

HAPPY NEW YEAR, SHAWNIGAN!

Shawnigan still wants to shiver...

Sadly, due to Covid, the Shawnigan Focus could not host its 8th annual Shawnigan Shiver this year. This event is the highlight of the year for many community groups. It is a time when the community comes together to celebrate Shawnigan and the New Year in a very Shawnigan way - with a dip in the lake (albeit a chilly one). For the many volunteers, it is a very happy way to start a new year as everyone arrives with a smile and a willingness to help.

The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department volunteers arrive with a fire pit, the tables, the garbage bins and most importantly, the

antique fire siren. They help with set up and take down. This group also brings the rescue truck...just in case.

Volunteers from the Shawnigan Lake Community Association show up with the music, the hot chocolate and many helping hands.

Most years there are clowns to warm up the crowd before the 'swim' from the YSAGS group.

People come in non-powered boats, including our own editor Dave and Focus distribution person, Janet (if she isn't dipping herself), to provide safety from the water. Others come by land



Photo by Heather Plumb - January 1, 2021

to help with registration or just to watch the fun.

Some people celebrated with their own Shawnigan Shiver this year at the Gov., as seen in the photo. One family who has participated every year did their own Snow Shiver, wearing their Shiver hats, as they could

not travel to Shawnigan

The Shawnigan Shiver is truly a community celebration that was sorely missed in 2021 as we all needed a joyous start to a new year... but there is always next year!

2020 was a tough year for the Focus. If you want to help to keep the Focus as a

great community resource, consider placing an ad or suggesting it to someone who might benefit.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2021 from the Shawnigan Focus Team!

Dave, Lori, Kim, Taryn and



The road to 2021 by Jennie Stevens

Dawn of a New Year

Twenty twenty, we are now One,
Greater than the parts of our some.

The year that divided us so
Rebirths all in infinite flow.

Quiet in our burrows We Rise,
Sweet optimism in our eyes.

Though the dealer of cards is fate,
The new game is ours to create.

Acceptance, Empathy the rule,
Play to the end, find the jewel.

It's simple to win; just have fun!
The name is twenty twenty One.

~ Julie Connolly
Friend of Shawnigan Lake

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Circulation 3200

Shawnigan Focus!

Advertise for as little as \$29.98 per month Contact Kim at shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Hopeful

Glenn White
Shawnigan Resident

What will 2021 bring...I wish I knew, but I do not. However, I believe that we have an opportunity to make it what we want it to be. Our community is resilient and our track record is very good. We have kept COVID at bay. Unfortunately, some islanders felt that they simply had to travel and bring back a new strain of the COVID Disease. That was too bad but, in my heart, I have to believe it was essential as I am sure people would not just disregard the well-being of others for their own wants. I see us still needing to be vigilant, careful and respectful with one another and to find ways to enjoy our wonderful community without impacting others.

The need to care is at the heart of a lot of what Doctor Bonnie is saying, and mostly she has been leading us well. The exception was the last sudden change of plans for New Year's Eve for dining out and liquor sales

that put some of our smaller establishments in a tough spot - having planned, ordered and taken reservations for a New Year's evening out. We can help the recovery of these businesses by visiting our local pubs and restaurants.

The good news...we will still have our winter events like the Island Road Race series that will run this year - our segment (the Cobble Hill 10 Km). You can register for the events at <http://www.islandseries.org/>

This is normally a big event for our area running out of George Bonner School with hundreds of volunteers who would commit to making it a successful event. This year will be a different format but it is still be available to us. And our trails are now clear of snow so cycling, walking and running are available to us. Let's take time to enjoy what our community has to offer at our own pace and time. As we move into the new year we give thanks for what we do. I wish for all of us to have a safe, healthy and joyful 2021.



