



Volume Thirteen - Issue Four

Shawnigan Focus

April 2022 Liimus

A Non-Profit Community Publication

E.J.HUGHES, AT HOME IN SHAWNIGAN LAKE



1997 – EJ Hughes and Nancy Roseborough — photo by Pat Salmon

Robert Amos *Artist and Author*

Between 1951 and 2000, artist E. J. Hughes enjoyed the security of a remarkable business arrangement. The Dominion Gallery of Montreal, Canada's foremost art gallery, represented top Canadians painters Lawren Harris, Emily Carr and Jean-Paul Riopelle as well as Henry Moore and Auguste Rodin. And they purchased everything Hughes produced. But those in the Cowichan Valley didn't have a chance to see and purchase Hughes's work.

With this in mind, in 1994, Pat Salmon and Nancy Roseborough planned an exhibition at The Auld Kirk Gallery, located at Wilmot

and Walbank Roads in Shawnigan Lake Village.

Built in 1913, the wooden building was originally an Anglican church located at the north end of Shawnigan Lake.

When the congregation dwindled, in 1938 the church was loaded onto logging trucks and relocated to the Village of Shawnigan. There it served as a church until its congregation merged with another and, in 1983, the Auld Kirk was purchased by Frank and Nancy Roseborough.

Mrs. Roseborough invited a dozen local artists to bring in their works. "We wanted to see how many artists there were in the area" she told me.

"There are just thousands and thousands!" Noel Bliss, Tineke Van der Voort, Doreen Green, and Mischa German-van Eck were charter members of the Shawnigan Artists Group and had paintings always on display. While the gallery gave every appearance of success, it was subsidized by the Roseboroughs.

A Hughes show was something else. Pat Salmon noted in her diary: "Arranging loans is hard when the gallery has only average insurance coverage. However, Mr. Hughes is very trusting in that respect, so it should all be okay." She arranged for thirty-two works by Hughes to be shown.

The Dominion Gallery provided *Ship with a Blue Hull*, a 1982 oil painting of Cowichan Bay priced at \$45,00 and also loaned a number of Hughes's most recent watercolours, for sale at \$12,000 each. Early etchings and drawings from the artist's collection completed the show.

On Thursday, April 28, Pat Salmon noted in her diary:

I went to the gallery early and eventually a busload of high school kids came too. The kids were orderly and appreciative. The student visit was a great success. Mrs. Postgate has definitely decided on the painting and drawing [Ferry at Crofton (1992) water-

colour]. Her nephew is coming later on tomorrow to see it and she is cashing in her term deposits on May 1.

Saturday, April 30, 1994

Tons of people again, and the cash register ringing away... I went to collect the cheque for \$13,750 from Mrs. P. She was very happy. It was touching seeing her struggle around in her little poor house. Who would ever dream she had a \$12,000 painting on the wall?

To meet the unsatisfied demand, another Hughes show was held in 1997. Pat Salmon reported on the opening on Sunday, July 27, 1997

I got to the Auld Kirk and the crowd was already humungous. Hughes had arrived with Marie Cadorette and he was looking around, all excited, demanding to know where I was. I couldn't help but be a bit put off, as he is so self-centred. I guess he has no idea of any pressure but his own concerns about not being a very good conversationalist.

The artist, who normally avoided public appearances, on this occasion attended and signed autographs with pleasure in his old hometown.

(Editor's note:
The former gallery is now a private residence.)

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

Shawnigan Focus

Opinion

Ian Andersen
Shawnigan Lake

A 5+Star Trail for All of Us

We finally have everyone living along the tracks, from the Govt. dock to Old Mill Park, to agree to getting a trail that we *all* can live with. This includes hundreds of taxpayers who live up behind those of us living adjacent to the tracks. They use various paths and roadway ends to get onto the existing tracks for recreational purposes. Indeed, we all have been freely "walking the tracks" for over 135 years" without any problems. I walk a km on it 6 days a week, weather permitting, when I am at our Shawnigan cabin.

Due to the close proximity to the lake edge on the West Side, it would be difficult to build an environmentally friendly trail and keep the rail through

this particular area. If the proposed trail is built on the West Side of the Tracks, it will break most of the CVRD Riparian Ecology Regulations and that is pretty sad. It shows that some things never change. Remember: There are three laws in Canada: One for the Poor - One for the Rich and One for the Government! I learned that while attending High School.

