



Volume Thirteen - Issue Twelve

# Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus



December 2022 Shts'ulwe'sum

A Non-Profit Community Publication

## Elza Mayhew: Vancouver Island's most prestigious sculptor had a Shawnigan connection

**Emery Sanderson**

*Shawnigan Lake Museum summer student*

Vancouver Island has long been known for its vibrant community of artists; it is all thanks to pioneers such as the widely acclaimed, Victoria-born sculptor, Elza Mayhew.

Mayhew was born Elza Edith Lovitt on January 19th, 1916, in Victoria. After studying French and Latin with double honours at UBC Mayhew married, settled down, and had two children. At this time in her life art was seemingly never a consideration. It wasn't until the unexpected death of her husband in 1943 that an unorthodox path in life became appealing. Charles Alan Mayhew, an RCAF pilot, died at only 27 after coming in contact with a hurricane over Sri Lanka. It became obvious the death of her husband had an intense effect upon Mayhew's creative identity. Ten years after the death of her husband, Mayhew had a unique opportunity to go travelling around the world. During 1951 into 1952 she travelled on a worldwide flight, stopping many places that would eventually influence her later work. Later, in 1953, Mayhew moved to Tokyo, Japan with her two children and in-laws, while only staying for a year it is noted to be an extremely formative time for her. On returning from her travels, Mayhew started studying sculpture under well-known Czech sculptor, Jan Zach, from 1955-1958. It was at this time Mayhew was able to start expressing herself.

From the 1950's until the 1980's Mayhew created various monumental sculptures, as well as an expansive collection of smaller sculptures and masks. Mayhew's work is popularly referred to as totemic, appearing both archaic and futuristic in appearance. Commonly featuring archways, human-like figures, and cryptic messages. Some of her notable works include Bronze Priestess (1987), her last fully completed work, currently installed on UVic's campus.



Bronze Priestess (1987). Bronze, H: 38" x W: 34" x D: 20"

Additionally, Zong (1983), which was exhibited at EXPO '86 in Vancouver, as well as its own solo exhibition in Port Angeles, WA. When speaking about Zong, Mayhew states,

*"the sculpture carries aspects of tragedy, and both change and repetition. It is a generational piece. It has a past."*

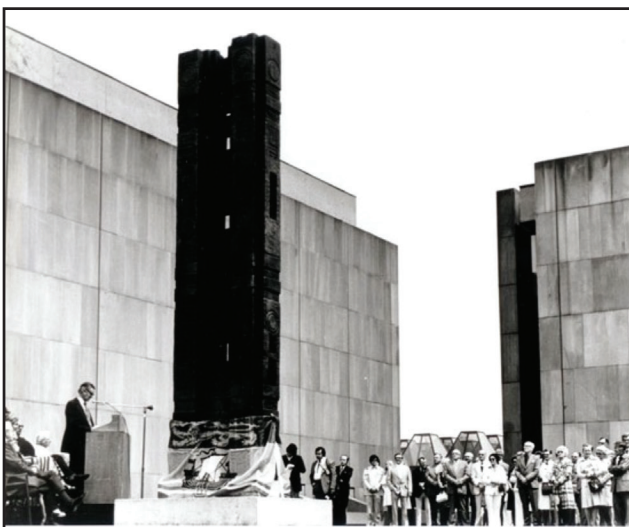


Zong (1983). Bronze, H: 86" (7' 2") x W: 24" x D: 9"



*Elza Mayhew and fellow Limner, Jan Grove on Shawnigan Lake, n.d.*

Mayhew's most monumental sculpture is her Column of the Sea. Commissioned by the Confederation Art Gallery and Museum in Charlottetown, P.E.I., this piece weighs just short of 3 tons, and was cast in over 30 sections. It is also the subject of a documentary film surrounding Mayhew and the creation of this particular piece, titled Time-Markers: The making of the Column of the Sea, (dir. Karl Spreitz and Anne Mayhew, 1985)



Column of the Sea (1971-1972). Bronze, H: 16' x W: 48" x D: 20"

Mayhew was important in the art world not just for Mayhew was important in the art world not just for creating art, but also for expanding the scene. She was a founder of the Limner Society. The Limners were an art collective based out of Victoria that sought to improve the artistic climate of the area. Robin Skelton, a founding member of the Limners stated, "they are, certainly, a group of friends and concerned to help each other by means of group exhibitions, but what really binds them together is an interest in what I must call 'depth exploration of the human creature.'"

