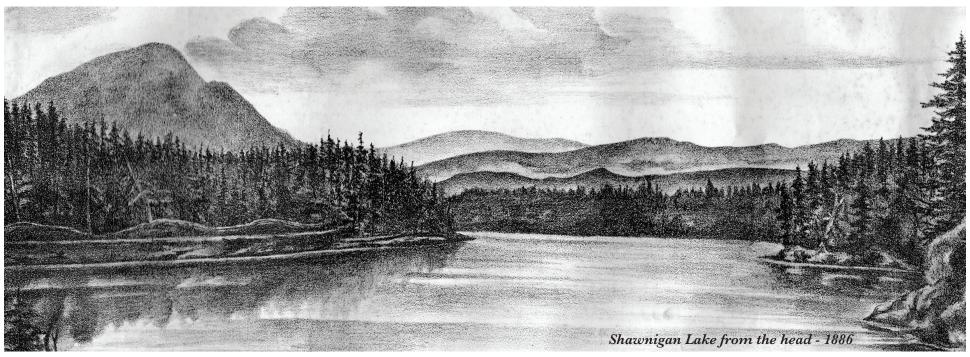
June 2021

A Non-Profit Community Publication

AS OUR ANCESTORS DID



Paige Henry Shawnigan Lake Museum

For over a century, Shawnigan Lake has been treasured by both long-time residents and visitors from all over the world. It has been the subject of Indigenous legends and a hunting and gathering ground; inspiration for many artists; a popular vacation destination; and the venue for regattas and other sporting events. However, the lake is now threatened by numerous human and environmental factors. The pure, clear water we cherish is no longer a guarantee, as the Shawnigan community knows all too well.

In March of this year, Ed Wiebe and Cliff Evans, environmental advocates and members of the Shawnigan Basin Society, kindly took me and my father to the site on Stebbings Road where South Island Aggregates

(SIA) dumped one hundred thousand tonnes of contaminated soil. It is only thanks to the diligence and dedication of the Shawnigan community that there wasn't more. After the Ministry of Environment issued SIA a permit to dump five million tonnes of soil at the site in August 2013, the Shawnigan community took action to protect its water. Members of the Basin Society and the Shawnigan Research Group regularly visited the site to monitor the company's activity, test the quality of water runoff, and give tours to hundreds of concerned Shawnigan residents.

In February 2017, after countless protests by the community, the Ministry revoked the permit. Since then, the site has been forfeited to the government, due to over thirty-eight thousand dollars' worth of taxes owed by SIA. Today, the company owes more money than what the site is worth. In July 2019, the Ministry approved a "Final Closure Plan," which involved covering the soil with a second liner and seventy thousand tonnes of uncontaminated material. This process was completed in late August 2020, after the Ministry extended the original closure date of October 2019. SIA is required to keep monitoring the site with the government's supervision.

While Shawnigan was angered by the decision to leave the soil rather than remove it, the threat to our water does appear to have diminished. Ed and Cliff explained that the Basin Society only tests the water quality near the site three times a year, compared to the monthly tests they took when the soil was being deposited. Ed noted

that the remediation of the site was far more professional than SIA's inadequate and careless work in creating the soil dump.

Unfortunately, the SIA dump is only one of many at Shawnigan and elsewhere across Vancouver Island. The lake has been threatened by soil dumps (both legal and illegal) for decades. When the soil erodes due to heavy rainfall, runoff leaches into the lake. The introduced materials, such as heavy metals, can harm both animals in the lake and people who receive water from it. The soil may also contain nutrients such as phosphorus, which allow invasive species, notably milfoil, to thrive.

A 1923 Cowichan Leader article noted that "the demand for summer cottages [exceeded] the supply" at Shawnigan Lake. Today, the numerous soil dumps around the lake have residents worried about dropping property values.

Thus far, the efforts of the CVRD, including the implementation of a soil deposit bylaw, have not fully resolved the issue. However, a draft of an amended version of the bylaw was approved this May. It not only imposes fees for soil dumping, but also restricts the amount that may be dumped depending on an area's zoning. For instance, dumps containing over one thousand cubic metres of soil will only be permitted in commercial and industrial areas.

The state of the lake today reminds us of the preciousness and vulnerability of our natural resources. Let's hope that, in the near future, we'll return to writing about the lake as our ancestors did: praising its vitality and natural beauty.