THE POWER OF KINDNESS

“We don't know what's coming, but we can help shape what's ahead. With kindness as our currency, the common wealth is in our hands”
(Quote from the song: POWER OF KINDESS by MaMuse)
This amazing female duo have been creating beautifully wise & uplifting music to inspire the world for the past nine years. Look them up!

Cowichan South Arts Guild offers these Messages to our Community for the New Year.
Let's spread a little KINDNESS in 2021! Clip & share!!
You are a bright light in this community!
We are all connected - Think it, feel it!
We are MORE together, than apart!
Let's find new ways to create connections!
Focus on your joy... and then share it!
Celebrate the people you are with!
Celebrate all that is good and let that give you strength!
Find what inspires you and make that your practice!
Feel the love that surrounds you!
KEEP creating Community Connections for all!
Your path can light someone else's way!
Find someone to help, and feel the joy!
Look for the best in those around you!
Be a harbour in the storm!

Shawnigan Weather DECEMBER 2020

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network - Reported by Grant Treloar

|  | Dec Normal | Cigarmaker's Bay | | Discovery School | | Museum | | Elford Road | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Average High | 5.6 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 6.7 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.5 |
| Average Low | 0.5 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 2.4 |
| Extreme High | 16.0 | 11.8 | 10.9 | 12.9 | 11.3 | 13.5 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11.0 |
| Extreme Low | -15.0 | -3.1 | -3.6 | -3.6 | -3.4 | -3.1 | -3.2 | -3.5 | -5.0 |
| Precipitation | 194.6 | 269.1 | 174.1 | 274.9 | 153.6 | 223.0 | 129.7 | 269.4 | 163.0 |
| Days w precip | 20 | 22 | 28 | 22 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 24 |
| Year Precip | 1250.8 | 1556.2 | 982.7 | 1483.3 | 866.2 | 1300.0 | 793.8 | 1536.0 | 931.8 |
| Prec since Oct 1 | 534.7 | 670.3 | 354.9 | 639.4 | 322.3 | 524.7 | 275.7 | 627.6 | 325.0 |
| Rank since 1914: 19 th warmest , 24 th driest | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Temperature: Dec 7 th : 7° Dec 13 th : 5° Dec 20 th : 6° Dec 27 th : 5° | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Level Change: Dec 6 th : -16.3cm Dec 13 th : +1cm Dec 20 th : +40cm Dec 27 th : +3cm | | | | | | | | | |
| Surface Elevation: 116.54m 116.55m 116.94m 116.96m | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Shawnigan Annual Normals | Cigarmaker's Bay | | Discovery School | | Museum | | Elford Rd | |
| | | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Avg Temp | 9.9 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 10.7 | 10.5 | 11.1 | 11.0 | | 10.3 |
| Extreme High | 37.2 | 34.7 | 33.0 | 35.4 | 31.5 | 34.2 | 31.4 | 33.0 | 31.0 |
| Extreme Low | -21.1 | -5.7 | -8.8 | -5.9 | -8.4 | -5.9 | -7.5 | -6.5 | -8.0 |
| Days w precip | 174 | 174 | 145 | 175 | 140 | 165 | 134 | 184 | 144 |
| Precipitation | 1250.8 | 1556.2 | 982.7 | 1483.3 | 866.2 | 1300.0 | 793.8 | 1536.0 | 931.8 |
| Rank since 1914: 19 th warmest , 7 th wettest | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake temperature: warmest: 25° coldest: 3.0° | | | | | | | | | |

Comments

December ended up about a degree warmer than normal, temperature wise, and significantly wetter than normal for the month.

2020 was slightly warmer than normal by 0.3 degree (the same as last year. January was the coldest month with July & August being the warmest. There were 13 days (8 last year) when the temperature rose to 30° or above and 45 days with freezing temperatures. (58 last year)

Precipitation for 2020 was much wetter than last year, about 300mm above average, being the 10th wettest ever.