The Limners were no strangers to Shawnigan either. Frequent parties and get-togethers were hosted by Mayhew at the family's summer cabin, Bonne Chere. Along with these get-togethers, occasional Mayhew family birthdays were hosted on Memory Island, which is in part dedicated to Charles Alan Mayhew.

Throughout Mayhew's life, she earned many

prestigious awards. Some of them including the Sir Otto Beit Medal from the Royal Society of British Sculptors, an honorary doctorate of fine arts from UVic, and the honour of representing Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1964.

Unfortunately, after decades of producing sculptures from casting in Styrofoam Mayhew started to develop brain damage and dementia from styrene poisoning. This would progress over time until her death on January 11th, 2004. Mayhew left Vancouver Island with one unfinished sculpture, entitled Moonpiece (1980's), it was intended to be a companion to Zong.

*"The more sculpture I make, the more wordless I have become. You don't think in verbal terms. I don't even think about my work anymore, I just make it."*



Moonpiece (1980's). Styrofoam. H 8'

### A New Idea From Focus Reader Eric Ronse

Calling all creative people...and we know that there are many in Shawnigan Lake Each month we will feature one selection from artistic submissions, be it a short essay, a song, a poem (up to 50 words) and/or other artistic endeavour (such as paintings, pottery or...). Submit a word document or a photo of your work, as a jpg, with a brief description and your name (less than 15 words).



Letter to the Editor

There Is Still Time to Save the E&N

Mary Desmond  
Shawnigan Lake

Negotiations between the ICF [Island Corridor Foundation], the provincial and federal representatives, and certain First Nations continue, although it's possibly a case of "clouds gathering, but no rain in sight". Therefore, registering your opinion is as critical as ever. It has been *strongly* recommended that our premier, the Hon. David Eby, and the Hon. Rob Fleming, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, should be added to the list of E&N letter recipients. Although "ccing" several people may seem tedious, this practice ensures - simply and effectively - that all listed are aware of one another receiving the same information at the same time. The more politicians who are made aware of our concerns, the better!

Much has been made of the significant discrepancy between the estimates for the rehabilitation of the rail corridor between the provincial transportation ministry [MOTi] and the ICF [Island Corridor Foundation]. The MOTi claims it would require over \$1 billion to restore, whereas the ICF contends that the entire 290 k. of track, stretching from Victoria to Courtenay, with the extension to Port Alberni, could be refurbished for \$431 million. The 2020 Transport Action Canada Assessment of the South Island Transportation Study explains that the exorbitant price tag quoted by MOTi is created by the addition of a 50% contingency budget applied to all infrastructure costs. As a result, the project expenses have been "artificially" exaggerated as

the customary contingency rate is between 10 to 20 %. Bear in mind that the province was envisioning a "champagne and caviar" level of service that would be implemented quite swiftly, whereas the ICF was favouring a more "meat and potatoes" approach, at least in the initial stages of operation. The ICF's intention to avail of second hand, but well refurbished and definitely functional *[and bike friendly]* rail cars would have lowered the price substantially as well.

**Remember the MOTi allocates \$4.4 billion per year for highways alone.** Statistics comparing estimates of the costs of upgrading rail lines against roadways may vary in degree depending upon topography, climate, and extent of degradation, but largely agree that the expense of upgrading a kilometre of road far exceeds that of a railway. Moreover, the alarming press photos depicting a weedy, disintegrating railbed are creating a false impression of complete ruin. Although the ties may be in deplorable condition in many places, the rail "lines" that frame them, the more expensive component, are not. On the lower mainland, the latest extension to their LRT system is expected to cost \$400 million per kilometre. Where's the Island's share of the provincial commuter rail coffers? Another pertinent economic factor - as traveling by train is substantially safer than by road [25 times safer according to an American study], substantial savings would accrue from reduced medical costs, and the reparations associated with traffic accidents.

