



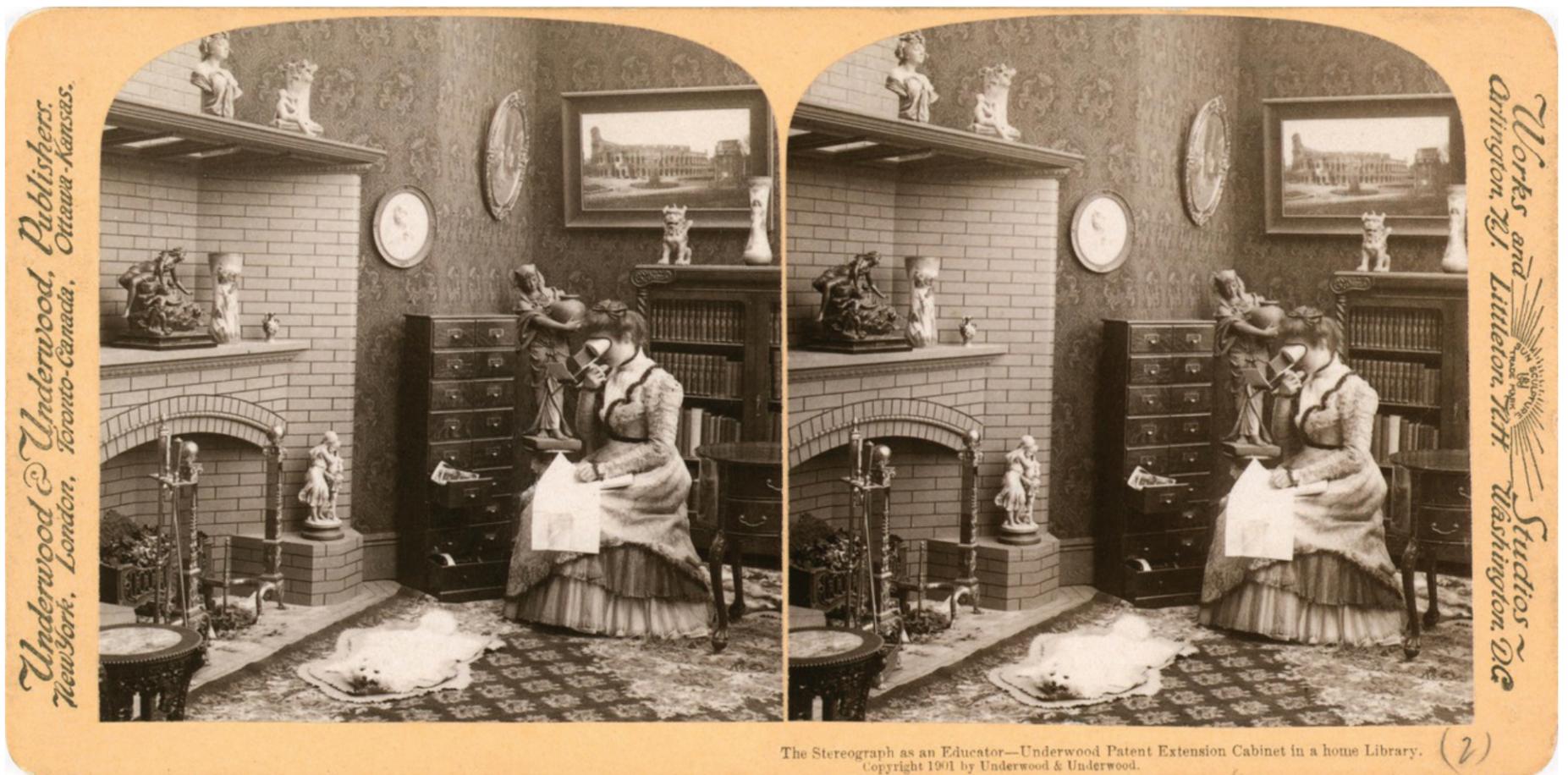
Shawnigan Focus

Volume Twelve
Issue Eight

August 2021

A Non-Profit Community Publication

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Paige Henry
Shawnigan Lake Museum

“Such as No Painting Ever Produced”: A History of the Stereoscope

To the Victorians, the stereoscope was a beloved form of entertainment and enlightenment. On the surface it seems simple, and perhaps a bit mundane, allowing only one static image to be viewed at a time. But in the age before television and movies, it satisfied the craving to explore worlds that would otherwise be out of reach.