Thanks to Ed Wiebe of the UVic Weather Network for his support and maintenance of the instruments at Cigarmaker's Bay, Discovery School,

South Cowichan Library

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open for Walkthrough service Tuesday through Saturday. And the bookdrop is always open!

You can place your requests online at virl.bc.ca or by calling 250-743-5436. You'll get an automatic notification when your item arrives and then can come in with your library card to pick it up.

Tue: 1-3pm & 5-7pm

Wed to Sat: 10-12pm & 2-4pm

If you're not able to get here during our open hours or unable to come inside, let us know and we'll arrange a time to meet at the front door with your items already checked out to you.

Masks are now required when visiting the library. This is in addition to physical distancing, occupancy limits, and other safety measures. A properly worn mask covers your nose and face at all times. You can browse a collection of the latest

novels, DVDs, magazines, CDs, children's materials, nonfiction, and more. Check out our themed Grab & Go bags for adults and children!

Please bring your library card or install the MyLibrary! app to use the touchless self-checkout machine. We also have a print station to go online to print what you need and a public computer is available by appointment.

If you or someone you know lives nearby and is unable to come to the library due to illness or injury, please contact us about our monthly Home Delivery service.

All returned items are quarantined for a minimum of 8 hours before returning to circulation. All overdue fines are waived at check-in.

If you need more help than you can get quickly during your visit, please call, or email us at southcowichan@virl.bc.ca. We can help you place holds, order the next in a series, get started with eBooks, learn how to access online newspaper and magazines, and more!

Shawnigan Focus Team:

Editors:

Lori Treloar

Dave Hutchinson

Advertising and Accounting:

Kim Hennecker

Layout:

Taryn Treloar

Local Distribution:

Janet Neilsen

Printed by

International WebExpress

Box 331 Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

250-743-8675



Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar,
Executive Director

As with most businesses and organizations, 2020 was a unique experience for the museum.

In spite of the strange circumstances, the museum stayed open for most of the year, unlike many small museums and businesses... and, it was a great year in so many ways!

Fortunately, the Society was able to hire a summer student but, due to Covid, the student could only do administrative duties as students were restricted to behind the scenes

work. Luckily for us our student has produced excellent research projects that will benefit our community and visitors. Watch for future events that will highlight this work.

In 2020, we received notification that we were awarded a \$250k grant from Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) for our expansion project. We are still waiting for decisions from other infrastructure grant applications that were submitted in 2020, including Legacy, the Rural and Northern Grant and the CERIP grant.

With any luck, the expansion project will start in

2021 which will be a huge win for the museum and the community.

As the museum could not host in-person fundraising events this year, the fundraising efforts for the year included a Giving Tuesday campaign, a mail out donor drive and a matching donation call to action. The overall donation total for 2020 was up and we thank the community and our supporters for their generosity.

Although the projection for 2020 was for a significant increase in visitors, the overall attendance for 2020 was down. Covid was the key

factor in this as we had to close for 3 ½ months. Also, as the Covid infections numbers increased, visitor numbers dropped. One of the lovely benefits of staying open, however, was the gratitude expressed by visitors - so many visitors remarked that they were grateful that we were open.

The campaign to encourage people to consider buying 'local' for Christmas was also a huge success for the museum with wonderful support for our online and in-person gift shop items.

You can support the museum by becoming a member,

a donor, a supporter or a volunteer – or all of the above. The Society was established in 1977 and the museum has been a part of the community since 1983. Check us out and/or get involved.

We are especially grateful for the Museums' team of volunteers, staff and Board of Directors who kept things going through challenging times.

As usual, the museum is closed in January for maintenance and administration. The museum will re-open on Thursday February 4th and will be open Thursday through Sunday 11-3 unless Covid restrictions dictate otherwise.

Someone else's present

Paige Henry
Shawnigan Lake Museum

In the museum where I work, a favourite artifact for visiting children is the stereoscope—the precursor to 3D movies, we call it. It's a wooden, goggle-like apparatus in which a paper slide is placed. Adjusting the distance of this slide from the eyes allows a three-dimensional image to come into focus. The museum, to me, is its own form of stereoscope. It makes me feel as though I'm looking in a little window through history, into snapshots of lives from a hundred years ago.

