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Shawnigan Focus

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WHAT'S THE FIRST NATIONS HISTORY OF SHAWNIGAN LAKE?

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams,
Shawnigan Focus

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'This lake has a story that is rooted in our oldest legends, our creation stories.'

Uy netulh siem nu siie'yu,

Good morning my respected friends,

Today's article began, as many of my articles do, with a question. Someone wrote in and asked, *"What do you know about the pre-contact history of Shawnigan Lake? Were there any settlements here? Was it a place to gather food?"*

Sometimes the world just thinks up a question and almost out of nowhere several people ask me the same question at the same time. This is one of those questions. This lake has a story that is rooted in our oldest legends, our creation stories. Naturally, the best way to answer this is with a story.

Stutsun's story

One story is told by Stutsun, as he recounts the tale to his brother Syalutsa. These two brothers are among the first Quw'utsun ancestors, who fell from the sky to become the first people of this land. Stutsun had just returned from a great journey and told Syalutsa of all the things he'd seen in the world. Stutsun spoke of how he encountered a large green-blue-grey creature that danced under the water

and made strange zig-zag waves to try to entice him into the lake. But, after stepping out of the lake and onto the shore the creature disappeared under the water.

Even in this story the brothers have no name for the creature, and Syalutsa jests that it was now up to Stutsun to name the creature. But, at the end of the tale, Syalutsa notes specifically that the st'elequm Stusun encountered was at Showe'luqun, now known as Shawnigan Lake.

Many stories of Stutsun, like this one, can be found in the book, *Those Who Fell From The Sky* by Daniel P. Marshall.

Statloth's story

Another story tells of a Saanich chief named Statloth. After many years of being unable to bear children with his wife, he was blessed with a son in his old age. It was said that as the boy grew, he would disappear for hours or days at a time. Finally, his father followed him in secret and found him at the north end of Showe'luqun playing with a giant wolf. Awestruck, the father snuck away unseen. With the belief the wolf was a great spirit that would bless the family, the chief kept his son's secret. In the years that passed the wolves bestowed many blessings upon Semmelth, son of Statloth, and the people of his community.

In one tale, in particular, at the naming of Semmelth,

the wolves brought and piled more meat in honour of Semmelth's naming that had even been seen before. The people who attended the gathering were said to have feasted for weeks. Some of this story can be found in *History and Folklore of the Cowichan Indians* by Martha Douglas Harris.

I will share that I have heard stories of Stutsun and Syalutsa from elders and community members. I know people who wear these names; these characters and stories are prevalent in Cowichan folklore. But I have only ever found the story of Statloth in the pages of a book.

The village at Showe'luqun

My last story has not been shared widely — the story of the village at Showe'luqun. I have met with several elders to get a complete picture of this story. One thing is certain: it's time this story is shared. But I want to note something here. Our stories were never designed to be written. When we write something it becomes a referenceable fact in the hwulunitum world. If I quote someone saying something they become accountable to that fact. This thought is terrifying to some elders. Not only do their stories become rigid and static, they can sometimes lead to repercussions.

What if you found out your home was built on a village site? What if I told you who told me that?

Wouldn't you want to know more? Would your land value change? Do you need to get an archeological survey? You can see how this train of thought can lead to knowledge keepers getting targeted for various reasons. So, when I say the elders told me this, trust that I've asked several elders and understand why I don't share their names.

Now, as the story goes, Showe'luqun was a trading village located on the east side of Shawnigan Lake. A place where many plants and medicines were gathered, plants that were not found everywhere else. A meeting place where South Island tribes would come to trade goods.

Now, before the hwulunitum arrived, Showe'luqun was raided by a raiding party from the West Coast. According to the story, nearly everyone was killed or enslaved, leaving the village deserted. When such a thing would happen, our ancestors would leave the area alone for an undetermined amount of time, to let the place heal spiritually and deeming it xe'xe. While the village was vacant, the hwulunitim arrived. Some have said that there was a meeting between hwulmuhw musttimuhw and hwulunitum where the story of the raid was told. During this meeting the settlers left the meeting under the impression that the village had been abandoned due to the raid, and that the land was

free to be occupied.