Stereoscopes simulate binocular vision, which gives humans depth perception. Each eye views an object from a slightly different perspective and, when combined, these two images are perceived by a

brain as a single, three-dimensional one.

British scientist Sir Charles Wheatstone invented the stereoscope in 1832 and presented it to the Royal Society of London in 1838. It was a large and cumbersome device that recreated the three-dimensional effect using mirrors and two images of the same object, which were drawn at different angles to simulate a difference in perspective. Wheatstone derived the name “stereoscope” from the Greek words for “solid” and “to see.”

Although Wheatstone created the first stereoscope, several others were responsible for its improvement and popularization. In 1849, Sir David Brewster produced a simpler, more compact model containing prisms rather than

mirrors, a design improved and marketed by French optician Jules Duboscq. The popularity of the device really took off after it was displayed at London’s Great Exhibition in 1851, where it caught the interest of Queen Victoria. Naturally, her approval made it a must-have item.

Oliver Wendell Holmes devised an even simpler stereoscope in 1859. Cheap to produce and deliberately unpatented, it became the most popular form of stereoscope, and is the type on display at the Shawnigan Lake Museum. A stereoscopy enthusiast as well as a surgeon, poet, and essayist, Holmes described the Victorian wonder for the stereoscope in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1859: “The first effect of looking at a good

photograph through the stereoscope is a surprise such as no painting ever produced. The mind feels its way into the very depths of the picture. The scraggy branches of a tree in the foreground run out at us as if they would scratch our eyes out.”

At first, the “stereographs” inserted into stereoscopes had to be hand-drawn. The advent of the daguerreotype in 1839, and later photographic developments, helped to make stereoscopic images popular and accessible. Eventually, stereographs were being produced in the thousands, occupying countless middle-class homes. Subjects included portraits, humorous tableaux, and famous landmarks and foreign landscapes, from Niagara Falls to

Egyptian pyramids.

In the early days of stereographs, photographers had to take two separate photos from different positions. The invention of the stereo camera, with two lenses spaced about 2.5 inches apart to simulate the distance between the eyes, allowed two images to be taken at once.

With the emergence of film in the 20th century, the popularity of stereoscopes dwindled, but visual entertainment in three dimensions did not. The stereoscope was reborn in 1939 as the View-Master, followed by 3D movies and, most recently, virtual reality. It seems that no matter the era, we love to immerse ourselves in a world besides our own.

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director,

The Museum re-opened at the end of May and visitor numbers are steadily improving. This summer we are lucky to have two Summer Students through a Canada

Summer Jobs Grant. Paige and Violet have been transferring information from hand-typed historical information that was collected prior to computers. In addition, they are transcribing interviews from ‘antique’ cassette tapes

(1970’s-1980’s) using old cassette players. They are ‘experiencing’ some of the pain from the pre-tech past. The Students also greet visitors and both have research projects that will leave the museum with new content

for our Theatre.

Expansion plans for the Museum are still underway. To date, \$1.1m has been raised. An additional \$500k is needed to break ground. Several grant applications are in the works and a Fundraising Campaign

is being developed.

The Museum is open 10:30-3:30 from Wednesday through Sunday until August 29th. Masks are required. Check out our Gift Shop in person, or online at www.shawnigan-lakemuseum.com

New park trail in Pacific Rim National Park Tofino

Glenn White
Shawnigan Resident

I had an opportunity to ride on the new trail from Tofino to park boundary, and on to Ucluelet. The trail follows the coastline and provides a wonderful walking and riding trail. It is 3.2 metres wide and will be completed in 2022.

It was done in conjunction with the local First Nations, Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuuʔuʔiʔath, and travels through lovely forested areas. It will eventually link up with the trail to Ucluelet. It will help locals and visitors see a

wonderful part of the park and ocean views. With several put in, and take out, spots you can customize your ride or walk.

This is a major undertaking and, with a price tag of 51 million dollars, is a big investment in the Pacific Rim National Park and surrounding communities. As we have seen here, the growth in enjoyment and use of hiking and riding trail has grown exponentially over the past few years and there is an ever-increasing demand for trails for all users, especially in our community.

