

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

In 2022, we asked the community to share their favourite Shawnigan stories. When we asked a panel of ‘judges’ to read and order the stories, the results were so close that we were not able to rank them. All of the stories were so good that, instead, we will share one or two stories per issue (in no particular order) over the next few months. Thank you to all of the contributors!

Do you have a favourite Shawnigan story to share? If so, send a story and photo to museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com

A Most Magical Tree, or is it Trees?

Ross Carter

On the west side of Shawnigan Lake, directly across from the Galley Marina/Cafe, is an old house beside a unique grouping of cedar trees. The Carter family has owned that house since 1962 but it was originally built around 1894 and owned by the Robertson family. Henry (Hank) Robertson, was from Marion County, Arkansas, and came to Canada in 1891. He soon after became a logger working for the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Co. Hank married Rebekah Handy, who was born and raised at Mill Bay, on April 6th, 1893. While living at their house, they proceeded to have six children (all born in the house) between 1895 to 1908.

In the mid 1970s, the youngest child, Phillip (Pete) Robertson, born April 30, 1908, stopped by his old family home and had dinner with the Carter family. Pete said our house was the third oldest house on the Lake. He then recounted the following story about the large grouping of cedar trees in front of the house. Each time his parents had a new child, they planted a new cedar seedling, and that they had all grown together. Hearing this, all of a sudden this explained the massive trunk and all the separate trunks splitting off from the base. Who could have imagined that this pioneer logging family had left such a tree as part of their legacy?

That clump of cedar trees had a different association for the Carters (4 boys) and the next-door neighbours the Kendalls (3 boys). The Kendalls installed two rope swings on the trees (which straddle the property line) and built a multi-tiered log stand. Jumping from that stand sent one soaring into the sky. The second person, using the second rope, could run across and become tangled with the first rope and be flung around the backside of the tree. Kind of impossible to describe but these magical moments were never forgotten by those who played this game. For any kids who lived nearby between the mid 1960s to the late 1970s, these rope swings are an indelible memory. Greg Kendall still maintains one rope swing on the tree (see pic above right) but the log stand is long gone as is the wild rope swinging of yore. Greg said it was a time before TV (at least at the summer cabins) and was such an important part of the fun at the lake. We were beyond lucky to experience it.

In 2001, Anne Carter brought Peter’s sister, Magdalene (Maude) Griffin nee Robertson, up from Victoria to her old family home. She had been born in the house on January 31st, 1906, but she was now 95 years old. They had tea on the front porch that overlooks the lake and the trees. Anne brought up the story of the trees that had been told to her by Maude’s brother Peter. Maude immediately pointed to one of the thinner trunks and said “see that one. The runt. That one’s me!”



Memories of Memory Island

Jill Camden

Memory Island in the 70s was an amazing location for teens to hang out away from the watchful eyes of their parents. It was, and still is, a jewel of a place to explore hidden pathways and little coves and meet with friends to just hang out.

Our group was a mix of local kids that lived at Shawnigan all year, and summer kids whose families were there for summer vacation. I was kind of both as my parents were building a house, and we spent most of the year at the lake as well as all summer. I went to school with the summer kids from Victoria, and worked at the Galley on weekends all summer with the local kids.

Nobody had fancy boats to get around in. We’d gather on Memory Island in our canoes, 10-foot tinnies and home-built boats and run free on the island. We’d often play “Kick the Can” in the centre of the island. A can was kicked off into the bush and we’d all scatter to hide. One person would have to retrieve the can back to the starting place and then try and find everyone. An innocent game for an innocent time. Well except for when the local RCMP came in their boat to check up on us. “What are you kids up to?” “Nothing sir, just playing Kick the Can, sir” (We were smart enough to hide the beer in the water on the other side of the island) At that time boat patrols were done by the RCMP officers who were actually in the local detachment. We knew them by name, and they knew all of us. I would serve them their coffee and lunch when they came into the Galley Coffee Shop.