The population of the Island is anticipated to reach one million by

2038. Consequently, a car trip from Victoria to Mill Bay, which currently takes approximately 43 to 66 minutes [depending upon road conditions and time of day], may increase to 87-144 minutes, under similar circumstances due to the increase in traffic. This, in turn, will affect travel speed during transit, causing traffic speed to be reduced to a snail like pace of approximately 17 kilometres per hour [ Provincial Government South Island Transportation Study]. How ironic that in 1912, a trip from Victoria to Cobble Hill by steam engine, involving ten stops and the challenge of the Malahat grade, took less than 90 minutes.

The choice is ours: act now or face the consequences! If commuters feel they are even now creeping along in maddening congestion at times, it will only get worse! Instead, imagine bypassing all the frustrating delays caused by accidents and inclement weather..... So, voice your support for the E&N revival so we can travel through some of the most beautiful scenery in the world in safety, comfort, and relative ease! Please send your notes soon to the relevant parties; MLA Sonia Furstenuau, MP Alastair McGregor, MOT Minister Rob Fleming, Premier David Eby, and our Area Director,

Sierra Acton. Take twenty minutes now to save so much more time in the future!

New Contact Information:

**The Honourable David Eby:**  
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**The Honourable Rob Fleming:** [Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca)  
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Victoria office: telephone:  
250-387-8347 fax. 778-698-8934  
Her Duncan constituency  
office is temporarily closed  
and will reopen in a new  
location next year.

**Sierra Acton, Area  
Director**  
[Sierra.Action@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:Sierra.Action@cprd.bc.ca)

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE  
*Pop Up*  
**MARKET**  
SATURDAY DEC. 10TH 11AM-3PM  
AT THE SHAWNIGAN BASIN SOCIETY'S  
COMMUNITY TABLE SPACE  
#102 - 1760 SHAWNIGAN LAKE MILL BAY RD.  
LOCAL VENDORS  
AND MORE!  
BY KIND  
DONATION  
FOR THE  
WATERSHED  
WORK OF  
OUR HOSTS  
Shawnigan Lake  
**Rotary**  
EcoClub  
COLLECTING  
YOUR  
DONATIONS  
FOR THE  
MILL BAY  
FOOD BANK  
*Gear Up for Giving!*  
Shawnigan  
Basin Society  
[shawniganbasinsociety.org](http://shawniganbasinsociety.org)  
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT KIM AT 250-732-0531

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

**J K S REALTY**  
& PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

From all of us, we  
wish you and yours the  
peace and joy of  
Christmas!

*Jason Karie Jackie*  
*Andrea Rick*  
*Charity Shery*

LOCALLY OWNED, LIVING  
& WORKING IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY

🏠 Buying  
🏠 Selling  
🏠 Property  
Management

250.213.5480  
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[jksrealty.ca](http://jksrealty.ca)

Located in the Village centre  
across from Shawnigan House  
Coffee

104-1760 Shawnigan Lake Mill Bay Rd

Shawnigan Weather for November 2022

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network  
& Environment Canada

	Nov Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Average High	8.5	6.5	8.7	7.9	9.6	7.9	9.7	7.1	9.4
Average Low	2.6	0.3	4.2	-0.1	3.5	0.4	4.4	0.1	3.7
Extreme High	20.0	13.1	14.3	12.9	14.8	12.7	13.2	12.0	13.5
Extreme Low	-15.6	-3.0	0.2	-4.4	-0.7	-4.7	0.7	-4.0	0.0
Precipitation	225.4	131.4	344.1	99.1	380.9	92.6	328.5	95.8	415.0
Days w precip	22	12	26	11	26	12	26	15	26
Year Precip	1056.2	1107.7	1258.0	869.4	1228.5	772.5	1115.0	858.8	1212.5
Precip since Oct	340.1	235.5	511.7	167.1	572.6	156.7	520.1	160.6	547.4

