



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fourteen - Issue Two

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A Non-Profit Community Publication

Local Watersport Champions

Victoria Aqua Ski Club

Two local Shawnigan boys spent the year bringing home waterskiing medals from just about every competition you can think of... whether it was Provincial, National or International events, their training and hard work paid off. So, before they begin looking to new challenges in 2023, it is worth taking stock of their accomplishments in 2022, beginning with their latest medal-wins at the Pan American Waterski Championships in Chile.

Both Jake Chambers and Jaret Goulah represent the Victoria Aqua Ski Club of Shawnigan Lake. In December they traveled to San Bernardo, Chile to compete at the Pan American Waterski Championships. The Championships are held every two years with an Under 17 age division and an Under 14 age division. Participating countries included

Canada, USA, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Brazil, and Peru. Each country enters two teams, one for U17 and one for U14, and each team is composed of 6 athletes, including male and female skiers. This year's competition was held Nov 29th - Dec 1st, with Jake Chambers representing Canada on the U17 team, and Jaret Goulah representing Canada on the U14 team.

While each athlete vied for individual medals in each discipline, as well as an overall medal, each country was competing for an overall team medal, based on points awarded for three events in Slalom, Trick and Jump. The U17 Canadian Team won Gold with Jake Chambers contributing to his team's points by winning a Silver medal for Trick. In the U14 division, Jaret Goulah won the Bronze medal for Jump, which contributed to the team's overall score, and helping to earn a Silver medal for the Canadian Team.

Jake and Jaret's success in Chile came as no surprise as both boys had a habit of podium finishes this summer. Jake spent the season winning Gold in slalom and Bronze overall at the Canadian Open; Gold in Trick at Canadian Nationals; and Silver medal overall at Canadian Nationals for all three ski events. Lastly, Jake earned the nod from Red Bull with an invitation to their Pro Am 3-event competition at Predator Bay.

Meanwhile, Jaret earned himself a Gold medal (in Jump) at Provincials, a Gold at Westerns and a Gold at Nationals. Jaret was also invited to compete at the Canadian Junior Open, an invitation only event, where he competed



Jake Chambers

against the older U17 boys and won himself a Bronze medal. And to top it off, Jaret set a new Canadian record in Jump this summer with a 135' jump that ranked him #3 in the world in U14.

Not bad for two local boys, both proud members of the Victoria Aqua Ski Club of Shawnigan Lake. The VASC is the oldest water ski club in Canada and is home to the most welcoming and enthusiastic water skiers you will ever meet.

For anyone interested in joining, or paying the club a visit, please call the club President, Lee Curtis at 250-893-2881.



Jaret Goulah

A Shawnigan Story

Collected by the Shawnigan Lake Museum

Another great story from our story call out in 2022. If you would like to submit a Shawnigan story, please send a word document to museum@shawniganlakemusum.com. It would be great to have a photo as well.

A Push and a Rescue Blaise Salmon

All my childhood summers were spent in our two room cabin on the west side of Shawnigan Lake. Built by my mom's grandfather in the 1940s, it had no running water or plumbing, just an old wooden outhouse a short distance up the hill. There was one bedroom for nine family members, crammed with two sets of bunkbeds, a bigger bed for mom and dad, a couple of narrow cots, and a crib. The room was all beds, there was no floor space at all.

We carried buckets of water up from the lake for washing the dishes. We brought drinking water in a big plastic jug from Victoria. No need for baths, swimming took care of that. And every evening we five kids (later seven) would troop down to the lake in pajamas, and stand on the wharf brushing our teeth, spitting out the white toothpaste and watching it spread out on the surface of the lake.

We didn't wear life jackets, we could all swim. Well...maybe not the youngest ones. As the oldest, I was the guardian of safety, and generally in charge. Or so I felt. My youngest brother, Mark, age 3 and five years younger than me, always needed watching. He had found a loose board on the very edge of the wharf, and liked to bounce on it while he brushed his teeth. Every night I'd warn him not to, and every night he'd ignore me and bounce away happily on his little bouncy board. Brush, brush, brush, bounce bounce, bounce, spit! I started to hope he would fall in.