Now my family has come full circle and my grandson’s favorite spot at Shawnigan Lake to run around and explore is Memory Island. It won’t be long before he’s gone in a boat to meet up with friends on Memory Island (without parents).

Thank you to those original families who bought and donated this amazing island in memory of their sons who died in WWII. Kenneth Scharff and Alan Mayhew had spent many summers playing on the island. Now this park will be enjoyed by many generations to come.



YSAG

Where do we Grow from Here?
A post-Covid recovery challenge for local community group

Jennifer Heinrichs

In 1988, ten mature Malahat Legion members felt the area needed more social and recreational activities, to keep folks from “sagging” as they aged. Lucky for us, they took the initiative to create them! With grants from the Federal, Provincial & Municipal governments this newly formed group, who (aptly) named themselves YSAG (*Young Seniors Action Groups*), was able to pay for improvements to the Malahat Legion premises on Shawnigan Mill Bay Road, in return getting a room of their own for their activities.

With foresight into its longevity and sustained existence, YSAGs founders also registered the group under the Societies Act. While YSAG founders made sure it was not necessary to be a Legion member to join YSAG, about half always have been members in both. Covid 19, and the resultant cancellation of activities and isolation of folks hit YSAG hard, however, and their membership and volunteer base struggles, as does the Legions. As non-profits and community-based, member-funded groups and organizations know all too well, partnerships make everyone’s life easier and better.

YSAG’s relationship with the Malahat Legion is



longstanding, and strong, with YSAG members taking on Poppy Fund mail outs and soup and sandwich lunches once a week. During the pandemic, YSAG quilters sewed face masks, with donations going to the Malahat Legion and local schools, and sewed quilts for Quilts of Valour. YSAG partners with the Legion for donation drives as well, like the Toys, Toiletries and Toques campaign for holiday hampers. “Working together makes everyone’s load a little lighter” says YSAG President Skip Whitfield.

“All our group facilitators and volunteers believe in making our world a better

place for everyone, there are just a lot fewer of us after Covid. That makes us even more grateful for our dedicated members, who step up every time they are asked, which is often,” YSAG President Skip Whitfield adds. Indeed, YSAG and the Malahat Legion executive and volunteers hope a new generation of caring, community-minded, active residents in the south Cowichan Valley join in a few of their activities, perhaps avoiding the senior AND Covid 19 “SAG”! You can get in touch with YSAG at blog.ysag.ca and the Legion at malahatlegion.ca

Cowichan South Arts Guild

The Art of Storytelling
Jennie Stevens

I have always been fascinated in the Art of Storytelling and the creative opportunities its many forms can take. In every culture, family, and individual, personal experiences provide material for telling our stories and recording our ‘his/her story’. Storytelling is a natural way of sharing information, encouraging an emotional connection which helps us to understand and remember. Thinking through our own stories helps us to know ourselves more deeply, while hearing other people’s stories helps us to identify with the things we have in common as well as expand our perspectives about ideas that are new to us.

Oral storytelling brings language alive and is interactive, building community through shared communication. Performances such as spoken word, poetry, mime, puppetry, theatre, masks, dance and songs are some forms of storytelling, as are photography, visual arts, animation, sculpture, carving and more.

I recently discovered *World Storytelling Day*, originating in Sweden

(2001) from a simple idea: to link storytellers near and far and draw attention to storytelling as an art form. It’s the first global celebration of its kind and has grown to include a multitude of participating countries holding festivals and smaller activities in the weeks leading up to actual day, March 20th. This year’s theme, *Together We Can*, chosen for its relevance to the world’s current situation, is a great choice! ‘Together we can ... inspire change, build awareness, create unity, accomplish ... you name it, anything is achieved more easily together!’