In Shawnigan we do not have that kind of budget, or land that can be developed with only the walking biking trail in mind. However, we will continue to find ways to utilize and share rail lines for our pathway for cycling and walking. The latest step in the long term plan for the area is the joint use of the rail line right of way from Mason Beach to Old Mill Park. This is similar to what has been done in other communities up and down the island.

This was all part of a long-term plan that was approved

and enthusiastically supported by the community via meetings and surveys as well as models a few years ago.

In my view, the CVRD and local parks commissions have done an excellent job of working to make this a reality and the demand/support is alive and well within the community. I see by the volume of traffic that having a proper trail built will only enhance the use of the trail for families to head to either Masons or Old Mill Park Beach. It is a win win.

We will need to find a way

to address the impact of the trail plan on private property, although I understand that the entire trail is to be built on E and N right of way as it has been done in other communities like Chemainus, thus allowing joint use of the right of way. The current dormant rail lines and new trails make hiking and biking a safe enjoyable pastime and will continue to be so in the future. I am a firm believer that we will find a way to address the current issue of private land impacts as well as the use of the E and N right of way.

Shawnigan Weather July 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	July Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	23.3	28.8	25.1	27.0	24.8	25.9	23.8	26.3	23.7
Average Low	12.0	14.2	12.3	14.0	12.4	15.4	13.6	13.9	12.3
Extreme High	37.2	36.2	34.7	35.3	35.4	34.5	34.2	34.5	33.0
Extreme Low	3.9	10.9	9.1	11.1	8.8	12.5	10.5	11.0	9.0
Precipitation	23.2	0.0	12.6	0.0	11.3	0.0	15.2	0.0	12.6
Days w precip	6	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	4
Year Precip	654.9	575.9	765.3	533.6	730.4	413.0	644.7	516.2	770.1

Rank since 1914: 4th warmest, tied for driest

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Lake Temperature	27°	26°	24°	24°
Lake level change	-6 cm	-5cm	-5cm	-5cm
Surface Elevation	116.26m	116.21m	116.15m	116.10m

Endless Summer Continues

July 2021 will go down in the record book as one of only 3 times since 1914 where there was no rain for the entire month. The last rain was on June 13. In addition there were only 6 cloudy days. There were no days when the max temp did not reach 21°, and 29 days when the temperature reached 25° or more

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn
South Cowichan Library

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

- ★ 10am - 8pm on Monday and Tuesday
- ★ 10am - 5pm on Wednesday through Saturday

Summer Reading Club is running for children and we have similar challenges for teens and adults. Library Mouse is hiding again as well.

- ★ public computers, printing, photocopying, and scanning
- ★ 1 armchair
- ★ Air conditioning!
- ★ Check out the Express Reads and Express View DVDs to skip the

hold queues

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Masks are recommended but not 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.