Lake Temperature Lake level change Surface Elevation	Rank since 1914: 8 <sup>th</sup> coldest, 23 <sup>rd</sup> driest			
	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 28
	11"	8"	7"	6"
	+6cm	+10cm	0cm	+5cm
115.94m 115.95m 115.95m 116.00m				

November was a month of contrasts. After the first week of typical fall weather, there was a sudden cold snap with 6 cm of snow on the 7th. For the next 11 days, there was no rain with frosty cold nights until the 20th. Normal November weather returned for the last 10 days, but the total precipitation for usually the wettest month of the year was only 42% of normal. The average temperature was 2° below normal (3.6°), making it the coldest November since 1985 (-0.4°).



## Happy Holidays Community!

### Sierra Action Area Director

We are witnessing a lot of changes globally and feeling many pressures locally; everything from rising prices to an uncertain housing market. Sometimes all it takes is a walk in one of our beautiful parks or a drive to the ocean to be reminded of how grateful we are to live here. As your Area Director, I have so much to be grateful for: the many volunteers and groups that support the community, the members of the various Commissions,

and everyone else that works hard to make this a wonderful place to live.

The last month at the CVRD has been busy with board training and the Inaugural Swearing in. I am grateful to have Amber Champ as my Alternate Director. She currently sits on the The Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission and will be attending Board Meetings in my absence. Currently Amber works in the school district helping kids in our community. She is born

and raised in Shawnigan and, in addition to her history here, she also brings a military family perspective to the role.

Happy Holidays  
Shawnigan Lake!

I continue to reach out to get the community's input as this new term begins. If we haven't spoken yet feel free to connect. Stay Safe, take care of each other and enjoy your time with friends and family this holiday season. As always, I am available, Sierra.



Amber Champ, Alternate Director & Sierra Acton, Area Director for Area B

Sierra Acton  
CVRD Director  
Shawnigan Lake  
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**IF YOU CAN DREAM  
IT, YOU CAN DO IT**  
~ WALT DISNEY

## What Do You Think of When You Imagine Rotary in Shawnigan?

### Kim Barnard Secretary-President-Story Gatherer Shawnigan Rotary Club

The now famous Rotary wheel was created over one hundred years ago, when a Chicago businessman named Paul Harris saw the need in his city for a collaborative effort amongst his friends and fellow leaders to combine their resources and make possible some much-needed public washrooms. Fast forward to Shawnigan today, and you can see that not much has changed in terms of what Rotary can offer!

The gears of the Rotary wheel symbolize the \*forward motion\* expected from us

### Shawnigan Lake Rotary EcoClub



as "People of Action", and Rotary clubs were originally seen to rotate their discussions and planning meetings to each member's workplace. Imagine the possibilities when a handful of leaders from a variety of professions become good friends through service and are ultimately responsible for making positive changes actually happen. Imagine feeling the HOPE this brings, especially in today's world!

With this spirit of selfless service as a formidable force for good worldwide, Rotary International is pleased to support innovative

approaches like ours here in Shawnigan Lake. Our EcoClub empowers people to take care of their environment and to put their talents and time to collective impact. We offer flexible participation monthly and a clear, upfront financial commitment of just \$5 per week (equal to a cup of coffee!) which also covers your community volunteer liability insurance. What a deal to be able to belong to such a limitless path of personal and service-minded growth! You'd be hard-pressed to find

another practical leadership course's tuition fees and hands-on training that meets that budget.

The number one objection I hear after 5 years in Rotary is "I don't have..." Yes, you DO have... the time and even the money for the things that really matter. Especially if it's a cup of coffee or tea with a good friend. That's really what we are all about and making our environment beneficial for all. Our optimistic energy is

contagious, in a fun way.