With that in mind, we’d like to hear from you! CSAG has produced *Once Upon a Winter’s Night* for the past 4 years, live and online. We are now looking to focus this event more fully on Storytelling through the **Arts**. If this idea excites you, if you have any storytelling experience or know a professional teller, or just want to support the Art of Storytelling on a local level - contact us! For more information about our upcoming event before the end of Winter [email:hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com](mailto:hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com)

Shawnigan Rotary Eco Club

Togetherness on the Road Ahead

Kim Barnard
Secretary-President-
StoryGatherer
ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

Simon Sinek says, “Take the risk of optimism,” and that’s a wonderful way for us to wrap up this past year and look forward to potential collaborations ahead! Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has spent time and shared their talents with us! We will continue to GROW together - exploring paths and putting down roots as a brand new way of looking at Rotary service, with a focus on caring for our environment - so we all may thrive.

Our first “Pop Up Market” by all accounts was a huge success! It meant so much to our participating vendors that you were able to visit and

support “Shopping Local.” Our unsinkable hosts, the Shawnigan Basin Society, were deeply grateful for the new connections forged, your kind donations, and creative talents on display in this uniquely-welcoming community table meeting space. Let us know if you’d like to see more events like this throughout 2023!

Our club goals for 2023 are to expand our positive impact in the community and to have our membership represent all the voices of Shawnigan. The Rotary wheel symbolizes the power of networking amongst business leaders and willing volunteers from all backgrounds. We recognize your potential and optimistically believe that everyone has something to share! Imagine how much we can accomplish together in a flexible yet supportive group of friends who care. Visit our website anytime for an open

invitation on how to join us.

During the holidays, I made it my goal to learn more about the history of Shawnigan’s settler community through the stories gathered by Alice Gibson in “Green Branches and Fallen Leaves”. These cover the years from 1887 to 1967, with an optimistic Foreword and Addendum included in subsequent years through the many reprints up to 2013. I highly recommend

these recollections of Shawnigan’s character(s!) and the legacy of volunteering that has contributed so much to our sense of togetherness through thick and thin, and intrepid rebounding over life’s many potholes through the years!

There remains much that needs attention, like our infrastructure, and most importantly, in our understanding of how to work together to build

good relationships across differences and jurisdictions. I’m incredibly mindful of the respect owed to our First Nations and the road ahead to listen, learn from, and lift up one another in a good way. As we look forward to what 2023 brings, let us create that circle of conversation that brings us closer together in true humility of spirit and purpose.

Huy tseep q’u siem nu siiye’yu,
Thank you respected friends!

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

The **Adult Winter Reading Club** has started and runs until the end of February. Last year, over 400 people signed up to read and win prizes and participants read over 4,300 books! Come by the library to pick up your package, print your own at home, or try our Beanstack online reading challenge platform.

Conversational Spanish returns on Jan 9. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting each Monday at 6:30pm and chat en español en la biblioteca! Beginners welcome.

LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

Did you know there are **no more late fines** at VIRL libraries? While there are no late fees, we ask that you return your books on time so others can enjoy them. To help remind you when it’s time to bring your materials back, we send overdue notices. If an item is not returned after 120 days or the item is lost or damaged, there is a replacement cost.

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**. They can get books, audiobooks, and DVDs delivered to their door at the start of each month. A phone call to the library will set this all in motion.

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

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

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Shawnigan Lake Weather Report
December 2022 and Annual Report for 2022
Data courtesy of UVic Weather Network
and Environment Canada

	Dec Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Average High°	5.6	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4
Average Low°	0.5	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-1.6	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
Extreme High°	16.0	9.3	13.4	10.5	13.4	11.0	14.9	10.0	14.0
Extreme Low°	-15.0	-10.6	-8.9	-12.4	-9.0	-11.6	-9.0	-11.0	-9.5
Precipitation(mm)	194.6	297.1	230.2	250.3	228.2	249.9	203.8	269.0	241.6
Days w precip	20	23	26	22	27	21	25	21	23
Year Precip(mm)	1250.8	1404.8	1488.2	1119.7	1456.7	1022.4	1318.8	1127.8	1454.1
Prec since Oct 1	534.7	532.6	741.9	417.4	800.8	406.6	723.9	429.6	789.0
Rank since 1914: 24th coldest , 26th wettest									
Lake Temperature Lake level change Surface Elevation		Dec 4		Dec 11		Dec 18		Dec 25	
		5°		4°		4°		2°	
		+9cm		+20cm		+1cm		+18cm	
		116.09m		116.24m		116.26m		116.45m	