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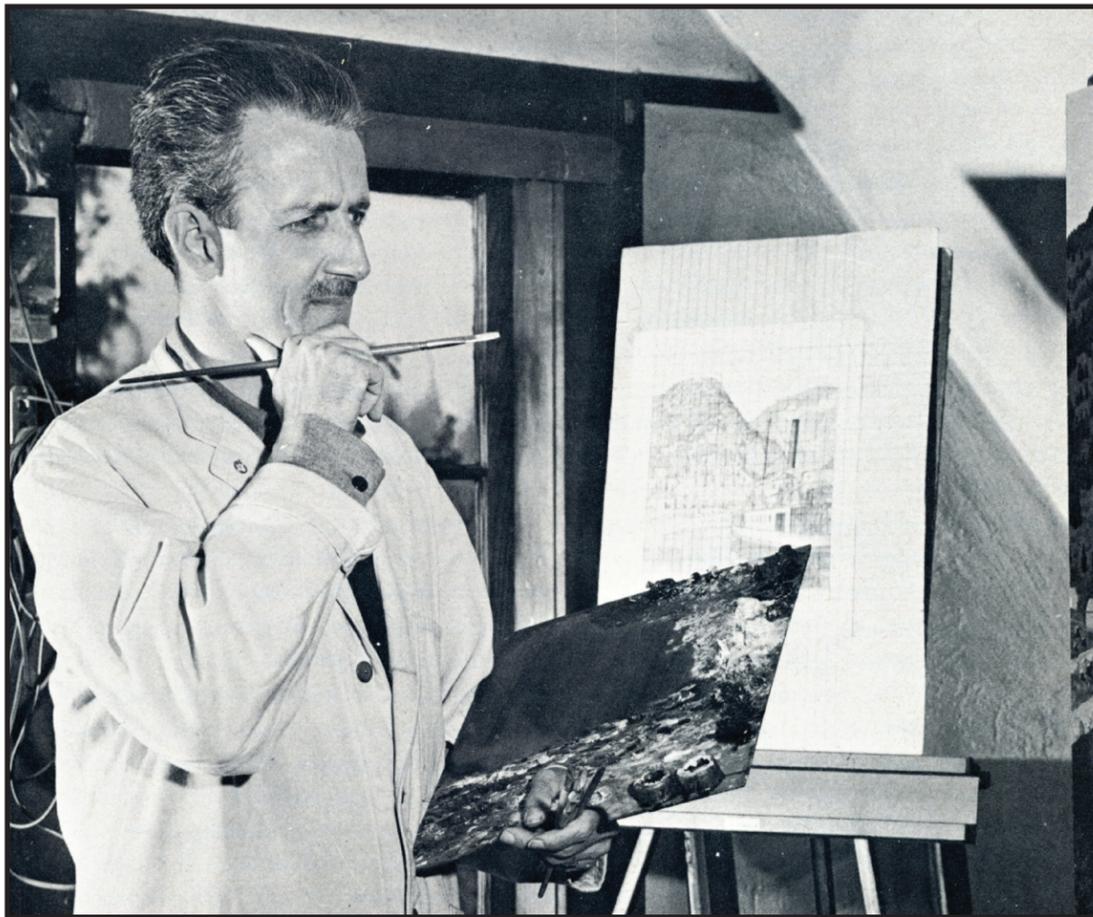
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E.J. Hughes at Shawnigan Lake

Robert Amos
Shawnigan Painter

Artist E. J. Hughes and his wife Fern moved to Shawnigan Lake in 1951. They soon discovered that a host of responsibilities came with living in an old house by the lake. His artist and friend, Jane Cole, later wrote about this: "Their home in Shawnigan was run down and in need of considerable upkeep. Maintenance and repair jobs abounded, and distracted Hughes from his real work – trying to complete enough paintings to support Fern and himself." (Nanaimo Art Gallery, 2009)

On October 9, 1954, Hughes wrote to his sister Zoe: "I've been off painting three months now, not from choice but from necessity. I've been working around the house doing essential repairs... the place is still as shabby as ever, but I just have to get back at painting and will try to do more patching and house painting as the years go by... What a price to pay for quietness!"



E.J. Hughes in his upstairs studio on Shawnigan Lake, 1958. Photo by Bill Halkett.

Hughes' painting studio was on the top floor of the

house. From there he could look through the trees and

see out to the lake. They didn't have a car, and not

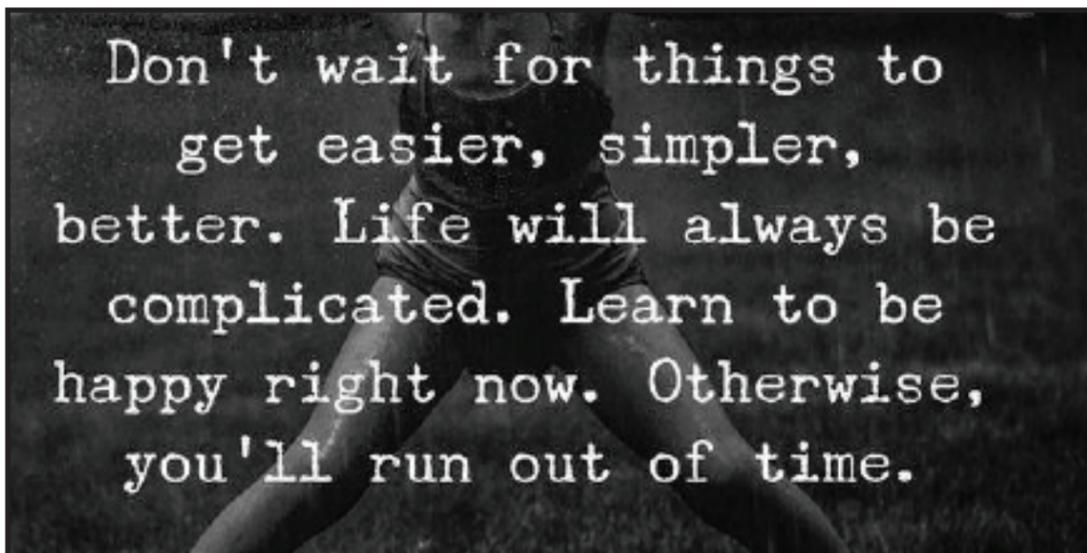
many automobiles passed by. Motor boats were few and far between. Ed and Fern became attuned to the bird-song. In the room upstairs Hughes applied himself to painting the latest canvas placed on his old army easel.