If the train gets running again, then the only access to this million dollar + trail beside the tracks will be for the Ski Club residents and everyone else will have to enter or leave at either Old Mill Park or at the Govt. Dock. There are two "ifs" here and the first "if" is getting dangerously close to happening, even though it breaks almost all of the CVRD OCP Riparian area regulations in Area B. The second "if" isn't going to

happen. You will never again see an operating railroad on this track bed. Too many curves and level crossings. Most of the general public and the governments who would be called upon to finance the train also agree with me on this point.

Our plan is simple: Pull the tracks and use the old rail bed after you raise the track bed 1/2 a metre to take care of the climate change that no one can deny is happening. The ICF corporation has done a good job of keeping the corridor for a future train system and our idea would have a clause in it to allow them to revert back to trains at a future date. This has been done elsewhere, making some really new popular Active Transportation Corridors that BC people are using in the meantime...

If we all pull together, we can make it happen.

Opinion

Eric J. Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

The war of attrition between Russia and Ukraine is seemingly winding down.

Yet, Putin is not ready for a negotiated peace. It appears that he is truly intent on eradicating that country from the world map. According to various sources, his beleaguered soldiers are now planting landmines as they retreat in humiliation. The only reason, one can speculate, as to why the Russians are doing so, is to appease Putin's murderous soul, thus enabling the "peace should it come", to reinvent his torn persona as the great president who restored his would-be empire.

Loss of life is insignificant. His own army is undoubtedly muttering in their inability to bring little Ukraina to its knees. Undoubtedly, negotiations

between the two warring factions will be rejected by Putin as "too little, too late!" Let the Western-World not be fooled. He will retreat under the pretense that his work is finished. However, the only matter concluded is his recognition of the unpreparedness of his invincible army and airforce.

We, the democracies of the West must remain especially vigilant to what will most assuredly mean his reliance and growth of technology for the sole purpose of threatening weaker neighbours and perhaps N.A.T.O. in particular.

However this incursion and invasion ends, vigilance and military preparedness once more, sadly, the onus is on the Democratic World which is to be nothing short of ready to defend against a man who seeks aggrandizement on the backs of his own people.

Community thank you:

I just thought I'd like to thank the woman who gave me a toonie to pay the necessary additional amount for a registered letter I was mailing from our local post office.

Unfortunately, I only had cash, but not quite

enough to cover it. I didn't get her name, but hopefully she may read this.

This act restores faith these days.

Fond regards,
Dorothy Stevenson

Glenn White

April 29, 1947 - March 5, 2022

The Focus team was very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Glenn White. Glenn was a regular contributor to the Focus and will be sorely missed.

Glenn was a committed community advocate who was actively involved in many groups. Glenn was very hands-on in the community and once said he loved the work parties - things like planting native species in the Chemainus area or removing the English Ivy from Old Mill Park.

He was also an active cyclist and a promotor of more off-road trails like the E&N Rail Trail.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Glenn's family and friends.



South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn
South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

Please help us spread the word:

Family Storytime returns in May. The fun will happen on Mondays at 10:30am, starting May 2, outside at the Mill Bay Centre playground. Get ready for sunshine, stories, and songs!

All the furniture is back, all the chairs and three public computers. Bring in a coffee and read the newspaper in one of our armchairs with a **light therapy lamp** glowing beside you.

Did you know the library has **thousands of DVDs**? We display the most recent, so you won't have far to

look for titles like Belfast, West Side Story, Dune, Spencer, and Nightmare Alley.

Have you gotten a new device recently? Contact us to book a **Tech One-on-One** appointment for help setting up eBooks, digital audiobooks, or other library e-Resources.

If you know someone unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our **volunteer Home Delivery service**. Books, audiobooks, and DVDs are delivered to your door every month.

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open 10am - 8pm on Monday and Tuesday 10am - 5pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Why are traditional place names important?