Comments

December ended up colder than normal, with 17 days of freezing temperatures. Precipitation was above normal for the month. 64.6 cm of snow fell on 7 days, with 32cm on the 19th. In the last week of the month there was an abrupt change to milder, wet weather.

2022 was slightly warmer than normal by 0.2°. There were 26 days (14 last year) when the temperature rose to 30° or above and 68 days with freezing temperatures (60 last year).

Fall weather did really not begin until the last week of October. Up to that point there had been very little rain and above average temperatures since the first week of July.

Precipitation for 2022 was drier than normal, about 120 mm below average, being the 46th driest year ever. The lake reached its lowest level since 2017 in late October.

Thanks to Ed Wiebe of the UVic Weather Network for his support and maintenance of the instruments at Cigarmaker's Bay, Discovery School, and the Museum. Also to Environment Canada for the meticulous records that have been kept for Shawnigan (Elford Rd) since 1914.

	Shawnigan Annual Normals	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Rd	
		2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Avg Temp°	9.9	10.2	10.6	10.5	10.6	10.5	11.0	10.1	10.4
Extreme High°	37.2	37.9	42.3	36.8	42.5	35.0	42.1	35.0	40.5*
Extreme Low°	-21.1	-10.6	-8.9	-12.4	-9.0	-11.6	-9.0	-11.0	-9.5
Days w precip	174	156	168	159	176	146	161	164	171
Precipitation(mm)	1250.8	1404.8	1488.2	1119.7	1456.7	1022.4	1318.8	1127.8	1454.1
Rank since 1914: 25 th warmest , 46 th driest									
Lake temperature: warmest: 28°(last year 28°) coldest: 1° (last year 2°)									
Lake level: highest: 117.37m (last year 118.12) lowest:115.86m (last year 116.30m)									



St. John's Academy Spotlight



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

Recap of 2022 at St. John's Academy

St. John's Academy (SJA) is looking forward to 2023, and is gearing up to provide a venue for community events like the Mix and Mingle which was hosted by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association for local businesses.

Last May, SJA hosted our first Community Fun Fair which was a great success. Many of our neighbours, nearby residents, current and future SJA families attended. It also gave us an opportunity to share our growth plans with the community.

Our proposed expansion will allow us to add much needed facilities and educational options for the Shawnigan Lake community. For example, there was great demand shown for our proposed addition of Kindergarten to grade 3. As well, our proposed new sports field and athletic facilities will be a welcome addition for all.

We have heard from you, our Shawnigan Lake community, and know that there are many needs in the area that we can help to fill. Moving in 2023, we hope to meet with the APC and local interest groups as we continue to move forward with what we began in 2022.

For a tour of the campus please contact:
Jenny Boomer
jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca



View of the proposed plan from Shawnigan Lake.



Listening to student feedback during the June 8th SLCA Mix and Mingle at SJA.



The candy making machine was a big hit at the Community Fun Fair while parents viewed project renderings.

The Christmas phenomenon is fascinating...

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, (he/him)
Writer & Educator

It’s incredible how powerfully the capitalist enterprises of the modern era have dug into this Christo Pagan holiday. Don’t get me wrong, Christmas, as a whole, is a nice combination of traditions. There’s feasting, singing, and the supposed birth of the Christian dude Jesus. But it’s become something else...