Why not "Gear Up for Giving!" with us at the Pop-Up Market, on December 10th, at Christmas in the Village, and \*play\* that kind heart of yours forward with a lovely expression of gratitude - for the tremendous opportunities we enjoy in living here. Support the local efforts of talented artisans and the faithful work of unsinkable volunteers. You'll be so happy you did!

## Cowichan South Arts Guild

The Gift of Time for the  
Benefit of Your Community

### Jennie Stevens

What motivates us to contribute our time to the greater good?

How do we measure what we get out of time spent on small details that in themselves may go unnoticed, but over time grow and become the foundation that builds and supports a better tomorrow? Look around you and notice. There is a palpable feel-good energy that comes from discovering how your gifts can benefit those around you. So many amazing people are contributing and often going out of their way to make great things happen in their communities.

One's level of community involvement may be small, or significant - or go up/down depending on the stage of life one is in. Yet, even when time is limited, perhaps it is just the way we carry ourselves through the day, the way we respond to others, living with intention, that sets a healthy and inspirational example to

those around us. There are many ways to contribute, however humble. Those that feel drawn to join various community groups to contribute within a support network with likeminded individuals, experience the strength, motivation and energy that comes from accomplishing goals together. Taking that to the next level, when these community groups stay connected and network with each other to achieve fulfillment of complementary and common goals... well now THAT is setting an example we can be proud of!

However, you fit into the picture, there is such a sense of satisfaction in knowing that you have been, in some small way, a part of the flow or shift, as you contribute to your community. Many thanks to all the community groups that make Shawnigan Lake a great place to live!

Cowichan South Arts Guild, SL Community Assoc, Shawnigan Lake Museum, EcoRotaryClub, Shawnigan Residents Association, Shawnigan Basin Society, just to name a few ...



CHRISTMAS  
is happening in  
SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE

- Scout Christmas Tree Sale
- Photos with Santa
- Live Entertainment  
featuring Jack Connelly on Guitar
- Cowichan South Arts Guild  
Lantern Craft & Spiral Walk
- Eco Rotary Pop-Up Market
- In Shawnigan Basin Society Room
- Mill Bay Lions - FREE Popcorn
- SLCA Candy Cane Tree for Prizes
- Discovery School  
Decorated Trees - Corridor of Hope
- Drop-In Features @ Local Businesses
- SLCA Portable Hockey Rink

## Christmas In Our Village

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11AM to 3PM**



## A Family Fun Event!

Hosted by the SLCA - Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Visit our website for more information :  
[www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca](http://www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca)

Supported by the Province of British Columbia.





# Shawnigan Focus

## The Unlucky Railway Bridge

**Background Information**  
*James Woodyatt &  
Jim Sturgill Jr.*

*E&N Division CRHA*  
[www.encycrha.com](http://www.encycrha.com)

On November 14<sup>th</sup> the Railway Bridge, over Shawnigan Lake Road, was damaged yet again by a truck...this time a large pumper truck.

The original bridge was destroyed back in 2005 under similar circumstances, though it was a dump truck that hit it from the opposite side. The cut stone abutments are, and have

remained, original despite these incidents. The cut stone was sourced locally in the Cowichan Station area. The bridges over Shawnigan Creek, Northgate Road, and Koksilah Road at Cowichan Station are all original stone as well and are chiselled with 1903 (likely built with timber trestles initially), so upgraded just before the CPR purchase of the E&N in 1905.

While it looks nice aesthetically, and historically, that stone is sandstone and not that strong. It fractures quite easily. The current span over Shawnigan Lake Road (removed in the current

incident), was a replacement for the original span (destroyed in 2005). It came from Canadian Pacific as it was the year before the ICF takeover of the Island Corridor Foundation in 2006.

As such, CP was responsible for the repairs in 2005 and had a spare bridge sitting in Coquitlam Yard that was the right length. We don't know the history of where it came from, originally, but it was likely from elsewhere on the CP system. At the time, there was a survey done about raising each approach to the Shawnigan bridge, starting way back to get the height to about 15' above the road, and it was going to be no problem. Road elevation

could stay where it was but, of course, no one would spend the money.