Supposedly this is where the "lake of the dead" or "cursed lake" theory comes in. However, when we look around in history we can see lots of places the hwunitums deemed places of the dead. Hwulmuhw left bodies in trees, under stones, and on select islands. This practice was foreign to the settlers, and somehow convinced them that these places were unoccupied and just abandoned villages.

These old stories are so powerful, they show us where we are and how we are connected to the land. Thank you again for giving me this chance to share.

Huy tseep q'u siem nu siie'yu,

Thank you my respected friends,

Qwustenuxun, grandson of Qwustanulwut

Hul'qumi'num words

Hul'q'umi'num – the language of the Cowichan people hwulmuhw musttimuhw – First Nations people hwulunitum – non-First Nations people

Quw'utsun – Cowichan Semmelth – Statloth's son Showe'luqun – Shawnigan

Statloth – an old Sannich chef's name st'elequm – a monster

stqeeyu' – wolf

Stutsun – One of the first ancestors to fall from the sky Syalutsa – One of the first ancestors to fall from the sky xe'xe – sacred or holy

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Opinion Piece

Glenn White
Opinion

The Recycling Enforcers

When I got home from a ride, I had notes stuck on my recycling tote. Someone had placed a house number on the tote and also a bike inner tube that I had placed in the tote was on the ground. A second notice told me that rubber tubes are not allowed to be put in the tote.

I understood that tires and tubes were recyclable but apparently not within in the CVRD system.

I found that there are myriad of things that are recyclable such as styrofoam, plastic bags, glass bottles etc but cannot be put in the totes.

These are just some of the many rules about what is recyclable but not for the totes. Things like the ones mentioned above must be taken by the homeowner to the depot for processing. Somehow there is a disconnect between the value of recycling and the cost of having each household transport its recyclables to the respective depot. We ought to reduce the thousands of CVRD citizens driving to various drop-off places for recyclable material that is not tote compatible. The CVRD supports clean air and reducing of greenhouse gases which is honourable and needed, but their actions seem incongruent with having thousands of CVRD residents driving their material to the depot. Unfortunately a lot of that material does not make it to the depot and is deposited on various roads etc around Shawnigan Lake and

I suspect this is similar to other areas within the CVRD system. We know this assessment is valid as we have had many clean up events in our community with volunteers collecting the same material from the roadways and then having them transported by trucks to the depots.

Seems odd to have some \$30 an hour (my guess on rate) employees going around digging in peoples totes and leaving notes about what is and is not allowed in the totes and placing the banned contraband on the offenders drive way only to have them either put it in the garbage or drive to the drop off depot. Either way seems like working at cross purposes. .

Many jurisdictions have all recyclable material put in the tote or bin taken to a central location where it is sorted and sent for processing to the respective processor. This results in much more material being taken into the recycling circuit. If there is an issue with recycling some of the material then it should be addressed at the regional level and appropriate steps taken. Thus ensure the highest amount of recycling.

Maybe it is time that the CVRD took a look at that process to see if there is a way to make it more streamlined, capture more material and make it easier for homeowners to participate in the recyclable process. I believe we would get much more material to the recycle depot and thus reduce the amount either put in the garbage or dumped out along the road somewhere.

Shawnigan Weather September 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	Sept Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	20.5	20.0	22.9	20.3	23.1	19.8	22.8	19.8	22.1
Average Low	9.3	10.7	12.0	10.4	11.6	11.7	12.8	10.1	11.4
Extreme High	34.0	28.0	33.4	27.0	32.6	27.0	32.0	26.5	31.0
Extreme Low	-3.9	5.4	7.8	4.3	7.2	6.3	9.3	5.0	8.0
Precipitation	33.3	155.5	120.4	141.2	117.6	152.9	102.6	135.3	111.9
Days w precip	8	15	8	17	8	15	8	17	10
Year Precip	716.1	738.4	919.4	678.3	874.1	570.2	775.5	655.7	908.4
Rank since 1914: 42 nd warmest, 3 rd wettest									
Lake Temperature		Sept 5	Sept 12	Sept 19	Sept 26				
		20°	20°	18°	18°				
Lake level change		-2.5cm	0cm	+3.5cm	-1.3cm				
Surface Elevation		115.90	115.90	115.94	115.93				