Hughes worked at his painting regular as clock-work, every day but Sunday. On that day, as a treat, Hughes and Fern would walk down to buy an ice cream at The Galley, a snack bar above the boat gas pump. "That was their Sunday," his assistant Pat Salmon recalled. "It was a simple life, and a very happy life. He really did like it. Nobody bothering him."

Robert Amos is the official biographer of E. J. Hughes. This is the fourth in a series of notes about the artist E. J. Hughes (1913-2007) who lived at Shawnigan Lake for many years. If you have stories about Mr. Hughes, please contact Robert Amos through Shawnigan Focus - shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com



Ed and Fern's new home at Shawnigan Lake, ca. 1951. Photo by Fern Hughes. [note Ed in his studio window upstairs]



Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise, you'll run out of time.

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No correct answers were received for the July **Tools @ Work**.

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The Malahat Legion 134

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion

Facebook: Royal Canadian Legion br 134

Web: <https://malahatlegion.ca>

Well, it is official. The Malahat Legion is now open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

A BIG THANK YOU. We could not have done it without you, our community, helping us with our weekly bottle drives and various campaigns.

On Saturday, July 31st we held our Grand Re-Opening in our newly renovated lounge and bar. Thanks to all the volunteers' labour and the grant from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors, we now have a beautiful, safe place for our members and guests to come.

The Galley is now open and a new menu will be posted shortly. Bring your family for a fantastic eating experience.

Now that the Saturday meat draws have started again, we will be able to assist our local non-profit charities. Charities can email us with their request for help at rcl134@shaw.ca

Did you know that not only are you helping us by dropping off your bottles and cans, but you are also helping the environment? We collected over 428,630 refundable beverage containers that did not end up in a landfill in Victoria. We are proud to say that we are the recipient of a \$2,000 first place award from the Bottle Depot Company in Victoria. The Saturday bottle drives will continue to help pay for our essential utility bills and help our environment.



Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Smallest Lights in the Universe

by Sara Seager
Published by Doubleday Canada
Copyright 2020 by Sara Seager

This book came from the science section in the bookstore, a place I was unfamiliar with. In fact, had it not been a book club pick from a friend, I would never have bothered to read it. Silly me.

This is a memoir written by a brilliant female astrophysicist, who is a lecturer at MIT and the lead for NASA's Starshade Project. Her life's work has been to search for exoplanets looking for life on planets similar to Earth that may have life. These cannot be seen but must be intuited by gravitational pulls and brief eclipses, recorded only by the most sophisticated of telescopes.

Sara Seager's writing is compelling. When she explains the science, I can understand it, much to my surprise. When she charts her parallel personal life as she leaps from career achievement to achievement, she pulls me in with her poignant story.

"She observes like a scientist,

writes like a literature professor, and keeps it real like someone with autism. The result is such an unexpected delight" -a reader review from Goodreads

While Seager's career evolves, she marries a man whom she shares the love of the outdoors with and, together, they take long trips into the vast wilderness, paddling and portaging canoes, often in very dangerous situations.

Eventually they have two sons and create a life together where he works from their home, caring for the boys, while she continues with her academic and scientific work, earning yet more acclaim and awards like a "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

However, tragedy strikes this family when he is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and eventually dies at the age of 40, leaving his wife in helpless disbelief.