It's likely that, with this recent repeat incident, and once rail infrastructure upgrades begin, this crossing of Shawnigan Lake Road will be redesigned to accommodate higher clearance while also taking the opportunity to widen the road as well. Subsequently, and unfortunately, it's likely that the original stone abutments will be removed in the process. In saying that, the stone abutments at both Northgate and Koksilah roads remain, and the span over Koksilah at Cowichan Station is original as well. The original span over

Northgate was destroyed by a dump truck in the 1970s that had its box raised.

Island Corridor Foundation, the owner of the bridge, confirmed that the bridge will be replaced, and that the replacement will be a different design, and the elevation will be raised as well.



## Shawnigan Basin Society

**Bernie Juurlink**

The Shawnigan Basin Society was invited by the Licensee's forester to review a Woodlot License Plan for Crown Woodlot W1614. We reviewed the Plan and walked the Woodlot's Unit F, located near the West Arm of Shawnigan Lake, on October 20th, 2022, a time when Southern Vancouver Island was in Stage 5 Drought.

To our surprise we saw healthy deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs with much of the forest floor being occupied by deadfall and an abundance of vigorous ferns and salal. In many areas, we could feel moisture in the air, despite the fact that since the end of June only a few millimetres of rain had fallen. This naturally regenerated forest had not been harvested for many decades. Since it was not a plantation forest the forest soils and deadfall had stored enough of the winter rainfall to maintain lush

plant growth during severe drought. Undoubtedly, this woodlot has contributed to the replenishment of the local aquifers as well as providing water to the salmon-bearing West Arm Creek.

Climate change predictions for the Cowichan Valley are that there will be more winter rains and fewer summer rains. It is important that we have healthy sustainable forests that can capture these winter rains allowing slow release of the water during the drier parts of the year, thereby promoting water flow in streams and replenishment of our aquifers.

This is also important for maintaining biodiversity as well as maintaining our salmon and other fish stocks that are important to all BC citizens, especially First Nations. The proposed clearcutting and stump removal will decrease the ability of this Woodlot to replenish our aquifers and supply streams during the dry summer months.

## Malahat Legion

**Gloria Solley**  
*Malahat Legion -  
Branch 134*

October and November are traditionally the busiest months of the year here at the Malahat Legion and this year was no different. We would like to thank everyone for their support, especially our volunteers who make everything happen.

To continue helping our community, we need your help. We are a non-profit organization that works together to help our veterans, their families and various other local non-profit organizations.

We depend on your donations, but we also need your help to work at the various events that we

have. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us by Email: [rc1134@shaw.ca](mailto:rc1134@shaw.ca) or just stop into the Legion any time we are open.

Where Does the Money Go?

The Poppy Fund is a separate account that is used strictly to help our Veterans. Work parties are organized for envelope stuffing, tagging, and volunteers are needed to help at the various Remembrance Days ceremonies.

The money we raise through the weekly meat draws, 50/50's and raffles goes directly into the "GAMING ACCOUNT".

The process is quite involved.

Local non-profit charities must apply in writing for a donation, stating why and

where the money will be spent.

The Gaming Committee must first approve the application(s).

The Gaming Chair attends the Executive meeting and asks for their approval and a monetary amount is suggested.

Approval must then be approved at the General Meeting

The local charity is contacted and asked to attend a General Meeting to receive the cheque and if possible give a little presentation about their organization to the general membership.

We wish you  
a Merry Christmas  
and a  
Safe & Happy New Year!



## St. John's Academy Spotlight



Visit our website for additional information:  
[www.stjohnsacademy.ca](http://www.stjohnsacademy.ca)



## Introducing the Seawolves of Shawnigan Lake

Watch out, there have been rumours of a new form of wildlife along the shores of Shawnigan Lake. It has been reported that there have been sightings of Seawolves. They are known to be smart, hard-working and resourceful.