September was a very wet month(3rd since 1914), and it was the wettest month this year since January. This month provided a big catchup from this spring/summer drought but still, this year's precipitation is still 90% of normal.
Temperatures were close to average, with the hottest day on the 2nd and the coldest on the 16th.
The Lake is starting to cool off now, and the levels are at the yearly minimum before the rains increase runoff into the lake.

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More beautification in process

Shawnigan Cemetery

Excerpt from the Community Crier, September 1981

On January 12, 1948, representatives from the Malahat Board of Trade, the Women's Institute, the Canadian Legion Women's Auxiliary, the United Church and the Rev. E.M. Willis met to discuss the need for a community cemetery. At later meetings, the P.T.A and the Anglican Church were also represented. From this first meeting, chaired by H.E. Hawking, action was started that resulted in the incorporation, in August 1950, of the Shawnigan Lake Cemetery Board.

The Board bought the present site from Mrs. Galland and did all the rough clearing and most of the slash clearing and burning. However, public interest was not maintained long enough to complete the job. It had also become increasingly difficult for an unorganized community to satisfy all the regulations of the Public Utilities Commission, while some of these regulations are automatically fulfilled by a church.

Consequently, in 1961, the Cemetery Board was dissolved, and the site was turned over to the Shawnigan Lake United Church with the understanding that, although run by the United Church, the cemetery would be community in nature. From 1961

to 1969 the cemetery was known as the Shawnigan United Cemetery. As this was considered misleading, the name was changed in 1969 to the Shawnigan Cemetery, its present title.

Reg Blackmore Opinion

Excerpts from an article about the cemetery, written by Reg Blackmore, from the August 2011 issue of Shawnigan Focus

Since 1999, the Shawnigan Cemetery has been maintained year round on a weekly basis as a service club project by the Malahat Lions Club. Since the Malahat Club's participation, great visual and esthetic strides have been made to provide a degree of comfort for the families of those who rest there and provide an equal degree of satisfaction to neighbouring properties.

The Mill Bay Lions Club and the South Cowichan Rotary have also contributed equipment and comfort items.

A Memorial Garden was established and grows contentedly from year to year. Tables, benches and other items of personal comfort for mourners and visitors alike have been placed.

An octagonal gazebo was added to shelter mourners and visitors on days throughout the year where weather

is not one's best friend. This was supported by donations of material and funding from many local sources.

The property has also been enhanced with the planting of ornamental trees, hopefully strategically located, together with the total landscaping of the frontage on Munsie Road including excavation and subsequent placement of landscape ties and yards of wood chips. Ornamental cedars and holly shrubs/trees, daffodil bulbs etc., have been planted and a salt lick block was installed to help deter the deer from eating up the ornamentals!

During the tragic loss of a family member, the goal is to make the property an attractive place of serenity and comfort to those who survive such a loss and encourage them to come back and visit. This theme is already exhibited throughout the year by the constant placement of tributes to those interred—even Christmas will see a display of Wreaths.

I would close by mentioning the generous, visually commanding, appearance of the cemetery gates donated by Gavin McArthur in honour and memory of his parents who are interred here, in Shawnigan Cemetery.

As a non-denominational cemetery, one day the cemetery will house a lot of the pioneer history of what is currently Shawnigan Lake.

Gavin MacArthur Opinion

My Mother and Father are buried in the Shawnigan Cemetery. In 1995, I bought an old growth cedar log from MacMillan Bloedel and eventually milled it into enough lumber to build the two sets of wood gates for the Shawnigan Cemetery as a tribute to my parents.

The gates were constructed from old growth cedar and wrought iron and designed so that each pair forms a peak pointing to the sky.

On January 20, 2007, family and friends, the congregation of Sylvan United Church and members of the Malahat Lions Club gathered for a formal ceremony for the gates to be blessed by Rev. Dr. Murray Groom.