Jared Qwustenuxun

Williams

Elders Kitchen Manager at Cowichan Tribes, writer and educator

Let's start by taking a couple of well studied examples of the power of place names. When I ask you about these places I want you to stop and think about what those places mean to you. Chances are you may have never even visited these places, if they even exist at all.

I'll make the first one easy, Jerusalem. Stop, think about all you know about this place, just by its name. Certainly, you'll think of Jesus and his followers. You might even think about the temples or other religions and religious locations. Maybe you'll think of the people and their culture, or of how the Crusades tried to take that culture from them. But most importantly, you probably didn't think of nothing.

Let's take another powerful place name like Mt. Olympus. I am willing to bet that Greek gods like Hercules, Zeus, or Hera, come into your mind. Maybe Greece, in general, about their food or culture. These place names, like so many others, have cultural reasons for existing.

The landscape within these aforementioned places was also named by the people who lived there, whose language is

intrinsically connected with the place. The language that named the place was created there. When a name has roots as old as the language that was first spoken there, it has a surreal power.

As a colonized country we just don't get that. We've been collectively robbed of that privilege in most of North America. If you ask me, it's holding back a flood gate of Indigenous pride.

What kind of stories do we get when we think of names like Mt Prevost, or Duncan, or British Columbia? A British Admiral, a Farmer, and the British thinking our land was like Columbia?

All these names are less than 200 years old and frame colonists as heroes. While hwulmuhw people have been calling the mountain Swuq'us since before we spoke protosalish dialects, over a thousand years ago. Swuq'us is the name of Stutsun's dog in our origin stories. His name comes from a medical condition that caused the dog's snout to point upward, a condition our people call Swuq'aas. So, when we look up at that mountain, we think of our first ancestors Stutsun and Syalutsa and their many journeys. These two ancestors have extensive legends that rival the mythology of the Norse or the Greeks.



Mt Prevost

When we think of Duncan, we think of Quw'utsun. Quw'utsun is rooted in the word Shquw'utsun which means "to warm one's back in the sun." That's a reference to Pi'paam, now called Mt. Tzouhalem. I've heard elders say that our land is "Shquw'utsun utu Pi'paam" the mountain warming itself in the sun. That even goes into how Pi'paam is a big frog that saved our people from the flood with the help of our first ancestors Stutsun and Syalutsa. The stories siem nu siiye'yu, they are endless. They contain so many histories and the reasoning behind all these different names. All nearly forgotten, all replaced with English colonial names.

We don't have a word for British Columbia, because it's just too big. It would step on all the other tribes' independence to name the whole area one name. Not to mention that when the borders were drawn no one took the existing nations into consideration. The BC / US border cuts the Salish nation in half. Might be an idea to get the nations to work together to find a word for earth, or ground, in a sacred way. Our word is Tumuuhw. A word that shows the value and sheer enormity and responsibility of it all.

Now that's three hwunitum place names I just decolonized for you. Imagine if we did it to all of them. If we took the time to learn the stories

and history of the places and people around us. The world would change in such a powerful way.

Never forget that you live in an ancient and sacred place, on ground full of legends and mythology, and so many people don't even know it.

Swuq'us - Mt Prevost
Pi'paam - Mt Tzouhalem
Quw'utsun - Cowichan
Siem nu siiye'yu - my respected friends
Hwunitum - non first nations person
Tumuuhw - Earth, dirt, ground
Stutsun - one of our first ancestors
Syalutsa - one of our first ancestors
Shquw'utsun - warming one's back in the sun

Shawnigan Rotary Eco Club

Steve Elskens
President

Giving Nature a Hand

We offer these 5 reasons to clean up after ourselves - let's count them on one hand!

Take only photos, leave only footprints.

"Leave no trace" use of our forests, trails and waters allows everyone to experience the beauty and diversity of life here, without damaging delicate mosses, lichens and habitats. Broken equipment and empty food containers shouldn't be left behind or worse, abandoned in the ashes of your campfire.

Litter hurts wildlife.

Fast food packaging, and anything else flung from vehicles, attracts scavengers and contributes to collisions with vehicles as ani-



mals become habituated to foraging along these routes. Consider bear-proof waste solutions. Think they're thirsty? Broken glass is a huge and hard to avoid hazard as well, as many pet owners will attest! Take care of that bottle, or don't take it with you on your hikes.