Shawnigan Basin Society

Bernie Juurlink

Shawnigan Basin Society

A major concern of soil deposit operations is that nutrientladen sediments from such sites enter streams that feed Shawnigan Lake, promoting algal and blue-green algal blooms and the growth of invasive weeds such as Eurasian watermilfoil. In April of 2019, the CVRD passed a Soil Deposit Bylaw that became in effect on June 1, 2020. The attitude of the CVRD was that no application for a Soil Deposit Permit could be denied; hence, massive amounts of fill continued being dumped contaminating the watershed with nutrients.

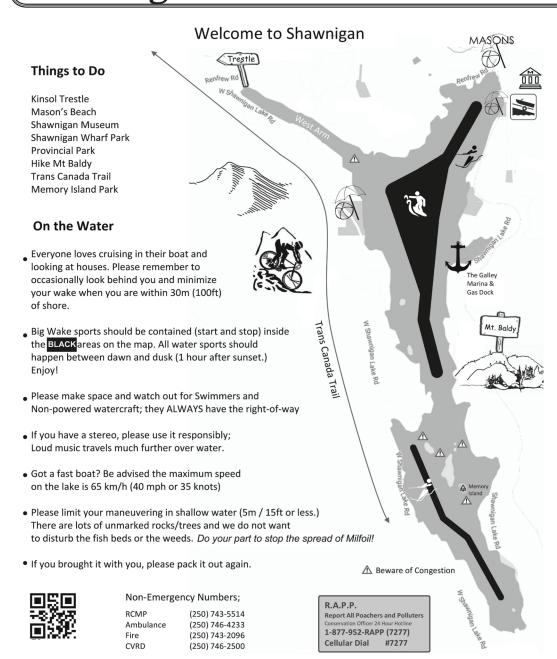
Due to public pressure, on May 19, 2021, the CVRD considered approval of amendments to the Soil Deposit Bylaw. The major amendment was to restrict massive fill deposits to sites zoned industrial/commercial. This amendment was approved at a recent meeting. There are three types of Soil Deposit Permits: Type A - fewer than 100 cubic metres being deposited per year, Type B between 100 and 1000 cubic metres and Type C - more than 1000 cubic metres.

A worrisome amendment was to give the General Manager the authority to issue Type C Soil Deposit Permits and to remove the ability of the Board to call for public consultation on specific Soil Deposit applications. Fortunately, these amendments were rejected.

The following problems still remain: i) fill sites can be immediately adjacent to riparian areas; ii) monitoring of waterways and groundwater is not required, hence, there are no protections of our watershed; iii) fill can still be dumped onto sites the Ministry of Environment has deemed to be contaminated; iv) there is no requirement to honour covenants placed onto the proposed fill sites; and v) there is no required boundary zone delimiting the fill site from neighbouring properties.



Shawnigan Focus



South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

South Cowichan Library

Library in the Mill Bay Centre is now open 10-8 pm each Tuesday and 10-5 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Expect a return to full hours, Mon-Sat, by the end of the month.

The library is open for browsing. You can also use a public computer to print, copy, or scan. We're getting more Express Reads than ever too, so you may get lucky and be able skip the wait. Look for Express DVDs as well!

Masks are required when visiting the library. If you can't or prefer not to enter the library, we're happy to arrange a time to hand your requested items to you right at the front door.

If you know someone unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our monthly volunteer Home Delivery service. Get books and audiobooks right at your door!

If you have questions, please call us at 250-743-5436 or email southcowichan@virl.bc.ca.

St. John's Academy **Interact Update**

Peter Salmon President

As the school year comes to a close, it seems fitting to look back on what the St. John's Academy Interact Club has accomplished in the last several months. This year, we held several fundraisers to raise money for worthy causes, including Toys, Toiletries, and Toques. As well, we gathered funds for future projects. One of the fundraisers was a donation drive, where we gathered unused items from the community and sold them on consignment.

The inaugural Interact Fish-

ing Derby also took place this May with over 60 participants! The event was a huge success, with nine prizes being awarded and much fun being had. It was great to see families all fishing together on the lake during the long weekend!

It has been an honour leading the Interact Club this year; it has been a great experience working with students, teachers, and the wider community to accomplish various projects, as well as work through issues and come to solutions. All in all, these last few months have been great for Interact, and I'm excited for another great year!