Doug, Blaise, Dan & Mark

He didn't, until one night I gave him a little

nudge, and plop, as easy as that he was in. He didn't surface even once. The water was shallow but not shallow enough. I was horrified to see the hair on the top of his head swirling gently on the surface - he seemed to be just standing in the mud totally submerged.

I could hardly believe what I'd done. I hated the mud. It was filled with old slimy sticks but I knew I had to save him from drowning. The trouble I would be in was unimaginable...plus I actually loved the little rascal. I jumped in. The water was chest deep and I sunk into the muck. I grabbed Mark and lifted him out of the water a bit, but he was heavy and slippery, and he slid back under the water. The other kids must have been yelling for help, but I didn't hear anything. After a couple more tries at lifting him so at least his head was out of the water, dad arrived and pulled him out onto the wharf.

Mark was alive and apparently none the worse for it.... thank you, thank you Jesus. The mercies continued as it turned out my parents had only seen the commotion...no one knew it was me who had pushed him in. Not even Mark. In fact, dad praised me for my brave rescue attempt!

I didn't tell anyone the real story for years...but now it's a regular in the family story collection. Peter, age 17, came in as I was writing this, glanced at the title, and said "oh yeah, you pushed him in!"

Shawnigan Focus

YSAG

An On-Going Legacy of Caring, Sharing and Community in the South Cowichan Valley

Jennifer Heinrichs
YSAG

Having started in the late 1980s, YSAG, a 55-plus social and recreational group in the south Cowichan Valley, has no original founders left. The groups longest serving members today are Helen and Denis Lainchbury. Denis Lainchbury was a long time Director, then President. He started Men’s Walking,

Woodcarving, Stained Glass and drove the bus for many YSAG trips. In 2000, Denis’ wife Helen started to facilitate the Tai Chi group, which she still does. She is also involved in Folk Arts, Quilting and Busy Hands.

With all the original founders and many long-time members gone or unable to participate any longer, newly retired, socially engaged, caring community members and volunteers are exactly what YSAG needs post-Covid.

One such community member is Dianne Casavant, who joined



YSAG in 2010 and took over the Folk Arts AND Quilting groups in 2018. With Dianne at the helm of Quilting and Folk Arts, Thursday is a very busy day for YSAG members. Her Folk Arts group meets in the mornings, and uses water based acrylic

paints on wood, glass, metal, pinecones, etc. “No surface is overlooked, and members are encouraged to think outside the box and surprise me with their imaginations” notes Dianne. They paint items for YSAG and Legion events and decorate the rooms and grounds with their whimsical and wonderful creations. Dianne says “One of our greatest feats was painting on shoes for table center pieces at a Spring Tea. Instead of balloons hanging from the ceiling we hung painted shoes... My goodness, the looks on

people’s faces!” Dianne also facilitates YSAG’s Thursday afternoon quilting group. This group works on items for groups in the south Cowichan area, including Duncan. This year they have sewn 40 quilts for Jeneese Place for sick children’s foundation. In the past, they have donated quilts to Quilts of Valour, Cairnsmore Extended Care, Broadmead Care, and Somenos House. And if that isn’t spreading themselves (pun intended) too thin... they also sew blankets for Broken Promises Rescue.

Shawnigan Rotary Eco Club

Shawnigan Needs Friends! Kim Barnard
Secretary-President-Story Gatherer

Our Rotary EcoClub members recently toured the Shawnigan Lake Museum, and thanks to our guides Lori and Grant Treloar, we each learned something new about the vibrant quality of life enjoyed here over the years.

Behind each chapter of Shawnigan’s story are the efforts of Community Champions - persistent individuals with ideas they cared about, gathered support for, and turned into actions and activities - and whose traditions we now celebrate. Consider the quiet life of E.J. Hughes and the

far-ranging impact of his works. His methods of carefully observing beloved landscapes began as parsed pencil sketches prepared with hope for painting later. We are so grateful that he purposed to complete these scenes we now enjoy.