Neglected garbage contributes to community decline.

Our waste management partners are our unsung heroes, helping us with timely collection and proper disposal, including available recycling and returnable materials programs from manufacturers. We're

so grateful to partner with P.A.N. Disposal and Fisher Rd Recycling / DL's Bins to make a positive difference in our community and keep it looking well-cared for. Shawnigan residents are often seen walking our trails and roadsides picking up what they can, exercising as they go, empowered to be true LitterHeroes in our midst! Piece by piece we can show we care.

Toxins are released into our soil and water.

Cigarette butts are one of the most common and unfortunately the most harmful forms of litter. Besides being a fire hazard, their components end up contaminating our soils and water supply. Here on the West Coast, we have an opportunity to send them in for environmentally-responsible treatment. They

can be gathered while dry and recycled at TerraCycle on the Lower Mainland. TerraCycle and Unsmoke Canada are sponsors of the April 1-30th Canada-Wide Butt Blitz by AGreenerFuture.ca, and our team of Cowichan EcoBlitzers will be gathering them across the Valley to make a tangible difference.

Some discarded materials are easily broken up into tiny pieces,

becoming very hard to remove. Take care to bag them while they're still intact, which is especially true of plastics and styrofoam. Every day our beaches, lakes and aquatic habitats suffer from the accumulated debris that washed into them from people's trash. Why not dispose of it properly to begin with?



Now look at your hand - will it ever knowingly toss litter around, or will it help look after our beautiful, natural world? High fives for caring! Many hands make light work, especially if we make it a work party and dress to Be Seen for the occasion. Please plan to colourfully mobilize along with us and our kind sponsors on Saturday, April 23rd from 10-2pm for our "Hearts in Action" Shawnigan Community Clean Up! Details at <https://shawniganrotaryecoclub.ca/upcoming-events/>

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins

Published by Flatiron Books
~ Copyright 2019 by Jeanine Cummins

This is an overwhelming book. In fact, I'm not sure I would recommend it to anyone who is feeling bowed by the pressure and sadness of the world's events right now. However, I can say that, by the second page, the novel had grabbed me by the throat and it never let go, causing me to put

everything aside until I finished it. The author is brilliant in her pacing, plot and creation of characters that we care about. This is the story of Lydia Quixano Perez, a middle-class Mexican woman from Acapulco, whose life is turned upside down when her journalist husband writes an article exposing a local drug lord. In shocking retaliation, he and the whole extended family are brutally executed, leaving Lydia and her eight-year old son, Luca, to flee for their lives. The narrative then widens to capture the immigrant journey across thousands of miles, trying

to escape the cartels, sheriffs, and bandits to reach the fabled El Norte, the USA. One of the most terrifying parts of the race to freedom is riding on top of La Bestia, the freight trains. The descriptions of getting on and off moving trains, with all the life-threatening dangers, made me hold my breath. The other reality written about is the vulnerability of refugee women who are often raped and killed, and this threat provides tension throughout the whole novel. These terrible incidents are balanced by acts of great kindness and charity. There are hostels and food for these desperate travellers throughout the trip, and many individual acts of kindness from the locals,

from a water hose left running in the rail yards, to a quick hiding place provided while being pursued by dogs and the police. Eventually, mother and son reach the border and must find the money for a coyote (guide) to lead them through the ferocious heat of the Arizona desert. Not everyone in their group survives in this last dash to freedom, and it is heart-breaking to see which characters don't make it. The difficulties don't end once crossing over into the U.S., what with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and the barriers of being undocumented. One is reminded that this story is sadly true for many thousands

of refugees fleeing death and retribution from murderous regimes and drug wars. It was interesting to read about the controversies this novel stirred up, particularly the issue of voice appropriation, as this author is not a Latina. There were also outcries of anger at portraying Mexico as unsafe, but a quick trip to Google proved illuminating. Recommended for those who are comfortable reading about the darker side of life, and who believe we need to look at the tragedies of the world with clear eyes in order to understand them. Guaranteed to provide lively discussion for a Book Club.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

Cowichan South Arts Guild

Jennie Stevens
CSAG President

Spring is in the air, and Cowichan South Arts Guild has new growth to celebrate too!! We are SO excited to be announcing our new Website is 'sprouting' and will go LIVE very soon! Our programming includes many exciting new Workshops & ways for you to get involved! Monthly Music Jams are beginning on April 24th, and continue every 4th Sunday, 3:30 - 6:30pm at Cobble Hill Hall - join us for a relaxed community atmosphere of great music!!