Always a loner and self-described as different and awkward in personal situations, the author begins to expand her circle by first hiring help, and then learning to lean on her graduate students and colleagues for support.

As she becomes more well-known and gives videotaped talks, the wife of a friend guesses that Sara is autistic by her voice and body language.

Testing is set up, and, sure enough, the suspicion is confirmed.

This is a revelation to Seager and finally explains why, all her life, she has felt like the excluded one, never fully understanding or being able to easily interact with others outside of a professional relationship.

This knowledge is somewhat of a comfort as she continues to meet and socialize with new contacts. And, in a story as amazing as her scientific discoveries, she meets another man, one whom she falls in love with, and who is eventually free to marry her.

These two parallel stories, one a brilliant pioneer's search for new ways of discovering planets, and the other, an honest and touching story of a woman trying to find her human place in the world, are skillfully woven together.

Recommended for those who enjoy science and who appreciate a memoir of triumph over tragedy.

Rating: 5/5 stars



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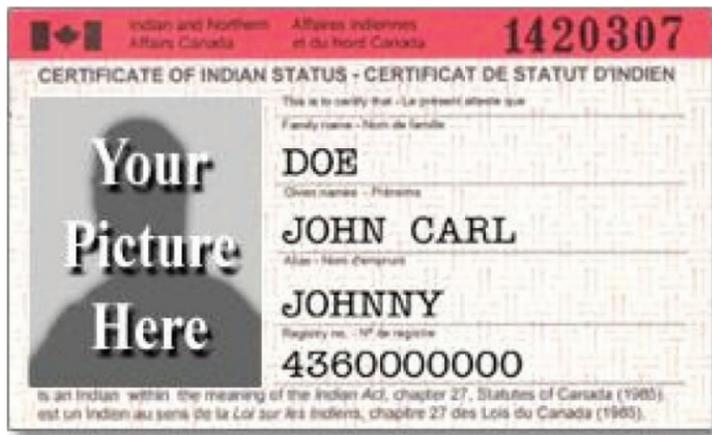
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Six facts about Status Cards

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams
Shawnigan Focus

There is so much mystery around our status cards in the eyes of non-Indigenous Canadians. But to most Indians, these cards are a blessing and a curse. Let's have a look at six things I think about when I think about status cards.



1. They expire! Who knew that after a few years status cards, or certificates of Indian Status as they are formally called, simply expire. Then suddenly the Indian on the card becomes no longer an Indian. When we go to stores with expired cards non-indigenous people foolishly, and illegally, tell us that they cannot accept them because they are expired. It's so demeaning. I am as Indian today as I was yesterday.
2. I say the word Indian a

lot here because the card calls me an Indian. The card even says _____ is an Indian within the meaning of the Indian Act. In the eyes of the government I am a 6.1 Indian who lives on Indian Road on an Indian Reserve.

3. They can be hard to get, even for indigenous people. We have to deal with blood quantum and all that nonsense. To reduce counterfeit and encourage Indigenous Canadians to move to the new Secure Indian Status Card, Indigenous Services

Canada (ISC), which keeps coming out with fancy new names, only gives out a limited amount of paper cards for bands to produce and distribute. Or maybe you are an urban indigenous person who lives far from their band office. For these displaced indigenous people, it can be almost impossible to get a card. So, in any case, if you lose your card, it might not be so easy to get back.

4. It's not considered an ID. Stores won't take it for ID for smokes. Bars and liquor stores won't take it.

It's only useful in certain ways. It's got our age on it, it's got our picture on it, it's government issue, it even has our signature and the signature of a government designate on it. But you can't use it to prove your age or who you are. Unless you get one of them fancy new secure cards.

5. We can use it to take off the tax. I want to be clear when I say that when this rule applies, we don't pay any tax. Not GST, PST, or HST, nothing. But we have to keep in mind that we only don't pay tax when we are buying on, working on, or having things delivered to, an Indian Reserve. Sounds amazing, until you realize that all the Indian reserves combined only make up 0.2 per cent of Canada's total land mass. So, we only don't pay tax at 0.2% of the country.