Will today’s work matter beyond your lifetime? May it be measured in the sharing of time and talents! How enriching, to intentionally connect and generously participate in local events and activities. Friendships grow by doing good things together - this is the foundation our Rotary EcoClub is built upon. It’s contagious energy that shines forward into our community’s future!

Take a moment to look around



and see who-what-where might benefit from your attention. We invite you to peruse February’s “Volunteer Day”. Ask your neighbours what would enhance their quality of life here!

We sponsor LitterWatch, volunteers who gracefully pick pernicious trash out of our

landscapes. With simple supplies and a playful approach, we can offer Shawnigan our vision to be welcoming, beautiful and respected from the ground up. Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 22nd by joining in our annual Shawnigan-wide Clean Up! Details will be posted

at our website. Shawnigan needs friends - people like us who actively care for our shared spaces. Please let us treat you to coffee and conversation to explore more. Huy tseep q’u siem nu siie’y’yu, Thank you respected friends!

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

There’s a book club meeting monthly at the South Cowichan library! The Inspired by Reading Book Club is hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild and open to anyone interested in reading and sharing inspired conversation. Book selections are based on creating and sustaining a hopeful and compassionate environment for all. Monday, Feb 13, 6:30pm: What Strange Paradise by Omar El Akkad

If the gloom is getting to you, try a light therapy lamp you can use for 20-60 minutes in the library, depending on your need and sensitivity. Set it up to shine on your face and then read a magazine!

The Adult Winter Reading Club runs until the end of February. Last year, over 400 people signed up to read and win prizes with participants reading 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: 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, we send overdue notices when it’s time to bring your materials back

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

250-743-5436
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

Opinion

Eric J. Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

I believe that the time has come to reintroduce fairness in the awarding of building contracts.

Whether it is the Cowichan Tribes or Union-only bids, this type of patriarchal overseeing as to whom ought to build on a given site, is tantamount to control that has no place in today’s society.

Specifically, how do unions get to determine that the building ought to be reserved for union members only. That this is plainly wrong defies common logic. Any established company or entity has the right to compete on new job sites. Why should unions be accorded special privilege or status? The lowest bid is entitled to the contract when it has a proven track record in undertaking the building of large highrises.

The Cowichan Tribes are entitled in all manner to bid on any project. It is duplicitous of the unions to, on the one hand attempt to secure employment for its members, while on the other hand, discriminate against Indigenous Tribes, while it professes its role to be that of the advocate of social advancement for all.

Let us discard the mantra of “Union Site” or prerogative, and let fairness and equity prevail!

Cowichan South Arts Guild

Inspired By Reading
– Cowichan South
Arts Guild Book Club
Discussion

*All the Frequent Troubles
of our Days: The True
Story of the American
Woman at the Heart of
the German Resistance to
Hitler - Rebecca Donner*

Leanne Boschman,
CSAG Book Club Facilitator

Book Club members had a very rich discussion about this skillfully written book that stirred strong emotions and appreciation for the courage of the members of the German Resistance. It also raised questions about the workings of propaganda, and consideration of how we would have responded to those circumstances. As horrifying as the events of WWII, and the Holocaust,

were as witnessed and experienced by Mildred, Arvid, and their friends and family members, we acknowledged that hopefulness springs from the bravery and conviction they demonstrated under the most harrowing circumstances—our fellow humans amazing us by the way they rose to the occasion. Arvid’s last letter to Mildred before his execution was found to be particularly moving as it reflected how love could persist in the face of imprisonment and death.

One part of our discussion centred around the fact that it took so long for this story to be told, tucked away as it was in the grief and confusion of Mildred’s family members. We were impressed by how the author, Rebecca Donner (great-great

niece of the protagonist), was able to locate and sift through so many documents and first-hand accounts. The way she used some of the descriptive techniques we usually associate with fiction made this account of history particularly compelling.

Not directly related to the book, we also shared our experiences of reading hard copy books versus listening to audiobooks. Some of us related how, though it initially took some adjustment, audio books are helping us to read more books while doing other daily activities. It was also pointed out that some books lend themselves more to one format or the other. Those who had listened to the book appreciated seeing the photos of the main characters as well as samples of their handwriting in letters etc. in the hardcopy version.