From Black Friday till Boxing Day people spend incredible amounts of money on showing love for their family on, what

I’ve come to call, Coca-Cola Christmas. I know so many people who work jobs that pay wages that barely cover the bills yet are expected to spend money to prove their affection. It’s this pressure to buy gifts that creates a cycle of judgment. What about the poor kid who goes to school in January only to say they got nothing for Christmas.

All the Christmas stories can be summed up as, be good and you’ll get presents. Which covertly says, be bad and get nothing. Or even worse, it’s said directly, be bad and get a lump of coal. So again, what about

the poor kids and the kids of the families that don’t conform? Are their kids bad? When those kids watch the Christmas shows and see those classical Christmas tropes, how do we expect children to feel?

While I am here, what about the trash? Plastic lasts for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. How long will someone enjoy their gift versus the multigenerational lifetime of plastic? Even the plastic in the bow, ribbons, and the wrapping paper. One year someone bought my son a blow up punching clown for

Christmas. In about a week the clown was popped and thrown into garbage. My son asked me to buy him a new clown. We talked about how long he’d appreciate the clown and then I told him that the garbage clown would sit in a landfill for 500 years. Then we talked about how so many other kids got toys that broke after Christmas and how many toys must be in landfills. We even realized that if plastic toys can last for 500 years then every toy from when I was a kid would still be in the landfill. Then asked him if he thought it was ok to buy another one. I could see him imagining the landfills of toys. Needless to say he

didn’t want another blow up clown and he seems to understand why we don’t do the present thing. That said, my kids are not without toys, just none as Christmas gifts. But that’s a whole other story.

Christmas is cool, Yule is better, but whatever you celebrate I hope it’s awesome. I am a big fan of the feasting, the family time, the tree, and the decorations. But, when kids at school ask my boys what they got for Christmas, they’ll say their parents didn’t buy them anything.

“Mukw’ stem ‘I’ utunu tumuhw ‘o’ slhiilhukw’tul” - Everything on this earth is interconnected

If You Don’t Ask for Something, You’ll Never Get It!

Opinion
Mary Desmond

The return of an active railway would be a boon to our Island communities with passenger services directed toward both commuter and tourist markets. At first, the restoration of service for the South Island would focus on the Langford-Victoria corridor. Eventually, efforts to extend service northward would begin, with daily service involving trains running both ways [northbound and southbound], enabling all needs, be they regular commuting, occasional visits, or appointments, to be met.

Tourism would also be enhanced. Visitors could alight in Shawnigan to explore the expanded museum [with its unique cinematic feature!], lunch at a local restaurant, and enjoy the walk along the lake on the “Trail by the Rail” [to be completed in 2023]. Perhaps shuttle buses could be organised to transport people from the village area to the Renfrew Road start of the Kinsol Trestle walk.

Some may be surprised to learn that, despite the very limited service available then, *the E&N carried 35,339 passengers in 2007!* During the summer months, it was advisable to book for group excursions well in advance. The old Budd cars would be replaced with newer, more modern rail cars - even if they were second hand! - that would be both easily accessible as well as “bike friendly”. The addition of the

latter feature would definitely be a strong draw for the large biking community who would be able to access new territory by train. How about taking an excursion train to the Courtney/Comox area for biking or skiing at Mt. Washington?

One of the ICF’s [Island Corridor Foundation] intentions has been to “create trails.....for the use of the public along the length of the Island Corridor”. To this end, a cycling/pedestrian route in Courtenay, the “E&N Trail - Humpback Connector”, a biking/pedestrian route from Johnson Street Bridge to the west end of Langford Lake, the Nanaimo Region Rail Trail, and our own “Trail by the Rail” have either been completed or are under construction.

Some have expressed concern over the loss of the former Victoria rail station on Wharf Street at the bottom of Pandora, citing greater inconvenience associated with a new location on the Vic West side of the Johnson Street bridge. However, as most would require supplemental transport via taxis, friends, or buses to take them to their appointments or social engagements not located in the immediate downtown area, the change of venue matters little.