I had lived in the small, suburban community of Shawnigan Lake for over ten years before I began working at the museum. Up until then, I'd been oblivious to my community's origins. My first true connections to Shawnigan did not manifest at community centre meetings or neighbourhood potlucks, but while cleaning obsolete kitchen utensils and sorting through old novels with fading dedications in the endpapers. While I never had the pleasure of meeting their owners, I have the privilege of handling the tangible remnants of their lives.

I'm amazed at the sense of familiarity I've developed with people I will never meet. Part of me wishes I'd been born a century earlier, just so I could sit down to tea with them or attend their Red Cross fundraisers. I have come to care for them and wish for their well-being, though their fates were decided long ago. I remember their names now...

I know who served in World War I, who managed hotels on the E & N line, who was a member of the local Women's Institute. I have always loved history, but spending every day surrounded by it has allowed me an intimate connection no textbook can provide. Every new revelation, every new artifact unearthed, makes me feel less like an observer of history and more like a participant in it.

When you work at a museum long enough, you come to see its contents not as a collection of historical miscel-

anea, but as a collection of stories. These items were used and reused countless times, passed down through generations, damaged and repaired, borrowed and returned, cherished and admired. They sat on shelves, accumulating years', decades', even a century's worth of memories, silent witnesses to their owners' joys and sorrows. I am humbled by these little pieces of people's souls, which have quietly endured the passage of time. I am honoured that they have offered their stories for a stranger to decipher.

Even now, I am a little awed to think that these items survived fires and Depressions, trans-Atlantic voyages and World Wars, before coming to sit modestly on the museum shelves. The teacups I dust in our kitchen exhibit were touched by countless hands long before I ever existed. They sat on a dozen tables long before the museum's foundations were ever built. What sonnets were composed on the Remington typewriter in the schoolroom display? Did an aspiring writer like me sit down before it, hands

hovering over the keys in authorial anticipation, deliberating the first sentence?

It can be challenging to imagine the past as someone else's present. The museum has allowed me to lessen that gap, to step over the threshold. I entered the past naively, without proper invitation, but I feel that I've earned my place. I have adjusted my perspective to put the past into focus. I have peered through the peephole and glimpsed the century on the other side.





Peter Salmon sledding down Old Baldy Mountain. See Page 8 for full article

2020 – An opportunity to build stronger community

Sarah Davidge,
Manager of Programs & Volunteers (SCCPAS)

As we enter the new year of 2021 and exit 2020, with its challenges and yet opportunities, we do so with hope and gratitude. As we reflect on 2020, we are thankful for two words that stood out throughout the year: Volunteers and Community. We are thankful that in the time of crisis they continued to roll up their sleeves, put on masks like super heroes and meet the need of the day – and sometimes the need of the hour. Whether it be getting food from the food bank or grocery shopping in our local stores to support those unable to do so; whether it was facilitating our Friendly Phone Call to our seniors and vulnerable adults - a simple “good morning”, according to those receiving the call, is so valuable and vital to their well being; or our active Block Watch Groups who continued to report suspicious activities to

our local RCMP and assist in the prevention of crime; and our Speed Watch team back on the road promoting road safety and awareness - Slow Down, Leave Your Phone Alone.

We are thankful for the number of residents who, during this past year, purchased new reflective house # signs to be more visible in case of an emergency. Thank you to our local Panago Pizza for sponsoring this program by providing a free medium pizza to every sign purchased.