Royal Canadian Canadian Legion Branch 134

Gloria Solley

Our Malahat Legion building is now filled with various activities. Check our monthly calendar for times and events. Most are drop in - pool and darts are league activities. There are also some YSAG meetings and activities included. Copies of the calendar are available at the Legion and, of course on our website. www.malahatlegion.ca

Still in the planning stages is a Super Bowl Party on February 12th and another Friday dinner followed by Music Bingo near the end of the month.

The Galley and Bar are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1 – 7:00 pm. Come for lunch and stay the Meat Draw which is held every Saturday from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. ALL PROCEEDS go into our Gaming Account and is distributed to multiple society and non-profits organizations. A \$500.00 bursary is given to a Frances Kelsey Secondary School student every year. See the FKSS School website for more information and how to apply.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who run the various activities and fundraisers. Without their help, we would not be able to function. The Legion will be continuing the bottle drive

to help pay for our utility’s expenses. All donations are welcome.

We have been supporting the WOUNDED WARRIORS RUN here on Vancouver Island since its’ incorporation in 2013. We honour and support Canada’s ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans, first responders, R.C.M.P. and their families.



This
year The
Wounded
Warriors
Annual
Run is set

to begin at Port Hardy and are scheduled to arrive at the Malahat Legion (next door to the fire hall) on March 4th around 5:00 pm. shortly after the Meat Draw.

We would like to extend an invitation to members of the community to join us to welcome runners as they arrive.

Don’t forget to renew your Legion membership for 2023. Anyone can join the Legion, previous service is no longer a requirement. The membership chair is at the Legion most Saturdays from 1:00-3:00 P.M. to take your membership or answer any questions.

Shawnigan Weather for January 2023

	January Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Average High	6.3	6.3	5.0	6.8	5.5	7.2	6.4	7.2	6.3	6.8	6.0
Average Low	0.5	2.0	0.3	1.1	-0.7	1.9	0.2	2.2	0.5	1.6	-0.1
Extreme High	15.0	10.5	9.1	11.3	10.7	11.5	10.4	11.3	10.5	11.0	9.5
Extreme Low	-21.1	-5.9	-7.4	-7.5	-10.1	-6.6	-7.8	-5.2	-6.4	-6.0	-8.5
Precipitation	215.3	143.7	188.5	130.4	184.0	109.8	180.5	104.8	171.9	114.0	177.2
Days w precip	20	24	18	27	22	25	18	24	18	21	18
Year Precip	215.3	143.7	188.5	130.4	184.0	109.8	180.5	104.8	171.9	114.0	177.2
Precip since Oct 1	534.7	676.3	910.4	633.5	969.0	516.4	981.3	511.1	895.8	541.0	966.2
Rank since 1914: 16 th warmest, 24 th driest											
Lake Temperature Lake level change Surface Elevation	Jan 1		Jan 8		Jan 15		Jan 22		Jan 29		
	2"		3"		4"		4"		3"		
	+76cm		-39cm		+9cm		-33cm		-11cm		
	117.20m		116.80m		116.89m		116.56m		116.45		

Director’s Report

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has been buzzing with activity since the election. The CVRD Board hired a new CAO, Danielle Myles Wilson. She comes from up Island and her positive, can do attitude has already started shaping a better work environment. She supports the board in many ways, especially as we move into our strategic planning. More on strategic planning in my next update. For now there are two main items I want to bring to your attention.

First don’t miss your opportunity to meet with community groups who are looking for volunteers. When I was talking with community in the fall, I heard many of you say you wanted to get more involved. This is your chance to explore volunteer opportunities that fit your schedule and interests. There’s no pressure to sign up on site, just consider it as a way to meet face to face with all the wonderful groups in our community.

Volunteer Fair

Date: Saturday Feb 4th

**Location: Shawnigan Lake
Community Centre**

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Free admittance

Second, as many have experienced first hand, there is a shortage of suites and affordable housing options in our community. From a motion brought forward before the election, the CVRD has prepared a suggested bylaw amendment to change the current regulations on suites and carriage houses. Follow my Facebook Page for the public hearing date (@AreaDirectorAreaB) or receive updates directly from the CVRD at www.cvrld.ca/list

Essentially the amendment proposes more density in areas that already have houses and may not have qualified for a suite or auxiliary building because of the size of the lot. The new interim bylaw proposes a reduction in lot size requirements by half in most cases. This applies to all kinds of lots based on having community water, sewer or not.