Originally, the very first terminus, ‘Russell’s’, in 1886, was actually in Vic West, not Victoria itself. [The Wharf Street location opened in 1888]. *Since many other*

cities manage to successfully coordinate bus service with train connections, there is no reason to doubt such arrangements could not be achieved here.

Claims have been made that the E&N could only “move” 500 passengers per hour. Not so! A single track railway system, aided by signalling and passing loops, is quite capable of running three trains an hour per direction. Indeed, *a modern train can convey 750 people, creating the capacity for three trains, operating simultaneously, to carry 2,250 per hour in total.*

Benefits, both financial and environmental, would also result from reinvigorated freight service. The ICF [Island Corridor Foundation] emphasises the potential for freight service to Port Alberni and Nanaimo. Blessed with a natural deep water port, Port Alberni is envisioned as a possible destination/distribution point for the delivery of goods to the rest of the Island and even beyond.

According to the ICF, **a modern low emission locomotive can haul «a tonne of goods more than 220 kilometres on a single litre of fuel, while removing more than 300 trucks from the road.**

Two to three years ago, the *Victoria Times Colonist* ran an excellent series profiling alternative routes to the Malahat highway. All of the various options were investigated and eventually dismissed due to legal constraints, environmental concerns,

and exorbitant costs associated with the acquisition of private lands and new construction. The research indicated that the E&N line would be the most viable choice, despite its need for rehabilitation.

For those still hankering after an alternative “roadway”, here is a compelling statistic from VITCC [Vancouver Island Transportation Corridor Coalition], “1 kilometre of rail upgrade with new ballast, ties, and continuous welded rail, would cost \$2.6 million, whereas various road options would cost \$19 million per kilometre].

Lastly, there is a humanitarian aspect to reviving the E&N: There is a surprising number of people who cannot drive, either due to financial hardship or personal limitations. To this segment of society, the opportunity to travel to other communities would open doors that are presently closed! The current bus services have been curtailed, and sometimes the schedules are not that convenient.

Important Reminder: March 23rd, 2023, may be the date of the final decision on the fate of the E&N, but in order for your comments to have an effect upon the outcome of the negotiations, it would be advisable to submit them well in advance, by the end of January/early February. So, please send those E&N support letters soon! The earlier they are received, the greater the chance they have of influencing the process. Politicians agree

that a personal letter, preferably brief and simply explaining your opinion on a project, carries much more weight than a form letter or petition. Remember how the hugely extravagant Royal B.C. Museum expansion was halted once people raised a hue and cry!

As always, if you don’t ask for something, you’ll never get it! One short note Ccd. to the following will do:

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Sonia’s Duncan constituency office is temporarily closed and will reopen in a new location next year.

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E.J. Hughes at Home in Shawnigan Lake

Robert Amos
Artist and Author

Pat Salmon moved up to Shawnigan Lake with her family to live there full-time in 1976 and soon became reacquainted with the artist E. J. Hughes. “My daughter Lori was walking home from school one day carrying a load of books,” she recalled, “and someone stopped and asked would she like a ride. And she said “yeah”. And when she got home, she said “Guess who I met today - Mr. Hughes”. I said “isn’t that nice”, and that’s how we sort of got back together. Fern had died in the meantime [in 1974]. I saw it in the Victoria paper. It wasn’t big news, just an obituary, so I wrote him the nicest letter I could.”

At the time, Salmon was working in the History in Art Department at the University of Victoria, as a lecturer and slide librarian. Realizing the need to publish something, she proposed to Hughes that she would write about him.



He agreed immediately and began providing her with research material for a book.

It was obvious to Salmon that Hughes needed help in many ways. She began photographing his work as he completed it. Usually, he held the paintings up for her out in his carport. Gentleman that he was, Hughes always returned the favour, photographing his painting and including her in the photo.