The gates have deteriorated over time. They are covered in moss, there are pieces missing and the stain is peeling. I am very concerned about the condition

of them. They have not been taken care of and they might not last if they aren't fixed.

At the very least, the gates need to be cleaned and fixed, especially where a car drove into one of them.

At one time, there was information on the cemetery website about the creation and installation of the gates but that is no longer available. I would like to know why...

I wonder if the gates are still valued by the keepers of the cemetery?



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Together we grow! Planter gardening a labour of love

Kim Barnard

Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub

“How many gardeners does it take to change a community?” Answer, Pat and Dinah, whose efforts we have enjoyed each time we notice the beautiful flowers and eye-catching foliage that grace the planter boxes along the storefronts in our village. In a recent interview, Pat explained that it tugged at her heart to see the sad, struggling and overgrown state of the unadopted planters in the beginning. She thought of all the potential there and how it just took someone to care for them on a regular basis, like she did in her own garden. Pat cautiously started with one, thinking “...How much work can it be?”

Dinah supported Pat with establishing rapport with the businesses and landlords, earning their trust, and supplying donations of plant cuttings and other inspiration from members of the Mill Bay Gardening Club. In the first year, their expenses were

personally out of pocket, and most importantly out of a heart for making these pocket gardens beautiful.

The impact of the April 2019 visit from “13 Ways” writer and speaker Doug Griffiths has stayed with Dinah in particular, and she describes her philosophy as breathing life into your community by “painting with plants”.

Their efforts are not without challenges, however. Some of the donations and cuttings didn’t take well, were unable to thrive, or required different growing conditions. The soil itself was poor and needed to be revived with the addition of organic material and other forms of mulch. Heartwood generously donated wood chips to help with this process.

The work of watering was especially stressful this summer. While the businesses on one side of the street were able to step in with watering



cans to help out, the multiple planters on the other side had no easy tap or water access. Thanks to a collaboration with the Shawnigan Basin Society, Pat and Dinah were able to arrange irrigation until the external tap was made functional. A purchase of 2 x 100ft hoses were set up on donated reels (“a FB story of kindness”, says Pat), and fixed up by her handy hubby John.

These pocket garden spaces continue to evolve. Sun and shade considerations have helped these gardeners come

up with new combinations to try. Planting for pollinators is definitely a theme, plus favouring perennials that are of a sturdy size to start. Form and texture, colour and shape, are all part of the living painting on display.

These lovely volunteers say it’s all about creating a sense of place - a homey feeling - besides the joy it brings them and others to create a beautiful oasis. Sharing the magic is a sustaining motivation to continue.

Pat and Dinah’s example

inspired the Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub’s adoption of the Mason’s store parking areas as potential gardens too. Through Rotary, we were able to apply to the CVRD for funding for Community Beautification, so the creative possibilities will be multiplying! Together We Transform, with the encouragement and support of like-minded friends.

Our gratitude to them, and an invitation to you - to connect with others, have fun and be seen gardening!

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

Mum & Dad

Copyright Joanna Trollope
2020, Published by Pan Books

I was so pleased to find a new Joanna Trollope book, as I have been an avid fan for more years than I care to admit.

Related to the Victorian writer Anthony Trollope, the author has had many successes and citations, chaired the Whitbread and Orange Awards, and has been judge of many other literature prizes.

Because her novels about British family life are so accessible, she has been called the writer of Aga Sagas, much to her dismay. But a read through any of her books soon reveals that there is nothing cozy or predictable about her plots.

This one opens in Spain where an older couple, Gus and Monica, have been living for twenty-five years, running a successful and labour-intensive vineyard. Their three children were sent to boarding schools in England when young, and, as adults, they have chosen

to settle and make their lives there. This has generated some complicated feelings and resentments, contributing to rather loose family ties.

When Gus, the Patriarch, has a massive stroke, the family must quickly gather and make some decisions, a scenario familiar to many modern families who do not live under one roof.