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a difficult year. We faced challenges that none of us could imagine. We are all aware of that, despite the challenges, there have been great opportunities for us to open up our hearts and lend a hand. We have seen members in our community involved in supporting families in need and the South Cowichan Community Policing office

has had the pleasure of being a drop off location for these generous donations from our community members. The smiles on faces and the joy in their story of being able to give in time of crisis has been something that Community Policing staff and volunteers have had the privilege to be a part of throughout the year. So, as we step into the new year with all its hopes, and new opportunities, to be the incredibly kind, supportive and caring community that we are, let's build from the momentum that was established in 2020.

We would like to share a bit of us with you all. Check out our YouTube video <https://youtu.be/IXc82pNKG94> with some messages from our local RCMP Liaison Cst. Ian Wetzels-Eden, our Directors and staff.

SCCPAS Located at: 845 2B Deloume Road Email: sccp@shaw.ca Phone: 250-929-7222

The Focus is looking for new ideas and submissions.

We encourage writers to submit letters and articles of interest to:

shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

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SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021

To receive reports and review accounts for the year
January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Date : Sunday, January 24, 2021
Time : 1:00 PM
Place : Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 AGM will be held virtually. Details will be forwarded to all registered attendees.
Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR
250-929-6100

Shawnigan Cemetery

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Indians on Vacation

by Thomas King
Published by HarperCollins
Copyright 2020 by Dead Dog Cafe Productions Inc.

I very much admire the writing of Thomas King, as “The Inconvenient Indian” was an eye opener for me. Also his program on CBC Radio several years ago called “The Dead Dog Cafe” was brilliant and hilarious.

Would this book be funny or would it deal with some of the serious issues King discusses? Well, it was both. At times I laughed out loud, and at other times I felt sucker punched. What a wild ride this story is.

The premise is simple. Bird and Mimi are a couple on vacation tracking down a family medicine bundle taken by Uncle Leroy 100 years ago when he joined a Wild West Show as a wild Indian. He left a path by sending postcards from various cities in Europe. Although many chapters begin with, “So we’re in Prague”, the story actually skips around a bit between past places and times.

The unexpected pleasure for me was how King strips away some of the allure of travel and digs into the reality of how miserable and tiring it can be. He writes this after a twelve-hour flight: “I’m sweaty and sticky. My ears are still popping from the descent into Vaclav Havel. My sinuses ache. My stomach is upset. My mouth is a sewer. I roll over and bury my face in the pillow. Mimi snuggles down beside me with no regard for my distress.”

“My god, she whispers, “Can it get any better?”

They then spend their night in a hot hotel room with a malfunctioning air conditioner and spiders on the ceiling. Outside, a musician loudly plays American show tunes from another era. Could it get any worse?

We find that while Mimi enthuses over every mundane tourist attraction, Bird has brought his demons with him. His wife has helpfully named them. Eugene is Self Loathing, Didi and Desi are Depression and Despair. Then there is Kitty who catastrophizes and Chip who sits on Bird’s shoulder. They are all well in play.

Naturally this leads to a few heated discussions, so Mimi keeps the two of them moving as fast as she can. They take a quick trip to Budapest where they are literally stopped in their tracks by a sea of refugees from Syria, camped out in the train station.

The enormity and misery of the refugees’ plight affects them both deeply, as they can’t think of any way to actually help the situation. They retreat back to the hotel to gather themselves. The gentle way they look after each other reveals that this is a real love story.

The crazy adventure continues, enlivened by a strong, energetic Mimi as she cajoles and drags a reluctant Bird along. They never find the medicine bundle, but they find their relationship is enduring, even in trying circumstances.

Recommended for those who like to laugh, and who appreciate thoughtful ideas and hard truths wrapped in sardonic humour.

Rating: 4.7/5 stars

The Wild Side – Our version of Reindeer (Roosevelt Elk)

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

Early in 2017 Janet and I were hiking some of the Cobble Hill trails off Thain Road not far from the intersection with Kingburne Drive. We heard a commotion in the bush and were surprised to see a small group of elk cross the road just ahead of us. We had barely finished exclaiming about how impressive that was when there was a much larger hullabaloo, and a herd of about thirty more clambered up the bank and over the road, following the first few. They really are magnificent wild creatures and it was quite remarkable to be so close. I had seen smaller groups around Lake Cowichan but had no idea that they existed in herds this large so near to our area.