She soon became his chauffeur, driving him on scenic tours around the waterfront of the Cowichan Valley. Not only did Mrs. Salmon act as a chauffeur, but in fact she discovered a number of locations which she thought would interest Hughes.

The descriptive label Hughes wrote for his painting *Fir and Arbutus Trees, Ladysmith, B.C.* reads: “During the last few years,

while occasionally driving along the road discovered by Mrs. Salmon, across the harbour from Ladysmith on Vancouver Island [Brenton-Page Road], I’ve noticed a number of especially attractive groups of trees along the side of the road. *This group seemed ready-composed for a painting and was a fine contrast of curved and straight lines, especially in the tree trunks.*”

From time to time Hughes enjoyed life with the Salmon family, and often was at Shawnigan Lake

with them. Remarkably, Pat Salmon found time at the end of every day to write in her diary all that she had learned from the artist, in addition to the ongoing activities of her husband and seven children.

As Hughes’s fame grew, she became his social convenor and the executive assistant for his exhibitions at Surrey, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Shawnigan Lake, the University of Victoria and, eventually, for his major retrospective at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 2003. She coordinated the interviews and honorary degrees which came his way, right up to the Order of Canada.

As Hughes was in his nineties and living alone, Salmon checked in on him in Duncan every other day, looking after his clothes, his groceries and even his health.

And, most importantly, from 1977 until his death in 2007, Pat Salmon defended the artist’s most important asset - his time to paint.

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Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

December Report

Department Members Attended 33 Incidents

- Thursday, Dec 1 – Assistance on Wallbank Rd
- Friday, Dec 2 – Alarms Activated on Quartz Rd
- Sunday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off McKernan Rd
- Sunday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off Gibbs Rd
- Sunday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- Thursday, Dec 8 – Alarms Activated on Cullin Rd
- Friday, Dec 9 – Hydro Lines on Empress Rd
- Saturday, Dec 10 - 1st Responder off Terrace Rd
- Saturday, Dec 10 - 1st Responder off Wright Rd
- Sunday, Dec 11 - 1st Responder off Wright Rd
- Monday, Dec 12 – Hazmat on Morgan’s Way
- Tuesday, Dec 13 – Hydro Lines on Sooke Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 14 – Vehicle Fire on Bonnie Pl
- Wednesday, Dec 14 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 14- 1st

- Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Dec 17 – Assistance on Inn Rd
- Saturday, Dec 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Dec 17 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 23 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Sunday, Dec 25 – Alarms Activated on Kay Pl
- Sunday, Dec 25 - 1st Responder off Burnham Rd
- Sunday, Dec 25 – Assistance on Fernridge Dr
- Monday, Dec 26 – Hydro Lines on Tall Tree Ln
- Monday, Dec 26 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Dec 26– Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Dec 26 – Hydro Lines on Cougar Ridge Rd
- Monday, Dec 26 – Alarms Activated on Tharratt Rd
- Tuesday, Dec 27 – Assistance on Ravenhill Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 28– Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 28- 1st Responder off Briarlea Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 28 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Dec 29– Assistance on Briarwood Cres

We Are Proud of Our Legion Members and Our Community Members’ Support

Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134
1625 Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd., Shawnigan Lake
Join us on Facebook or contact us at
www.malahatlegion.ca.

G.J. Solley

In 1934, the Malahat Legion Branch 134 opened its doors. Legion members and volunteers worked together to strengthen community. Volunteers ran it just as we do it today, serving our Veterans, Veterans families and our Community.

In 1988, YSAG (Young Senior Action Group) was formed and it is located in the Legion doing different kinds of senior activities and wonderful work.

A big shout-out to our oldest Veteran, Nora Smart, who just celebrated her 97th birthday, and she made a difference during the Poppy Campaign.

The new Legion Executive will be meeting once a month, and the General Meeting is open to all members on the 3rd Sunday. To start off the New Year, we would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their support, and we look forward to working with you again this year.