Shawnigan Focus Team:

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Co-Editors: Lori Treloar Kim Hennecker Advertising and Accounting: Kim Hennecker Layout: Taryn Treloar Local Distribution: Janet Neilsen

Printed by International WebExpress Box 331 Shawnigan Lake, BC VOR 2WO 250-743-8675

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Shawnigan Weather May 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	May Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	17.2	18.4	18.9	18.3	19.6	20.6	19	17.6	18.6
Average Low	7.0	7.3	8.8	7.3	8.0	8.6	7.8	7.4	8.1
Extreme High	33.9	24.7	28.4	24.0	29.1	22.8	28.4	22.5	27.0
Extreme Low	-3.9	4.2	2.7	3.2	2.9	5.8	3.4	4.5	2.5
Precipitation	50.6	30.8	68.9	25.7	74.7	21.5	68.4	30.4	65.6
Days w precip	14	12	13	10	13	8	12	15	16
Year Precip	591.7	544.7	685.4	497.3	662.9	392.1	565.2	485.0	696.9

The 10 Rights of Reconciliation – Part One

Jared Owustenuxun Williams Elder's Chef, Writer, & Cowichan Tribes Member

After generations of genocide we, as both indigenous and non-indigenous people, want to move forward together in a good way. I feel that it would go a long way toward uniting our two ways of life if there was a level of respect for first nations rights. Most of these rights are self-evident and many are cemented in nonindigenous society. Things like names, language, and culture are just a given for western people...names like John and Susan, languages like English and French, and culture like how all our holidays are centred on the Christian and Euro pagan calendar, are all rights that western society is given. But now it's time to ensure that we give First Nations people these same rights. So, after a lot of thought, I have decided to write some of these rights down and explain a little about what I mean. Hopefully this can help bring our two worlds closer together and help re instill pride in our first nations communities.

The right to wear our traditional name,

If you are asked to call someone by their traditional name, I can promise you that the person who asked will appreciate your effort, even if you get it wrong at first. We know it's hard, we know it's foreign, but it's never going to get any better if we don't try. We must acknowledge that our colonial tongues trip over indigenous names. The worst thing we can do is say, "No, I can't say that" or "Can I call you something else?" We must all work together to break



the stigmas and stereotypes around indigenous people names

2. The right to speak an indigenous language,.

When we speak an indigenous language, we don't have to translate...if we do it's a gift to you. Many of our friends know exactly what we are saying when we speak, and some don't. It's ok to not know what we are saying. Get comfortable with hearing our words and their meaning will come. Be proactive and look into the language of the land you are on, learn the place names, learn basic words. When we go to Hawaii we learn their language...it should be no different at home.

3. The right to utilize our traditional territory,

Crown land is First Nations land. Our aboriginal title is not extinguished unless we have a treaty. We will harvest, hunt, camp, and live on this land and we will do so unapologetically. The Supreme Court has even upheld this right. This includes river, lakes, and oceans. For coastal people, this waterway was our home as much if not more than the villages on land.

4. The right to access our traditional food,

Many of our foods are not common in the supermarket as they are not popular within mainstream western soci-

ety. Things like moose nose, live urchin, herring eggs, and all the different kinds of grease and/or smoked products we utilize. These foods connect us with our land and our culture. We must work to make space in this world for these foods. We must work together to save

the ecosystems and habitats that grow and sustain these foods. Food is the centre of culture. So, just because you don't eat it doesn't mean it's not worth protecting.

5. The right to our family structure,

If someone tells you that someone is their Sqe'uq/ Shuyulh (Sibling), Shwumniqw (Aunt/Uncle), or Silu (Grandparent), they are. Western families and Indigenous families are set up differently. Western people have siblings and cousins and second cousins and third cousins. In Salish families, our first cousins are our siblings. Our second, third, and fourth cousins, are more like distant siblings whose parents are our Shwumnigw (Aunt/Uncle) and whose grandparents are our Silu' (grandparents). You don't have to get it... some of us barely get it, but you do have to accept it.



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Tools @ Work

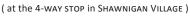


Name tool in photo and what it is used for! Send your answer to

ShawniganGaragePromos@shaw.ca

Correct answers will be entered in a draw to win! May Winner: Ian Hamilton who correctly identified the tools as 'sockets to tighten or loosen locking wheel luq nuts.'

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The correct Tools are important to the maintenance of your car or boat.