A Few Details:

Roosevelt Elk (named after former US president Theodore Roosevelt) are native to Vancouver Island, the south coast of BC, and coastal areas of

Washington, Oregon and northern California.

- It is the largest elk subspecies in North America. Males can reach 500kg. Their lifespan is approximately 12-15 years.
- Except for transplanted herds on the Sunshine Coast, the entire BC population resides on Vancouver Island and numbers approximately 4,300 to 6,100 animals.
- Although “blue-listed” in BC (considered a vulnerable species) the Vancouver Island population has been expanding in recent decades.
- North of Campbell River, Roosevelt Elk density is at its highest. Few are found in central Vancouver Island (though a few herds reside in the foothills of Strathcona Park), with the next dense distribution occurring in the mountainous regions inland from Nanaimo and Duncan. Occasional

animals are seen as far west as Port Renfrew.

- Roosevelt Elk differ from most other North American ungulates in that they are social herd animals. Matriarchal herds have a lead cow and a couple of other elders that hold knowledge about how to find food, water, and what to watch out for on the landscape.
- Habitat requirements are driven by their need for abundant, high quality forage.
- Up to 20 or more cows, calves, and yearlings live in groups that remain apart from the smaller groups of bulls, except during the autumn mating (rutting) period.
- Roosevelt Elk have a gestation period of eight months. The timing of the rut has evolved so that calves are born in late May and early June (the most favourable time of year for them to grow and survive).
- Although not currently



- considered a nuisance species for wildlife management purposes, local dairy farmers consider them a significant pest when they destroy fields and fences and eat crops meant for livestock.
- Roosevelt Elk are hunted extensively on Vancouver Island, both legally and illegally. The male antlers are prized as trophies. Males grow horns, but the females do not.
 - According to the government, it receives about 15,000 applications annually from resident

- hunters for approximately 300 opportunities to shoot an elk.
- First Nations hunters are given about the same number of opportunities, but they are distributed to a variety of bands, which redistribute them using a variety of different systems.
 - Conservation officers state that elk poaching is a problem that comes and goes in spurts. Their office depends on hunters and other wilderness users to monitor what they see and do their part to help keep poachers in check.



Love It. Share It. Protect It.

By Sierra Action
Area B Director

Congratulations Shawnigan. Here are our top highlights for 2020.

- NEW playground at Old Mill Park - CVRDs first nature-scape playground.
- Phase 2 Rail with Trail completed from Mason’s Beach to Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Eventually this trail could extend through to Old Mill Park providing a safe walking corridor for our

community along the waterfront.

- \$700k grant funding for the water system in the Shawnigan Beach Estates.
- Shawnigan Lake Community and Centre and Kerry Park Recreation Centre parking lot upgrades both funded through grant funding.
- Ongoing water sampling program and milfoil awareness information campaign

Shawnigan. Here is what is to come for 2021.

- Additional investment for our outdoor spaces.
- Additional capital upgrades at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre through gas tax funding.
- Parking area construction and trail planning for Old Baldy Mountain.
- Feasibility study to relocate the boat launch to a safer location.



Tai Chi

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We are very proud of our members

G.J. Solley
Malahat Legion

2020 has proven to be a very trying year for everyone and we are hoping that things will improve in 2021.

Last month we listed the community organizations that we helped. We would like to thank our members who worked behind the scenes during the many bottle drives, helping with the various collections, delivering car loads of donations to the Food Bank, and masks to various offices, etc. etc. Our thanks go out to Virginia, Isabelle, Wanda, Jeff, Vince and all the other volunteers. They made it happen.