Upcoming Adult Workshops include Bookbinding with Trisha Klus - Tuesday April 16th, 6-9pm and Explorations in Writing with Leanne Boschman soon (date/place TBA). CSAG keeps workshops as affordable as possible (and sometimes free!) Become a member (just \$10 annually) to really benefit from the savings! INSPIRE! Youth Arts kicks off the Spring with its new Learn and Create series, which will feature open ended creative projects for kids 6 and up, beginning with Papermaking and Black Out Poetry, soon! Held once a month on Sundays, from

1:30 - 4:00pm, these exciting creative opportunities are taught by experienced, well-loved facilitators, Jennie Stevens and Kayla Dangerfield. Classes are limited to 8, so sign up soon! Our Spotlight Series is going live, dates TBS soon!

Our upcoming AGM will be a celebration of all the amazing hard work the Board has done over the previous year! The AGM will open with music and art display, Friday, May 27th, 6:30pm at SLCC. We are still accepting participants in Fearless Friday Painters (Mill Bay Hall, Fridays 12:45 - 3:15) and Makers Circle (SLCC, Thursdays 12:30 - 3:30) and are happy to say that we are seeing new members

to the Guild fairly regularly now, as people are becoming more aware of what we have to offer our Community! We are looking for volunteers to help facilitate activities & workshops! Join us and find out how you can engage with CSAG, in a way that fits with your interests & availability!

Email hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com and stay tuned on our Facebook page, to hear when our Website goes live !

Save the date: CVAC / CSAG / SL Museum & SL Rotary ECOClub will combine creative forces to present KINSOL TRESTLE ART WALK - September 3rd, 10am to 3:00pm. Music, art, heritage, storytelling, interactive activities, family fun!



EASTER SUNDAY



April 17 - Noon to 3
at the
Elsie Miles Park Pavilion

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IN-PERSON
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FAMILY EVENT!!!

'FAMILY FUN' ACTIVITIES BEGIN @ NOON

SCAVENGER HUNT

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring - JUMP INTO MUSIC - with Lady O!

EASTER EGG HUNT @ 1PM - BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

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FREE DRAWS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Watch our website for more information :

www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Sponsored by the SLCA - Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Public Health Orders for outdoor events, in effect on the date, will be followed!



With the support of the Province of British Columbia



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REALTY

Shawnigan Weather - March 2022

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network & Environment Canada ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Average High	10.4	10.2	10.0	11.1	10.9	10.9	11.0	10.4	10.1
Average Low	1.7	2.8	0.8	2.9	0.6	3.3	1.7	2.7	0.7
Extreme High	22.2	15.0	13.2	15.2	14.0	14.7	15.0	14.5	13.0
Extreme Low	-11.7	-2.6	-2.1	-3.7	-2.7	-2	-2.2	-2.5	-2.5
Precipitation	119.2	130.3	66.6	102.3	53.8	86.4	36.6	98.8	52
Days w precip	19	22	15	26	16	22	12	23	14
Year Precip	469.2	427.7	466.4	373.4	428.5	336.5	344.7	381.2	412.4
Precip since Oct 1	1003.9	1077.2	1136.5	1174.2	1067.7	1060.4	869.2	1155.4	1040

Rank since 1914: 20th warmest, 51st driest

Lake Temperature	Mar 13	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27
Lake level change	5°	5°	6°	8°
Surface Elevation	+51cm	-22cm	+14cm	+5cm
	116.96	116.64	116.77	116.82

March 2022 was fairly close to normal regarding temperature and precipitation. It may have seemed dreary and wet because there were more rainy days than average and there were only 5 sunny/partly sunny days.

The lake level and water temperature are also pretty close to the long term averages. The weir has been wide open up to this point, but will soon be put into action to keep the level from dropping too quickly during the upcoming dry season that usually starts mid-April.