Did you know that The Focus is a non-profit, volunteer run, free paper? Want to know more or get involved? shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com



Beyond Your Backyard: Growing to the Heart of Community

Kim Barnard

Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub

It takes a special kind of person to see the potential in a patch of dirt that, for all the world to see, just looks like a weedy ditch or forgotten boulevard. But what if we saw a chance to plant corridors for pollinators, to cultivate beauty, and to create garden spaces that could be shaped with care to enhance our community? A tended space creates a feeling of well-being and becomes a symbol of hope in the midst of someone's difficult day.

The Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub is actively seeking people who enjoy these types of hands-on outdoor projects! Do you have time to offer, or donations of plants and materials to repurpose? We would love to support your ideas for keeping our shared spaces well-looked after! At our club's heart is that TOGETHER WE CAN make a positive difference in every little act of creation and transformation! It's the art of growing, with an eye for the ecosystems we are nurturing. We are do-ers who welcome your involvement - and we are cheering nature on! This summer we also encourage you to explore our area using the iNaturalist app, to identify and learn more about the living things we share our environment with. There's so much you can do. Stay tuned at our website, connect with member stories, and follow us on social media!

Book Review

Marcy Green Shawnigan Focus

The Vanishing Half

By Brit Bennett

Published by Riverhead Books -2020

Stories about twins always seem to fascinate. The Vignes sisters, Stella and Desiree, were born in the little town of Mallard, Louisiana, home to only light-skinned black people by design. At the age of 16, they both leave deadend jobs to go to the big city of New Orleans.

Stella finds work in an office and is mistakenly taken for a

white woman. Feeling free to create a whole new identity, she begins dating one of the men there, eventually marrying him, moving away and having a blonde, blue-eyed daughter. In other words, she is "passing" as white, a secret she never shares.

If you are of a certain age, you might remember the movie, "Imitation of Life" with Lana Turner, based on this same scenario of passing as white.

It didn't end well for the woman in the movie. Stella's decision forever disconnects her from her beloved sister, her mother and her roots. Her secrets keep her separated from everyone, including her restless, beautiful daughter.

Desiree's life is very different. She marries a very dark man and, escaping from his brutality, brings her blue-black daughter home to her town, much to the disdain of her neighbours. The concept of colourism within certain black and brown communities is one that is interesting to consider, and try to understand in this book. Those of us resting comfortably in our white privilege might not realize that there is, in some places, a hierarchy based on colour tones, the lighter being considered superior. Or, in other circles, you might not be black enough to be accepted by the larger group. In either case, being seen as

different is painful.

As the daughters of the twins grow, they coincidentally meet, and the story expands to include a rich cast of characters. The men in this novel are largely sympathetic, and, while secondary to the main characters, support the women as they navigate their complicated family narratives. One sister remains forever alienated, and one finds love and connection to her family as the story builds.

The author writes beautifully of the south and of themes like love, differences and death. She never preaches or lectures, but just tells a good story.

One of the characters is a trans man and so the LG-

BTQ+ community is included in the rich diversity of people that we encounter. There are several different worlds that Bennett writes about with authority, and she juggles the different scenarios adeptly.

Identity, race and gender are all explored but, ultimately, the author seems to say that we are all human and flawed, each searching for meaning and acceptance in our own way. We might look different on the outside, but we are linked by our shared humanity.

Recommended for those who like to combine a gripping narrative with stories that expand the mind and open us to considering and accepting differences

Rating: 4.9/5 stars



Curious, do we still feel the same way?

Problems Perceived

by Shawnigan Lake Residents Shawnigan Settlement Plan Survey, 1975

	Yes	No
Too Many Cottages Excessive Boat Noise Excessive Boat Traffic Boats Passing Too Close to Shore General Noise Level	170 307 268 305 235	218 122 146 131
General Noise Level	233	134

EDITORIAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Send to shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com – In word or text format, not pdf.

If you include photos, send as a separate jpg. file

Photos should be high resolution.