Trollope presents us with some intriguing characters:

The oldest son, Sebastian, is married to a headstrong wife, Anna, who does not get along with her mother-in-law. They have two sons. The boys have little respect for their father, following the example of their mother.

The daughter, Katie, is a solicitor, busy with an impossible work schedule. She and her partner, Nic, have three adolescent daughters, one of whom is discovered to have a serious mental health problem.

Jake is the youngest son and the Golden Boy in the eyes of his mother. He and his wife, Bella have a precocious little daughter.

Finally, there is a devoted group of employees who have become a surrogate family for Gus and Monica. They are protective of their patrons and suspicious of the children’s motives.

All have their own ideas of what must be done to remedy the situation and the stage is set for conflict as buried resentments begin to arise.

I enjoyed this novel as the actions and emotions of the characters ring so true. The author has an experienced eye and ear for family dynamics and, in the end, brings some resolution and forgiveness to a family trying to find equilibrium in a most difficult situation.

Recommended for those who are looking for an engrossing read on a rainy day. And for those family members trying to do the best for the seniors in their lives. This would also be a great Book Club choice for those looking for a lighter read than the usual fare in literary fiction.

Rating: 4.8/5

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



E.J. Hughes, Shawnigan Artist

Robert Amos
Shawnigan Focus

Artist E. J. Hughes and his wife Fern lived at Shawnigan Lake from 1951 to 1972, during which time he painted some of his most celebrated works. In 1956, Hughes bought a sixteen-foot cedar strip Peterborough runabout boat, with a steering wheel and a 25-horsepower Johnson outboard motor.

“If we still have our little Peterborough we can show you around a little bit,” Hughes wrote to his sister Zoe at the time. “Although the boat is fairly fast (27 m.p.h.) I don’t think you will have to worry about the children as I am, I hope, a careful driver (no turns at high speed) and we have on board two floating full width cushions and two government approved life jackets. Fern enjoys driving the boat,” he added, “though she hasn’t gone solo yet.”

In 1958, Hughes made a drawing while sitting in his boat in the centre of the lake. From this drawing he created an oil painting, Old Baldy Mountain, Shawnigan Lake (1958), which was reproduced in the August issue of this newspaper. “I have tried to paint the impression

I have of the Lake near our home, on a summer weekday, when it was very quiet. (On weekends there are, of course, many more boats and water skiers and swimmers on the lake)”, he reported.

When he sent this oil painting to the Dominion Gallery in Montreal, Hughes added a note: “In case anyone wonders about the two ropes on the boat deck, the left-hand thinner rope is attached to an anchor, which I had overboard while sketching... the thicker white rope is just the ‘painter’ which is attached to the bow.” He seems pleased to have a chance to use the word.

On another sunny afternoon he went out again on the lake, and that time he painted Entrance to the West Arm, Shawnigan Lake (1960) in watercolour. When he sent the picture to the Dominion Gallery, he wrote: “it is a bit unusual, as the stern of our outboard motor-boat is in the lower foreground. We have owned this larger boat some four years since we sold our first boat, Burma, which you will remember from Village Wharf.”