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

The Society continues to work on Project Impact, the expansion of the Museum. The expanded museum will provide great value for the community as there will be space to host events, meetings, workshops and community and school programming.

The expansion will also create an opportunity for collaborations and/or partnerships with other groups in the area. Another benefit will be local job opportunities.

In addition, the new space will include long overdue 'village washrooms' in the back of the building.

To date, we have raised \$1.2m for the expansion. Initially, the project budget was \$1.4m but, since the Pandemic, the project

has escalated to around \$2m. Much of the pre-construction work has been completed - the plans are ready for a building permit application; there is an approved variance permit; consultants have done their preliminary work and a Construction Manager has been chosen.

We are currently waiting for news about a grant that would help us toward our goal. We remain confident that we will be able to start construction in 2022.

We had a very successful Donor campaign for the project in December 2021 and we thank everyone who contributed. Every dollar helps!

The visitor numbers are growing again after a very challenging two years. We are delighted to share the following 5 star review from a recent visitor:

Shawnigan Lake Museum is an unqualified 5/5 visitor experience. I've visited many museums large and small throughout my career in heritage preservation, so I have perspective and understanding of the challenges that museums face. These days we are constantly told that things are being "curated" for us, often without merit, but this place actually is curated in keeping with the original and correct meaning of the word. Quality artifacts are beautifully displayed and the personalized guidance is exceptional. Welcoming and responsive, it is obvious that curator Lori Treloar and her partner Grant delight in bringing history alive for a diverse audience. It was also gratifying to visit at an exciting time for this museum as they embark on a major expansion while retaining and honouring the historic firehall the museum is currently housed in. For sustenance before or after your visit any chocolate lovers should walk over to Shawnigan Coffee House for their superb handmade chocolates.

**FOLLOW us on
TWITTER
& INSTAGRAM
LIKE us on FACEBOOK**



**Meet
me at the
museum!**

The museum is open
Wednesday to Saturday

From: 10:30 - 3:30
Hope to see you soon...

How can you help?
Visit ~ Volunteer
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Shawnigan Focus

THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

will be handing out free shopping bags Saturday, April 16th & 23rd
9 am-11 am at The Shawnigan Coffee House.

Please stop by and get yours!

Thank you to our sponsors - Clarity Cleaning

- Cowichan Valley Roofing • Cowichan Valley Septic • C V Mechanical • Firewise Consulting • Happy Tails Dog Day Care • Hillcroft Construction (Formerly Clydesdale Construction) • H T Excavating & Hauling • Ian Tait Mechanical • Lucky Paws Pet Supply • Masons Store • Mercury Refrigeration • P.A.N. Disposal • Pure Plant Aromatherapy • Reed Greenan Law • Safety Sweep Chimney Service • Sara Doyle Real Estate • Shawnigan Alliance Church • Shawnigan Lake Montessori Preschool • Shawnigan Museum



Photo taken outside Masons Store:
Store manager Tracy and firefighter Dave Nicholas

Y.S.A.G.

Gloria Solley

Y.S.A.G. has really been busy. They have knitted lap covers for our veterans; started working on kitten/cat/dog and puppy wool blankets for Broken Promises along with other projects.

The Quilts of Valour,

The Founder of Quilts of Valour, Lezley Zwaal and Lynn Carroll our QOV Rep to our Legion, hosted a sewing bee on March 17th with our YSAG quilting group. It was to be an informal meet and greet but



turned into a full workshop. The sewing bee consisted of a guest speaker from Nanaimo who entertained the quilters with valuable tips.

Other guest speakers from Nanaimo were also present. The sewing bee consisted of sewing blocks for a QOV pattern. With nine quilters present, the quilt top was finished for a South Island veteran. A wealth of quilting knowledge was shared.