Contact the CVRD directly if you have specific questions for your own property and watch for the information and public hearing.

The Board of the CVRD is currently working through the area and regional budgets. This process will be complete by the end of February. As discussed at length during
(continued on Page 7)



Volunteer Fair at SLCC

Come out to the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre and see how you can get more involved in your community as a volunteer. This volunteer fair is for organizations to come and showcase what they do in the community and the ways people can get involved in volunteering.

For more information please call:

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre 250.743.1433



CVRDREC

cvrd.ca



Saturday | Feb 4

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Shawnigan Lake
Community Centre**

Shawnigan Focus

The Salish Lorax

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

Walking in the shrub forests that grow in the upper delta of the Quw'utsun Sta'lo' I've always been fascinated by the biodiversity. The low willows and alders, overgrown with invasive blackberry and knotweed, all intermixed with massive cottonwoods reaching hundreds of feet tall and meters thick. Even with all this, I can't help but think of the Squ'ew'. That being said, I've never seen a Lelum's tu Squ'ew'. Sure, I have a few hunches as to where one might be, but not one I could confidently point out to you and say with certainty that it's a Lelum's tu Squ'ew'. But what I have seen is the Squ'ew' themselves and the incredible network of aquatic trails they make on some property I steward in Qw'umiyiqun.

I didn't know what they were at first. When I first began adventuring in the swampy woods of the upper estuary, I noticed these strange canals. There were these metre wide, metre deep, ditches crisscrossing everywhere creating a network of canals that ran hundreds of meters in from the river bank. When they were dry they

were great for getting around under the dense mat of willows and salmonberry that covers most of the land. Over time I started noticing that the canals changed almost annually and decreased some years. As if some unknown force was creating them.

A few years later I was watching some random nature documentary and it started talking about the Squ'ew'. It talked about how Squ'ew' would dig these ditches to access further inland to get fresh food to store for winter. When Squ'ew' do this it turns the area into a wetland and the helps with the local hydrology and water purification. Not to mention it provides irrigation to fields and increases water storage and retention in the watershed. It was the Squ'ew' making the canals!

Then it all made sense. Like It always does. I couldn't help but see it. How it's all interconnected. The Squ'ew' need the river, and the forest. And the river and the forest need the Squ'ew'. So when we need the river and the forest, we too need the Squ'ew'.

But we don't make homes for Squ'ew', we build dykes and people's houses on the river's edge. We build infrastructure that depends on the Squ'ew'



Image courtesy of - <https://www.pngarts.com/explore/110005>

storing and cleaning the water in the watershed. But we don't save forest space and riverside habitat for the Squ'ew'. Here we are fluctuating between flood and drought. Almost forgetting that the Squ'ew' is one of our last hopes to save our watershed, if we'd only let it. But, that's just it, we have to let it. It's time we start looking to our

animal relations to help us solve the problems we've made. All while making space so they can enact the much needed change we all need. I think if I wrote a Salish version of the Lorax, I'd make the lorax a Squ'ew'. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss

- Squ'ew' - Beaver
- Lelum's tu Squ'ew' - Beaver's House (the elders I asked didn't have a word for Beaver Dam, just house)
- Quw'utsun Sta'lo' - Cowichan River
- Qw'umiyiqun - Comiakin Village, near the stone church



St. John's Academy Spotlight



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



Class of Grade 6



Class of Grade 9



Class of Grade 10

The Need for Additional Education

The need for additional educational options for students and parents on the island is growing. Based on conversations we are having with our local community and enrolment requests for early education, we know the need is real.