People's reactions suck. Most of my relatives are strong enough to shrug this off, but it gets me all disgruntled. Some-

times when we use our card the cashier is downright rude and racist. Or the person in the line behind you sighs and rolls their eyes or says directly racist remarks. Once I had a guy spend 10 minutes admiring my Hobie sailboat down in Cowichan Bay, but when the conversation revealed that I was indigenous and didn't pay tax on it he blew his lid. He started gasping and puffing and asked how a firewater drinking Indian could afford such a nice boat. People are so brutal, and I am a strong guy, I can't imagine what meeker indigenous people go through.

It's a real issue that we face every time we use these cards.

If you've read this far, I raise my hands to you and say Huch q'u, thank you for trying to educate yourself and for helping us make the much needed change.

Hul'qumi'num' word of the Month

Tum'qwe'unhw~August
"The time when the mosquitoes (qwe'un) are out

Letter to the Editor

Eric J. Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

Many of us, Canadians, take solace that racism on the North American continent is within the purview of our southern brothers only! Not so fast. The discovery of the graves near Kamloops and beyond, of children attending residential schools, requires us to engage in introspection. We are stunned as a community to hear of this effectively genocidal past that stormed upon us as Covid begins to retreat.

The vandalism of several statues in the capital city is nothing more than behaviors of young adults, most without understanding the complexities of the past, and who find their 'fun' in destruction.

They ought to stand trial for damaging our cultural history.

I join those interested parties who want to maintain the art. Rather than remove the sculptures, carvings, paintings and statues, change the wording on the plaques to reflect what these (mostly men) understood to be their prerogatives in

times past. Doing otherwise is to distort history and pretend that all has been well over times now gone!

Unfortunately, this city council (Victoria) is asking people to support its discriminatory policies. Should the status stay or be removed? Is this what Britain has wrestled with; the "Retain and Explain" policies that are not unlike our own when it comes to works of art and statues. These items are valuable, and many enjoy great public interest.

The Western World was apoplectic when the Taliban blew up centuries-old depictions of two very large statues. Are we truly ready to walk that road of no return? Whether the focus on this matter is to remove and preserve (hide) our art, the outcome is the same. Hidden from view will not correct any wrongs.

It is therefore imperative that we keep historical and cultural recollections in the public eye. Reserve your judgement for now and consider the benefits to keep and maintain items that after all, reflect upon our own historical connections.

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A Turning Point

Sonia Furstenau

MLA - Cowichan Valley

It was exactly ten years ago this month that our family made the decision to move to Shawnigan Lake.

I was offered a teaching job at Dwight International School (now St John's Academy) in mid-August and, within a few weeks, we'd rented out our house, found a pre-school for our daughter, and secured the last grade one spot at Ecole Mill Bay for our son. Having also agreed to be dorm parents, we moved to the school on Labour Day weekend, and I started teaching the first week of September.

Blaise and I thought it would be a nice change to live in Shawnigan for a year, close to his parents and several siblings, and our plan was to go back to Victoria the next year, where I would resume teaching in our local school district.

I look back at that decision - hastily made in the warm, hazy days of late summer - and think about how it has so dramatically altered the course of my life. I could not have imagined that ten years later, I would be not only an MLA, but the leader of a provincial party. Blaise and I had for many years worked in advocacy and activism, working to make change, but neither of us had ever considered running for office.

We had no idea that moving to Shawnigan would put us at the centre of a political fight, and ultimately at the centre of BC politics.

We noticed the signs that were dotted along the sides of the road immediately. "Say No to Proposed Contaminated Fill Site in Our Watershed" was the message flanked by two skull and cross bone images. We didn't think much of these signs, expecting that it would be clear to any government

that contaminated landfills certainly don't belong in drinking watersheds.

A year later, I'd agreed to continue teaching at Dwight the next year, and we'd bought a house a few kilometres down the road. Our plan to go back to Victoria had been set aside and we were settling into our new community, which we had all very quickly grown attached to.

That summer, the quarry owners and the engineers were making the public pitch for their landfill. The response from the community was unanimous opposition, but that did nothing to stop the process that was underway. Eight months later, on the Thursday afternoon before the Easter long weekend, the Ministry of Environment issued a draft water discharge permit to South Island Aggregates for their proposed five million tonne contaminated landfill.

That weekend was a turning point in my life.

We'd booked a place to stay in Tofino and were planning on a family getaway, resting and enjoying walks on the beach. Instead, Blaise and I spent most of the weekend poring over the draft permit, gobsmacked that any government would consider the list of contaminants acceptable for a site uphill from a community's drinking water source.