E.J. Hughes at Shawnigan

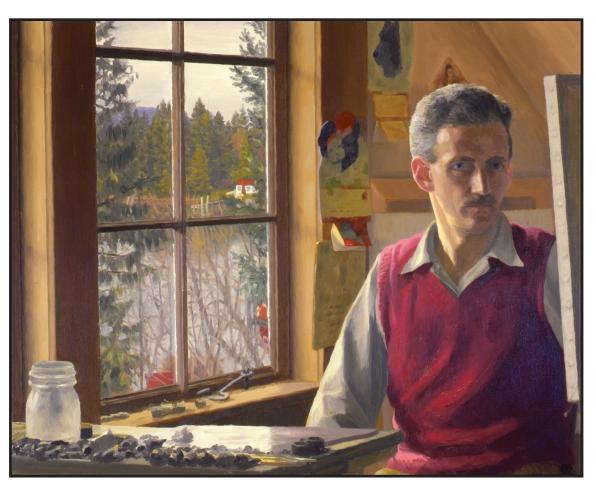
Robert AmosArtíst

Artist Edward J. Hughes bought a house at Shawnigan Lake on May 17, 1951. A little later in that summer, Gwen Cash wrote about him in the Victoria Times: "Publicity-shy, relatively unknown artist Edwin D. Hughes [sic] has been the object of a two-day search here by Dr. Max Stern of the Dominion Gallery in Montreal. Doctor Stern traced the elusive Mr. Hughes to Shawnigan Lake."

Stern was owner of the Dominion Gallery in Montreal, and at the time Canada's most prestigious art dealer. In July he saw two paintings by Hughes at Vancouver's University of British Columbia and traced the artist to a sequence of Victoria addresses, but found that Hughes had left town. Enlisting the aid of reporter Gwen Cash he set out for Hughes' latest address: Post Box Two, Shawnigan Lake. Inquiring at the local RCMP Detachment, he was directed to a place on the east side of the lake.

The art expert and the reporter arrived unannounced. "We drove there on a stinking hot forenoon," Cash wrote later, "and found Hughes painting in the attic of a tall old brown board and batten house built on a ledge behind some cottonwood trees overlooking the lake... Hughes is a tall slim young fellow with intense blue eyes, a thin black moustache and an air of great, if somewhat wondering, sincerity." [Vancouver Sun Magazine, September 22, 1951]

At the time, the reclusive artist had really never sold a painting, but before the day was out Dr. Stern had purchased everything the artist had and contracted to buy his entire production. This continued until the Domin-



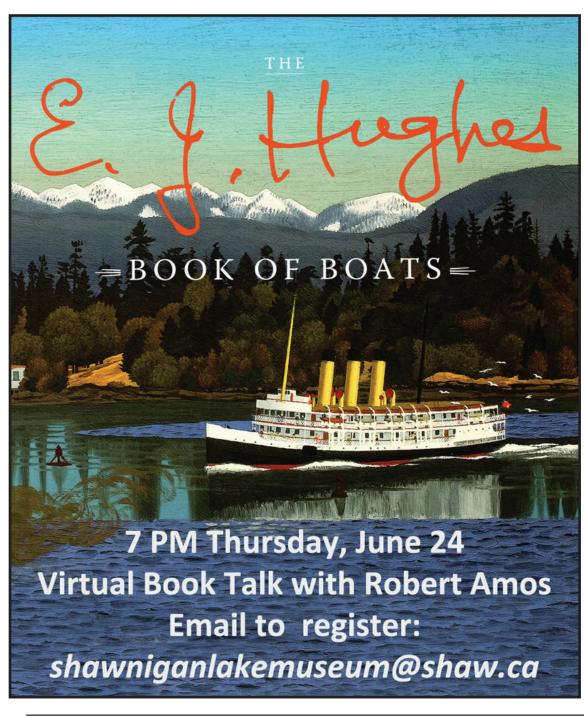
The Painter in his Studio (1956-1957). Oil on Canvas 50.8 x 61.0 cm. Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery. Courtesy of the Estate of E. J. Hughes.

ion Gallery closed fifty years later. This was an arrangement unique in Canadian art history.

Speaking in 1984, Stern put it this way: "In 1943 I

went west in search of new Canadian artists and found Emily Carr. In 1951, I went west again and found Ed Hughes. And since then, I have found no other." The full details of this remarkable day are recorded in **E. J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island** (Touch-Wood Editions, 2018) by Robert Amos.

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Stop telling yourself you're not qualified, not worthy or not experienced enough. Growth happens when you start doing things you're not qualified to do. ~ Stephen Bartlett

The Malahat Legion

Gloria Solley Malahat Legion

Facebook: Royal Canadian Legion br 134

Web: https://malahatlegion.Ca

Thanks to the support of our community and the volunteers who have worked our "no-contact bottle drive" we have been able to pay our utility bills over the period of this pandemic. On Saturday, June 5th we did a "no-contact" free hot dog and pop for the families who have supported us. The "no-contact" bottle drive will continue until at least the end of June from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm every Saturday.