We could not support the non-profit organizations in our community without our weekly Saturday afternoon meat draw. All proceeds go into a gaming account and are then distributed to the organizations who have asked for financial support. Meat is supplied by Thrifty Foods. All tickets are \$1.00 each. Our Galley and bar is open on Fridays and Saturdays. Did you know that we were voted #1 in four out of five categories and 2nd in the fifth? Why not come in and enjoy?

Activities are posted on our monthly calendars. Pick up a copy by the entrance or on our website.

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

community groups to stay involved.

As we expect to break ground early in 2023, this will be a very different year for the museum. The museum will likely be closed for much of the year as we work behind the scenes to organize and prepare the collection for the new space. We are also working with two excellent designers who specialize in creating museum exhibits. This collaboration will produce at least three exciting new exhibits for the re-opening of the museum.

We will continue to offer a limited number of events this year, including Shawnigan history talks; guided Kinsol Trestle walks as requested; some group visits to the museum and we will continue to collaborate with other

A big thank you to our Staff, Volunteers and the Board of Directors for all of the hard work that has moved our vision to expand the Museum. It has been a work in progress for over 5 years and we are excited to break ground this year. We also want to thank our Members for supporting our work!

The Museum is looking for an experienced bookkeeper for approximately 15 hours a week, preferably on site. If you want more information about this opportunity, please email museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com for more information. Or leave a phone message and your call will be returned.

ONE MEMBERSHIP... YOU GET IT ALL!



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Your membership at Valley Health and Fitness includes Cycle Fit, Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Fit Camp and more!
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www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca

Santa Run

The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department thanks the residents of Shawnigan Lake for their continued generous support to the local CMS Food Bank.

Financial donations totalled over \$2500 this year, along with over 60 tote bags of non-perishable food items.

shawnigangarage.com



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7AM - 7PM • MON - FRI
WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS • 9AM - 6PM



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**YOUNG SENIORS
ACTIVITY GROUPS**
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
FOR EVERYONE!

MONDAY THEATRE
Once a Month

TUESDAY
Computer & Photography - 10-12:00

TUESDAY YOGA (\$8)
Active| Standing - 9:00
Gentle| Chair - 10:30

WEDNESDAY
FUN Line Dancing (\$5) - 10-12:00

THURSDAY
Folk Arts - 9-11:00
Quilting - 1-4:00

FRIDAY
Tai Chi - 10-11:30
Chair Yoga - 10:15-11:15
Woodcarving - 9-12:00
Busy Hands| Knit - 1-4:00

MONTHLY SPECIAL EVENTS
Planned by Volunteers

ALL ACTIVITIES HELD AT MALAHAT LEGION
1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$25
GIVES ACCESS TO ALL ACTIVITIES.
FEES FOR CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS
OR FOR EVENT COSTS MAY APPLY.

www.blog.ysag.ca
YSAGcirca1989@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email: 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**
Contact us for information about hours and/or group visits.
Contact: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: (web): www.thesra.ca
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: ysagssl@gmail.com (web): blog.ysag.ca
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria.gsolley@shaw.ca
- **South Cowichan Arts Guild**
Contact: hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com (web): 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

Shawnigan Cemetery



EST 1965
"A Community Resting Place"
Information 250 929 6100

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SHAWNIGAN CEMETERY
Notice of Annual General Meeting 2023

To receive reports and review accounts for the year
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Date : Sunday, January 22, 2023
Time : 11:30 AM
Place : Sylvan United Church
Lower Social Hall
985 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road
Contact : Roy Davies - ADMINISTRATOR
250-929-6100

Shawnigan Cemetery

Mason's Store

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GENERAL INTEREST

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LOST - FOUND

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PROPERTY SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

What Is It? Where
Is It? Why Is It?



One lucky respondent with the correct
answer will be randomly selected
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Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee
for their support!

Reply to: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com.

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Richard Neil

for correctly identifying
December's photo of
the maximum height sign that was
on the damaged railway bridge at
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Sat 10-8

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