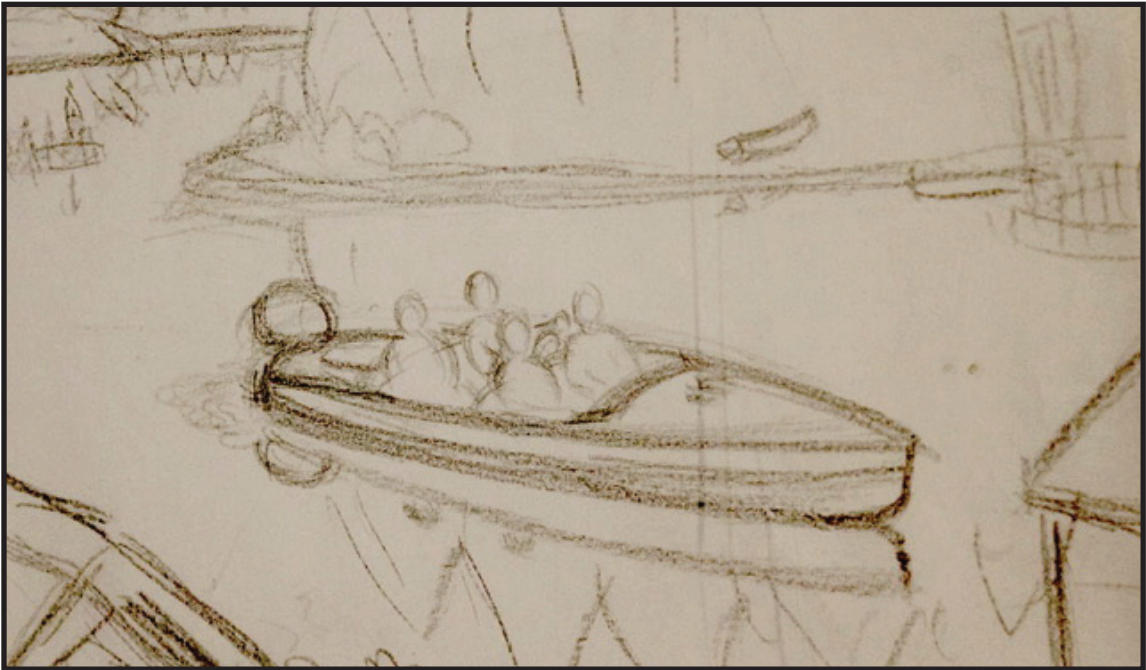


Entrance to West Arm, Shawnigan Lake (1960). Watercolour 15” x 18” (38.1 x 45.7 cm). Barbeau Foundation

In addition to the choppy water on the lake, the artist has rendered the partly-logged hillsides, and a sprinkling of cottages. The bulgy green outboard motor with a black starter cord has a centre position between two cleats.

Both paintings are now part of the Barbeau Foundation collection and are on long-

term loan, with many other Hughes paintings, to the Audain Museum at Whistler.



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The Malahat Legion 134

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Weekly Euchre Club is starting on Friday, October 1st, and Cribbage is starting Wednesday, October 6th, from 2 – 4:00 pm. You don't have to be a member. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We will be hosting our Annual Poppy Envelope Stuffing on October 14th at 1:00 pm. or come early for a free lunch at our Galley. Help is needed as we have over 6,000 envelopes to stuff. If you would like to help, please sign up on our website (www.malahatlegion.ca) or drop in on a Friday or Saturday to sign up.

We cordially invite you to attend a Special Service at the Cobble Hill Cenotaph on Friday October 22nd, 2021 at 11:00 am

(Everyone is welcome to attend. Please follow COVID-19 Rules)

The Malahat Legion will be honouring Canadian service men and women who have lost their lives on Canadian soil. In 2014, Corporal Nathan Cirillo, a Canadian soldier was fatally shot in Ottawa. Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent was murdered in Quebec just 48 hours



before the attack on Cirillo. We honour these and all the other members of the Royal Canadian Armed Forces who died in non-combat situations.

Their names, and others who gave up their lives on Canadian soil, are housed in a cabinet located in the Malahat Legion. It was designed and built by a crafts-

man here in Shawnigan Lake.

This year, the Memorial at the Cenotaph will be a little different than previous years. We will be starting at 10:45 Dignitaries from our area will be piped to the Cenotaph. There will also be a candlelight ceremony to honour the members that we have lost to PTSD. Wayne

Montgomery will sing "A Soldier's Memoir."

Honourable Allistair McGregor will be in attendance to report on the Bill C-292 which has had a first reading in parliament

CD. Bob Collins and CD James Baird will be standing vigil from 6:28 am on October 22nd until 11:00 am on October 23rd

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Department members attended 19 incidents in September

- ★ Wednesday, Sept 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 1 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 5 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 10 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 12 – Burning Complaint on Glen Eagles Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Sept 14 – Alarms Activated on Katy's Cres
- ★ Thursday, Sept 16 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Sept 17 - 1st Responder off Worthington Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 23 – Hazmat on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Sept 23 – Assistance on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Sept 26 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Sept 29 – Alarms Activated on Cameron-Taggart Rd

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



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvr.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: 10:30 to 3:30 - Thursday to Sunday (Masks required)
Contact: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com ~ 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 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: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

Congrats to Karen Best!