Another member who contributed is Stan Grenda, retired CPO2 Hull Tech. When the pandemic hit and the Legion had to close down and there was a chance it might not re-open, Stan decided he

wanted to help. He designed two pins, got approval from the DND, Director of History and Heritage (DHH) for the use of the Naval logo. Stan held work parties at his house and, with the help of several other members mentioned above, mailed out the pins all over Canada.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will be coming to the Malahat Legion Branch #134 in order to help keep it open. Here is Stan presenting the first cheque to our President Isabelle Hammer.

Master Corporal Harold Davis was awarded the highest commendation the Minister of Veteran Affairs can give.

- ★ Founder and president for the past 5 years of the Persian Gulf Veterans of Canada
- ★ 26 year member of the



Defenders Motorcycle Club which raises funds for the War AMPS of Canada and supports Crockwell House for homeless Veterans

- ★ helped many Veterans in their time of need
- ★ has held various positions from Vice President, membership,

executive member

- ★ He continues to volunteer at the Malahat Legion

Look for up-dates on facebook and/or our website to see what 2021 brings us.

1625 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd., Shawnigan Lake.
Contact us at (250) 743-4621
www.malahatlegion.ca.

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 29 Incidents in December

- ★ Tuesday, Dec 1 - 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Dec 2 - 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 8 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 8 – Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 8 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Dec 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 14 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Dec 17 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 18 - 1st Responder off Burnham Rd
- ★ Friday, Dec 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Saturday, Dec 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21- MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Gregory Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Sylvester Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – MVI on Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/ Malahat Fire Dept
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Airbright Ln
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – Hydro Lines on Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Monday, Dec 21 – MVI on Baldy Mtn Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 22 – Hydro Lines on Malta Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Dec 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd

Post Santa Run

The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department thanks the residents of Shawnigan Lake for their continued generous support to the local Food Bank.

Donations gathered with butterfly nets from truck windows totalled \$4100 this year.

The CMS Food Bank is grateful.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvrld.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. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Thursday to Sunday - 11:00-3:00. Last day Dec. 20th. Reopening Feb 4th
Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at Mill Bay Community League Hall. southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- ★ **Note:** Covid restrictions may affect regular meetings. Check before you go...

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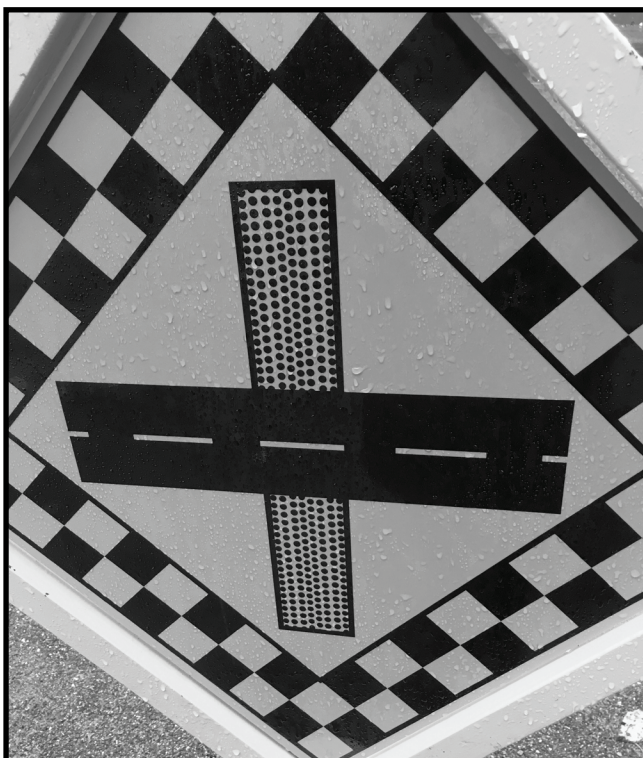
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What Is It? Where Is It? Why Is IT?