I'd been disappointed in governments and government decision-making before, but this moment marked a seismic shift in my view of governments. Yes, there had been many times that I'd thought that bad decisions had been made. But making a decision that not only defied logic, but potentially put a community at risk, altered something in me that has shifted how I've looked at governments, and governance, ever since.



Photo Credit - Jordanna Hiker



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Department members attended 34 incidents in July

- ★ Thursday, July 1 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 1 - Burning Complaint on Sommer Ln
- ★ Thursday, July 1 - Burning Complaint on Chipmunk Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 1 - Burning Complaint on island off Sweet Gale Pl
- ★ Friday, July 2 - 1st Responder at off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, July 2 - Vehicle Fire on Deloume Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 3 - Hydro Lines on Galland Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 4 - Burning Complaint on Lavinia Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 4 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, July 7 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 9 - Smoke Sighting S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 9 - Burning Complaint off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 10 - Burning Complaint on Wilmot Ave
- ★ Saturday, July 10 - Burning Complaint on Skylar Cir
- ★ Sunday, July 11 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, July 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 13 - Burning Complaint on Heald Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 13 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 15 - Hydro Lines on Gibson Pl
- ★ Thursday, July 15 - Rope Rescue on Kingbourne Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 17 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, July 17 - 1st Responder off Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Monday, July 19 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 20 - Rescue on Burnham Rd
- ★ Friday, July 23 - Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Sunday, July 25 - MVI on McKean Rd
- ★ Tuesday, July 27 - 1st Responder off Fern Ridge Dr
- ★ Thursday, July 29 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, July 29 - Smoke in House on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, July 30 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd

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 - Wed to Sunday (Masks required)
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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Shawnigan Basin Society



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Shawnigan Basin Society

Riparian zones are found along the banks of streams, lakes, and wetlands, and encompass both the area characterised by constant high moisture content and the upland vegetation that influences it. Many of the most valuable non-timber materials in the natural forest are found in riparian zones.

Streamside vegetation maintains water quality and creates a “green zone” of vegetation that helps to support stream-banks, control stream temperatures, and provide a steady

supply of woody debris to the stream channel. Overhanging vegetation and surrounding trees provide the bulk of fish food organisms, while leaves and twigs that fall into streams are the principal nutritional supply that powers aquatic ecosystems.

Riparian zones often have the largest number of plant and animal species found in forests, and they offer wildlife with important habitat, home ranges, and movement corridors. These biologically varied zones keep ecological links across the forest landscape, connecting slopes to streams and higher headwaters to

lower valley bottoms.

When analysing or monitoring the functionality of any habitat, vegetation is a key feature to consider. The value of wildlife and fisheries habitat is mostly determined by vegetation, which also serves as a helpful indication of riparian ecosystem performance.

When restoration or corrective procedures are needed to satisfy riparian zone objectives planting native species will assist these sensitive ecosystems.

We have teamed up with Watersheds Canada to guide landowners through this

whole process, from planning to planting through the Natural Edge Program. It allows property owners to use native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to restore their coastline, safeguard their water quality, and create habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

Watersheds Canada – “In partnership with ten other grassroots organizations across Canada, Watersheds Canada is proud to announce the national launch of the Natural Edge Program thanks to generous funding by the RBC Foundation through RBC Tech for Nature.”

“The Shawnigan Basin Society has completed four independent foreshore restoration projects in the past. We are absolutely delighted to upgrade our program with the support services and technological advances offered by Watersheds Canada’s Natural Edge Program”, says Shirley Astleford, Director, Shawnigan Basin Society. “This program promises to provide us with an expanded opportunity to connect with

private landowners who wish to improve their ecological footprint and contribute to increased biodiversity in their community.”

- ★ For a glimpse of how it works check out the link below.
- ★ <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/how-it-works/>
- ★ To find out what Native Plant Species may thrive in your area check out the Native Plant Data Base
- ★ https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/plant-database/?fwp_native_province=bc
- ★ <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/partners/>
- ★ If you would like an opportunity to have your lakefront property considered for this program, please email your request with address and property photos to director@shawniganbasinsociety.org by July 31st.



Photo Credit - Carrie Bell

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



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