September's contest was at the site of the new outdoor pickle ball courts being built on the practice field of the South Cowichan Cricket and Sports Club on Elford Road.

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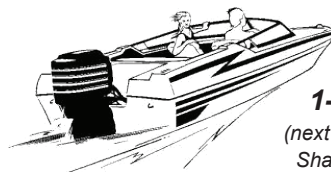


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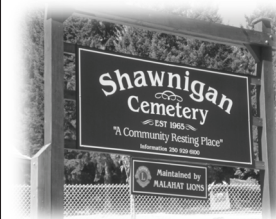


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What's "Shaking" at The Shawnigan Basin Society?

Shirley Astleford
Shawnigan Basin Society

Great thanks go to the students, staff, administration, and families of St. Johns Academy for their impressive contribution to our first cold water Milfoil removal project through their Paddle-a-Thon fundraiser.

Our first site assessment for shoreline restoration was initiated recently. With the support of Watersheds Canada Natural Edge Program and the enthusiasm of local landowners, we are excited to be accepting applications and vetting potential properties for spring restorations. See <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/> for more information. Contact us directly to register your property.

Gratitude to Della Rice Sylvester for sharing some traditional plant medicine knowledge, storytelling and a fresh perspective on how to walk in the woods. Our com-

munity workshop was a great success and will be offered again next year.

Hoping for nicer weather next year for BC Rivers Day Walkabout (last Sunday in September). Three of our stalwart, volunteer Directors were out and about in the rain checking in on our watershed nonetheless.

Our Volunteer Centre will resume operations of publicly open hours as soon as possible.

Looking forward to October...our participation on CVRD committees regarding liquid waste and watershed protection management plans will continue as usual. Work on the creation of a Watershed Management Plan template continues. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the Draft of this crucial document is well underway.

Upcoming Events – Art & Eats - October 16th at Cherry



Point Estate Winery. Thanks to our fabulous hosts, Xavier & Maria Bonilla & Dr. Richard Walton, we will be enjoying an evening with community to celebrate another successful year of watershed stewardship and raise funds for the core costs

of running the society.

A locally inspired, four course, gourmet dinner, Award winning local wines & art centered silent auction will be the highlights of this event.

Tickets available <https://>

www.eventbrite.ca/e/art-cats-gourmet-dinner-silent-auction-tickets-182953959217?utm_campaign=social&utm_content=attendeeshare&utm_medium=discovery&utm_term=listing&utm_source=cp&aff=csch

SJASpotlight.

Visit our website for additional information:
www.stjohnsacademy.ca/shawniganlake

Having been a member of the Shawnigan Lake community for the last 3 years, we wanted to take this opportunity to further introduce our school and give you an update on our first month of the school year.

The summer has been busy and successful as we prepared for the arrival of our students and to help expand our programs and facilities. As of this September, we are pleased to note that we have 150 local Canadian day students and just over 40 boarding students from 7 different countries.

A number of new teachers and staff have been hired to accommodate this growth, as well we are undertaking renovations to a number of our buildings and classrooms.



Autumn Lowes, Grade 8 Student

We were so excited this week to have our school participate in our first inter-school sporting events since we opened our doors. We had a great showing at the regional Cross-Country meet. Congratulations to the entire team! The students were impeccably behaved and did St. John's Academy proud. Our



Students: Peter Salmon (Grade 12) and Jason Yang (Grade 11)

Senior Girls Volleyball team also competed very well against Brentwood College School.

It was nice to see the return of our Co-Curricular Clubs (CCC) this week. We are offering 24 different options to our students, ranging from the Fishing Club, Scuba Club and popular Art Clubs.

We are now preparing for the Terry Fox run next week and will be announcing our new school mascot soon.

Matt Jonah
Director of Admissions
matt.jonah@stjohnsacademy.ca