Thankfully, they are also kind, respectful and great members of our community as the SJA Seawolves are the new athletic mascot and logo of the athletic teams at St. John's Academy (SJA). This is our first athletic brand for the school and we are thrilled about sharing this part of our school identity with the community.

We have worked for over a year with a local designer and you'll start to see our logo on school sports uniforms

and school gear. We involved the whole school and wanted a mascot that would be specific to Vancouver Island, while also representing our school values. The logo incorporates the shape of Old Baldy Mountain in the ears of the wolf and the lake is represented in the wave like curl of fur under the Seawolves chin.

Through the process and a series of votes with our students we decided to be the SJA Seawolves. The timing of this was perfect due to the wildly popular Netflix show "Island of the Seawolves" that was also just recently released.

Like the savvy Seawolves of Vancouver Island, we at SJA are small, but mighty. With movement, speed and strength we show our resilience and perseverance as students and athletes. So, when you hear the SJA Seawolves "Howl", know that we are proud of our school and to be a part of the Shawnigan Lake community.



For a tour of the campus please contact: **Jenny Boomer**  
[jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca](mailto:jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca)



E.J. Hughes at Home in Shawnigan Lake

Robert Amos  
Author and Artist

How I Met E.J. Hughes  
by Pat Salmon

The transcription is  
from an interview I did  
with Pat at her home in  
Mill Bay in 2011  
-Robert Amos

I must say, when I met Hughes, I thought “this isn’t the sort of person you meet every day.” Even though he was sort of - you know - bubbles come up, he was like that - childlike - but he didn’t miss a visual clue, ever. Anyway, I was quite a bad mom. It was a rotten summer at Shawnigan Lake, mostly raining. And my husband Martin was mostly working – it seemed



he always had an excuse to work a bit longer at his job in Victoria. And there I was with the kids, ready to kill them. It’s about 4 pm. I guess it was a two-room cottage, two rooms and a porch. And for entertainment we’d get tinned food out of the cupboard and roll it across the floor at each other, and then we’d get out the

goodies. They could have cookies and milk, and the oldest one could dole them out. Share and share alike, you know. And then Mummy was just going to walk up the driveway to see Daddy. Mummy was just buzzing, you know. And I got to the top of the driveway and thought “isn’t this nice – you can breathe”. Away from the kafuffle. And I took a step or two, and another step or two, and I thought “holy cow!” for as I turned around - we were wearing those cheap rubber thongs in those days - one of my thongs straps snapped off. So that made me go hippity-hop hippity-hop on my way back toward home. It wasn’t too far, but it seemed like forever. Running through my

mind I could see the headlines: *Children Drown in Lake as Distraught Mother Wanders the West Road.* And who would be reading it but my in-laws? And just then this great big swank Yank Tank rolls up beside me. The window rolls down on its own and this voice says “would you care for a ride?”. He had just bought a new car. “Thank you, thank you!” So in I popped in the back seat. I was introduced to Fern. She was quite... how can I say it? Because of the muscular dystrophy she couldn’t smile readily, and her face was sort of mask-like. Then I said, “I’m just a little ways up here.” I was worried about my kids. So he turns around to me and

says ... “I paint pictures for a living”. And I said, “good heavens above, you must be E. J. Hughes.” And he was so happy to be known about, he was just so pleased. So I said “well, come on down and see the house” because it would be too dangerous to have him try to circle that car up at the top on the road. He never was a very good driver. And Mrs. Hughes wanted to meet the kids. They were good kids, and they were glad to see me. So Hughes and Fern just stayed there in their car for a few minutes. And I said “we’ll have to have you over for tea some time.” And he said “Yes... How about tomorrow afternoon?” So that was the beginning of my lengthy relationship with the Hugheses.