We love our campus and continue to develop our academic, outdoor, and experiential educational programs, but our current facilities limit our ability to offer classes beyond our current grades 4 through 12. Increasingly, these grades

are hitting capacity levels. Shawnigan Lake and surrounding areas continue to grow, with increasing need for more elementary classrooms. Our proposed growth plan will allow St. John's Academy (SJA) to add kindergarten along with grades 1 through 3 to our current curriculum.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) world school, SJA uses the Middle Year Programme (MYP) and is a candidacy school for the Diploma Program (DP), which will be offered

starting this September. Our graduating classes are currently awarded British Columbia High School Certificate (the "Dogwood"). In September our grade 11 students will have the opportunity to graduate with the IB Diploma.

John D'Arcy, Head of School
john.darcy@stjohnsacademy.ca

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

E.J. Hughes at Home in Shawnigan Lake

Robert Amos
Author & Artist

E. J. Hughes was awarded the Order of Canada in 1984 but he refused to go to Ottawa to receive it. He told Max Stern in a letter on February 3, 1984: “It is for the same reason I had to not go to the opening of my retrospective at the NGC, and that is worry, about the “thousand and one” details entailed. My one-track mind has to be relieved of these worries completely or I cannot get started working on my painting, or even get to sleep at night.”

Then, in June 2005, Hughes was awarded the Order of British Columbia. But he wasn’t happy about that either. He felt that, logically, the Order of B.C. should have been given to him before the Order of Canada.

For the Government coordinator, Hughes’s reluctance to go to Victoria to receive his medal was



a problem. Until Hughes accepted the medal they couldn’t proceed with the next year’s presentations. Pat Salmon told me: “it was very hard for Hughes to rejoice over

the Order of BC. He was the perfect child. He just wouldn’t show up.”

So the Lieutenant Governor’s office brought it to him,

arranging a presentation at Duncan’s City Hall. “I went to take him to lunch as usual,” Pat Salmon continued. She made sure he was properly dressed, but she didn’t reveal her intention. “Everything was fine. We were going for lunch somewhere - downtown, probably the brewery. And as we passed the City Hall, I said “just step in here for a minute. You’re going upstairs – you’re getting the Order of BC!”

Hughes didn’t have a choice, and in he went. “His friends were there, and his niece June who’d gotten the ball rolling in the first place. Up comes the bagpiper, and it struck Hughes that this event was quite nice.” He was a monarchist at heart, and approved of the Lieutenant Governor, Iola Campagnola.

Salmon went on: “So he says to Iola “my sister Irma lives in the same apartment as you.” To which she graciously replied, “I don’t see her often. I’m hardly ever at home.”

There was an official photographer, and others with cameras. Pictures were taken, including one of Iola Campagnola with what looks like a halo above her head. “Anyhow, Hughes behaved very nicely. The event was catered, and everybody was hungry, but he didn’t get a chance to eat. After an hour and half, it was time to leave. We got out of that building and, on the sidewalk, he said to me, “you know what I want?” “Yes, I do,” I answered. “You want a short dog with sauerkraut from the Dog House.” That was his standard lunch but, more to the point, he wanted to show off his new medal to the waitresses.”

“As the years wore on,” Salmon concluded, “he got to like the Order better because, according to him, it’s a nicer medal than the Order of Canada. It represents the dogwood, but he called it The Snowflake.” Salmon showed me a photo taken that day. “There he is. The Lieutenant Governor was what really did it. Iola Campagnola did a good job.”

Last Call!

Mary Desmond

With winter gradually slouching toward spring, the March 14th decision regarding the fate of the E&N railway is approaching quickly. If you have already sent a support letter, thank you very much! If not, there’s still a little time left before the opportunity to speak up for the creation of a comfortable, efficient, and “green” mode of transportation ends.

Send a letter “if”:

- You would prefer to commute in a safer, cleaner, quieter, and much less congested style - and save on time being stuck in road delays, plus money on car upkeep and gas.
- You would like to visit friends and family up or down the line in a more relaxed fashion than driving in traffic.
- You haven’t a car nor can you drive, and would like a safe and secure way to keep appointments, shop elsewhere, etc.