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

CONGRATULATIONS

December's photo was a popular one and many people responded. Sally Ryan was the winner and commented: "I call it the ReinBear on Renfrew Road near Gregory Road. Its nose glows at night and it's holding a bunch of Christmas lights."

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Mt. Baldy becoming famous for its “Hidden Swing”

Sonia Furstenau,
MLA for Cowichan Valley

Five years ago, the Shawnigan community raised over \$100,000 toward the purchase of Mt. Baldy as a CVRD community park. This ensured that Shawnigan’s iconic mountain on the east side of the Lake would remain permanently available as a public park. I was the CVRD Director for Shawnigan at the time, and I’m still very proud of the way the community came together to create this lasting legacy.

Baldy has long been a local favorite. There are two main routes to the top, one fairly steep and the other a bit gentler, following an old logging road to the summit. The views from the top are spectacular in all directions, with Shawnigan to the west, and to the east an ocean panorama stretching all the way to Mt. Baker and beyond.

We still go for regular family hikes on Baldy, and we have noticed more and more people visiting the



mountain. Often a dozen or more vehicles are parked at the trail access points on Strathcona Heights Road, with visitors from all over the south island. Often people have heard of it on social media, and are in

search of the wooden swing on an arbutus tree near the summit. Apparently, the swing was originally put up by a young suitor as the ideal place to propose to his girlfriend, and now it has become another attraction

to add to the growing fame of Shawnigan’s “Old Baldy Mountain”.

And when it snows, like it did in December, the sledding is excellent.

With so many of us spend-

ing more time outside in these days of COVID, we are very fortunate to have such an impressive natural attraction right here in our community for all to enjoy.

We’ll see you on the mountain!

So Grateful

Michael Battler

It was around 11:30am on Monday December 23rd when the power went out. I should have expected it as there had been a couple of flickers about a half hour earlier. Because I was deep into working from my home office and trying to hit a deadline for the end of the day, I gave the flickers no notice. But, true to form, nature decided to be, well Mother Nature and sent us a full throttle winter storm that played havoc with everything from the roads to the downing of many trees of every size and description.

It’s not like I didn’t know a big snow event was coming - all of the news reports for the prior 24 hours told us to brace for it. My first thought was oh, no... how long is this going to last as I have tons to do and it’s four days before Christmas...

From my window there was an amazing picturesque view of what I fondly call Christmas snow blanket-ing everything for as far as

I could see. At that time, I thought that it was so peaceful and I was grateful to be living here at Shawnigan Lake.

After checking the BC Hydro site on my cellphone, about three hours later, the reality of the situation started to sink in – this was not going to end anytime soon. Luckily, we are always well prepared with the essentials and have a wood stove for heat and cooking. It wasn’t until day two of the power outage that I discovered why the five houses in our area were still powerless. When I checked out the road to see if escape was even possible, I soon discovered a big maple tree had been toppled over by a fast-moving stream, that was now a torrent of water, rushing through its root ball. The tree had fallen onto the wires that feed our road and were now hanging precariously. No crews assigned was what the website said with every update.

It looked like we might lose all of the food in our two refrigerators, and one freezer, and my just-turned 100 mother-in-law



was not going to be happy without her TV if we don’t get some power in the next few hours. Never mind no running water for flushing toilets and bathing. I could go on...

We were certainly not alone in having to deal with the inconveniences of the power outage as there were thousands of people who had to endure what we did - even much worse in some

cases, but we were lucky enough to have everything we needed, including good health. Our home came through the ordeal no worse for wear, unless you count my arms feeling six inches longer from carrying buckets of water from the stream (and firewood).

Time passed, albeit a little slowly, but it was great to connect and live a whole lot simpler.

I am grateful to the amazing BC Hydro crew that worked well into the dark to restore our power. They were awesome and fast. I am grateful for the roads crew for plowing our road sooner than I can ever remember in the past and allowing us to escape. I am grateful for so many things at the end of this bizarre and trying year and am especially grateful that 2021 has finally arrived!