Olive Eveleigh - 1992



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