The lines in our parking

lot have been repainted. The Malahat Legion Branch 134 received a grant to up-date the bar to industry standards. Renovations are underway. Stay tuned for our grand reopening and further details.

While we may or may not be able to open soon, we are continuing to support our community.

Since our on-line auction for the Wounded Warriors was a huge success, we decided to do one for the YSAG quilting group which has just completed 15 quilts for "Quilts of Valour". We raised almost \$1,500.00. Our next auction will be announced shortly and will be for blind children. Unfortunately, we again have to cancel some of our regular activities. Hope to see everyone again next year.

The Walter Hall Community Fishing Derby usually held on the Fathers' Day Weekend

July 1st activities including Mill Bay Lions and the Malahat Legion Pancake Breakfast.

Along with our bottle drive we will now be collecting donations of non-perishables for the C.M.S. Food Bank. The donations can be placed on the bench by our front door. Items will be delivered to the food bank once they have been isolated according to the mandate given by the Covid 19 rules.







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Department members attended 13 incidents in May

- Sunday, May 2 -1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 2 1st Responder off Treit Rd
- ★ Wednesday, May 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, May6 Hydro Lines on Galland Rd
- ★ Friday, May 7 Lake Rescue off Recreation Rd
- ★ Friday, May 7 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Monday, May 10 Car Fire on Duffield Rd
- ★ Monday, May 10 MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, May 16 -1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, May 21 Burning Complaint on Wilmot Ave
- ★ Saturday, May 22 MVI in the 3200 Blk Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, May 25
 1st Responder off Campbell Rd
- ★ Thursday, May 27 Hazardous Materials in the 2600 Blk Katy's Cres

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. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS) Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- **★** Shawnigan Lake Museum
- Open Thursday through Sunday 11:00-3:00 with COVID restrictions 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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What Is It? Where ls 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

Kate Roberts was our winner for May! She correctly identified the old derelict boat on a property near the Gov Wharf Park.

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Saying goodbye is never easy

Oriana Pellizzari-Parker Director of Media: SCCPAS, CCP&ES

Constable Ian Wetzel-Eden of the Shawnigan Lake RCMP detachment will be leaving the island in July. He will be embarking on a new career as a team member of the Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service, (ICARS) in Kelowna, BC. ICARS is a branch of the BC Highway Patrol and Constable Ian will be investigating and reconstructing collisions which resulted in serious injury or death.

Constable Ian arrived on the island thirteen years ago and worked in the Duncan Detachment, then moving over to the Shawnigan Lake Detachment. His four children were basically raised on the island and have great memories of their dad coaching their team in his uniform and their friends thinking that was really cool. The family is well rooted in the community and moving on brings with it a lot of emotions and sentiments. It's the thought of leaving behind good friends, colleagues, and memories that play at your heartstrings. Constable Ian sees his years here as a blessing. He was able to establish a routine, enjoy his family, be part of the community and, especially, serve and really get involved in projects that benefitted the community.

Through his involvement with SCCPAS, Ian helped the society to recognize and implement programs, and create public awareness, that has led to a positive understanding of the need for safe and healthy communities. He not just lectured about the importance of safety on the road, in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, but actually made it happen.

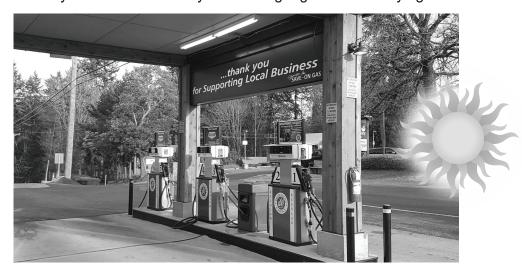
In 2015, Constable Ian participated in the Tour de Rock, Cops for Cancer on Vancouver Island. This annual event raises money for childhood cancer research

and support services at the Canadian Cancer Society. Cops for Cancer have raised millions of dollars to fund life-saving research and support children with cancer and their families.

Leaving the place they call home is not easy for Constable Ian and family. Their community connection is very strong and leaving friends and colleagues behind is very difficult. Constable Ian would like to thank the SCCPAS directors, employees, and volunteers, whom he interacted and worked with on various projects. He has been a fixture at our meetings and for this we are indebted to him for his commitment and his desire to best serve and protect our communities. He will be sorely missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Constable Ian and his family the very best in their new home. May Constable Ian be enriched with many challenging and exciting opportunities in his career.



Thank-you to our community for working together and staying safe!



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