Dianne, YSAG Director of

the quilting group, with a sneak preview of this poppy panel they been working on. (left)

Our Young Senior Action Group (YSAG) displayed the painted houses (above), that the Folk Art class completed, on our Legion shed. It sure brightens the backyard. Thank you and nice work. If your interested in joining YSAG (55 plus) contact them through their blog

<http://blogysag.ca/?m=1>



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SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC

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Phone: (250)743-2096

Department members attended 35 incidents in March

- ★ Wednesday, Mar 2 – Chimney Fire on Carlton Dr
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 2 – Vehicle Fire on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 3 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 3 – Beach Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 3 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 4 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 4 - 1st Responder off Worthington Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 5 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 5 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Mar 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thurs, Mar 24 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 27 – Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/Mill Bay Fire
- ★ Monday, Mar 28 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Mar 28 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Mar 29 - 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd

Shawnigan Focus

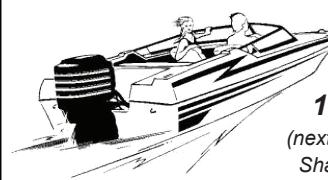
COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sierra.acton@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: burr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blogysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Wed - Sat 10:30 - 3:30
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 golley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Arts Guild**
Contact: hello@southcowichanartsguild.com <https://cowichansouthartsguild.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: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS!
to Roberta Cottam & family, whose name was drawn from submitted correct answers
The image was from Galland Road Community Park.

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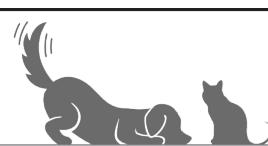
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St. John's Academy Spotlight

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

The History Continues

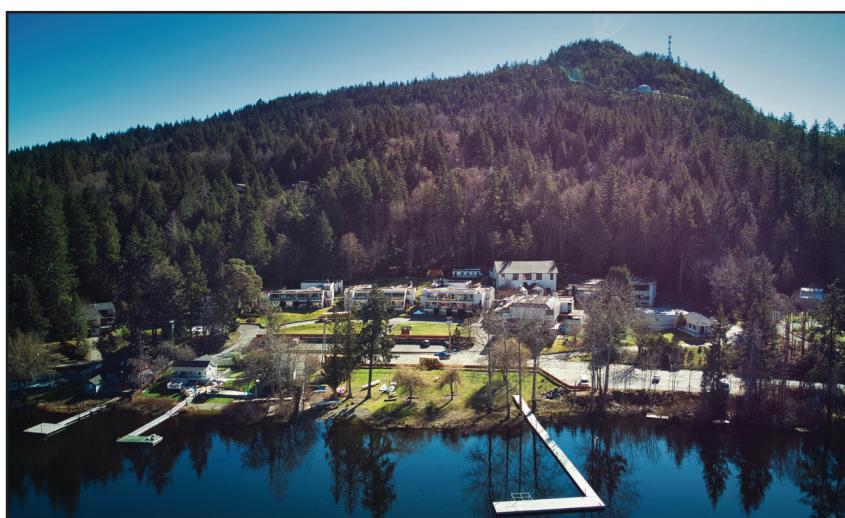
St. John's Academy (SJA) is steeped in history. Originally built as a hotel in 1920, it then became the Strathcona Lodge School for Girls in 1928. After 51 years the school closed in 1979, but many memories and some buildings remain. The gymnasium is the oldest building on the site and can be observed in the centre of both photos. Though built for the girl's school, it is still used for athletics today.

There are still those in the community that remember the days when the "boys" would row over to meet-up in secret "with the girls" along hidden pockets of the waterfront. Since then, the site has transitioned between a few schools: School of Bahá'í (Maxwell School), Dwight School, Brooks School, and in 2019 we became St. John's Academy (SJA).

Looking forward, it's important to the leadership of St. John's Academy to respect the history of the site and to continue the legacy started in 1928. We believe bringing local and international students together offers our students the best growth



Strathcona Lodge School for Girls
Photograph credit: Shawnigan Lake Museum



St. John's Academy campus, 2022
Photographer: Josh Hart

and learning opportunities. We currently have 150 local students and 40 boarding students from 7 countries at the school.

The school's educational approach is unique due to offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. This inquiry-based program provides a challenging, inclusive, and internationally-minded education. Our graduates are life-long learners and are sought after by universities around the world.

The school is blessed and proud to be part of the Shawnigan Lake community. Nestled against the lake, we are committed to investing in the school grounds and in the Shawnigan Lake community. Our students are encouraged to be active in the community and be great ambassadors for the IB program and SJA. Thank you for almost 100 years of our shared history together.

For a tour, please contact:

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



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