Information Requested

In the research toward my next book, *E. J. Hughes at Shawnigan Lake*, I learned that Hughes had a driving lesson in 1959 from Mr. Hamilton who owned to Home Fuel dock at Strathcona Bay. Are these facts correct? About four years ago the family showed me the painting which Hughes did in gratitude, showing the lake from the Hamilton’s home. I photographed the painting at the time but have lost track of the family’s address. Can anyone help me reestablish the connection? Robert Amos, [robertamos@telus.net](mailto:robertamos@telus.net)



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# Shawnigan Focus

## Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096  
Non-emergency Phone: (250) 812-8030  
[shawniganfire@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganfire@shaw.ca)

### November Report

Department Members Attended 57 Incidents

- Tuesday, Nov 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 1 – Burning Complaint on Treit Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 1 – Chimney Fire on MacDonald Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 2 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Deloume Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 2 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 2 – Chimney Fire on Sallachie Rd
- Friday, Nov 4 – Assistance off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on McKean Rd
- Friday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on Heald Rd
- Friday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on Recreation Rd
- Saturday, Nov 5 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Nov 5 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake & Thrush Rds
- Sunday, Nov 6 – Three Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Nov 6 - 1<sup>st</sup>

- Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 9 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 9 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 9 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Nov 10 -Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 10 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Silvermine Trail
- Thursday, Nov 10 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 10 – MVI on Renfrew & Renfrew Frontage Rds
- Thursday, Nov 10 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 11 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 11 – MVI on Lisa Close
- Friday, Nov 11 – Alarms Activated on Lisa Close
- Saturday, Nov 12 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Nov 13 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Carlton Dr
- Monday, Nov 14 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd

- Tuesday, Nov 15 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Meadowview Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 16 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Nov 19 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Gregory Rd
- Saturday, Nov 19 – Hydro Lines on Mable Rd
- Saturday, Nov 19 – Alarms Activated on Wyldewood Ave
- Saturday, Nov 19 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off McKean Rd
- Sunday, Nov 20 – Burning Complaint on Malta Rd
- Sunday, Nov 20 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 22 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 22 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 23 – Burning Complaint on Lonsdale Pl
- Thursday, Nov 24 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Ingot Rd
- Thursday, Nov 24 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 24 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 25 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Elford Rd

- Friday, Nov 25 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Friday, Nov 25 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Nov 26 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Nov 27 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Nov 27 – Assistance off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Nov 27 – Hydro Lines on Verlon Rd
- Sunday, Nov 27 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Nov 28 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 29 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 29 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 29 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 30 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd

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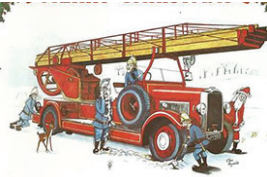
Wednesday, December 21st - 6 pm to 9 pm

Santa visits the Beach Estates starting Ceylon Road, making his way to Linden Lane

On the East side, Santa starts in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnum Park area.

At the South end, Santa will start at Shawnigan Station then over to the salt shack in Cougar Ridge.

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November!*

*Thank you for your ongoing  
commitment and amazing service to  
the Shawnigan Lake community!*

*In our rural community, your team  
responds to very important need and,  
in the process, saves many lives!*

*You are all very much appreciated!*

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#### Layout:

Grant Treloar

#### Contact Info:

250-743-8675



## COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**  
Email [sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca)
- **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**  
Meetings TBA. Held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**  
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Open Wed - Sat 10:30 - 3:30  
Contact: [museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com](mailto:museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com) (web): [shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://shawniganlakemuseum.com)
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**  
For info: (web): [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca)
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**  
Contact: [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**  
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: [info@shawniganbasinsociety.org](mailto:info@shawniganbasinsociety.org)
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**  
Contact: [blog.ysag.ca](mailto:blog.ysag.ca) (web): [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**  
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): [southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca](http://southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca)
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**  
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: [Gloria\\_gsolley@shaw.ca](mailto:Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca)
- **South Cowichan Arts Guild**  
Contact: [hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com](mailto:hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com) (web): [cowichansouthartsguild.com](http://cowichansouthartsguild.com)
- **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- **Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**  
Meeting Info & Contact: [ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca](http://ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca)

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November's photo of  
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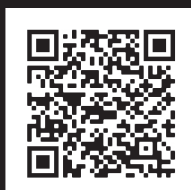
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