- You would prefer your tax dollars not be spent on exorbitantly expensive highway projects that are often “outgrown” sooner rather than later .
- You would like your business to prosper from increased tourism along the E&N line.
- You would like to take an excursion train up island for skiing or biking
- You would like to avail of the advantages of shipping freight by train - more environmentally friendly

- and becoming cheaper
- You would like to simply “play tourist” in a nearby community once in a while.

So, what are you waiting for, Shawnigan? Stir yourself from the chesterfields of complacency; and take one small action to benefit yourself and your community!

Please send your short but sweet paragraph to the your political representatives as soon as possible:

Contact Information:

The Honourable David Eby:
Premier@gov.bc.ca
P.O. Box 941 Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1
Telephone: 250-387-1715
The Honourable Rob Fleming:
MinisterTransportation@gov.bc.ca
124 The Legislature
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Telephone: 250-387-1978
Alastair MacGregor, MP
alastairmacgregor@parl.gc.ca
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Duncan office: telephone: 250-746-4896
Sonia Fustenau, MLA
Sonia.Fustenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Green Caucus, The Legislature
01 Belleville Street
Victoria, B.C. V8Y 1X4
Victoria office: telephone: 250-387-8347
Sierra Acton, Area Director
Sierra.Action@cprd.bc.ca

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250 748 0170
www.mercuryrefrigeration.ca



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Shawnigan Focus

We Thank Our Community

Watershed Matters - Stewardship Funding by Members
Shirley Astleford & Dave Munday
Shawnigan Basin Society

Fortunately, we have received a lot of help from our community who have provided 4 years of direct funding. This is an incredibly strong indication that the people of Shawnigan value our work and want to invest in it.

Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) was created in 2012 to focus on environmental improvement in the Shawnigan Lake watershed. In 2013, CVRD Bylaw 3737 – function 488 was created to mitigate some of the very real and imminent threats to water quality in Shawnigan

Lake. None of these threats have disappeared. In fact, there is more pressure for extraction, industry and recreation than there was when this community gathered to create annual funding. We continue to do what we can to fulfill our environmental objectives given our funding constraints even though CVRD function 488 has been zero funded since 2019. In fact, this has never been discussed at the CVRD Board level. There are a lot of community members that think it should be.

We'd like to be clear about information that has been put forward by others in the community.

Bylaw 3737 Funding is needed for Shawnigan and is separate from the Drinking

Water Management program.

SBS received CVRD funds for report template development (not yearly) and to cover analytical costs (only) for water quality sampling in 2020.

The budget submitted to CVRD offers; separate options for projects and operations, includes rent that is a lower cost than renting for our usage time at the community center would be and does not include an executive director salary. Our volunteer centre provides a base of operations, meeting space and is enjoyed by many other community groups. Details are available at <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/>

We thank the community for your support. We'll continue to work for the wellbeing of the ecosystems of South Cowichan.

Sculptural Bike Racks Soon to Grace Shawnigan Waterfront Trail

Dinah Clark
Shawnigan Residents Association

Last year the Shawnigan Residents Association received a grant from Island Coastal Economic Fund to create four seating and bike rack areas at viewpoints along the waterfront trail between Mason's Beach and Government Wharf Park. These seating portals were ideas envisioned by the community during the Design Charette held in 2019 to revitalize the Shawnigan Village community.

Our vision was to create something unique and creative along our waterfront. The SRA, working with CVRD Economic Development, presented our application with the suggestion that the bike racks would be public art pieces representative of the character of Shawnigan, combining form, function, and local craftsmanship. This artistic twist was what won us application approval.

In the fall we launched a major call-out to sculptors and metal fabricators across the island in search of the best idea for the location and within budget. We were delighted with the number of submissions we received, and we were very impressed with the imagination and the artistry of all the proposals. A Selection Committee from the SRA, Cowichan South Arts Guild and the Shawnigan Museum



chose the winning concept. We are pleased to announce that Angellos Glaros of Westcoastarts.com was selected to create 4 steel bike racks with nature-based themes. During the selection process we became aware of other very fine local sculptors/metal workers, and hope there may be future opportunities to work with them on other artistic functional projects. It would be wonderful if this project inspires more.

The SRA worked with CVRD Parks to identify locations where installation would have the least disturbance on the landscape: Mason's Beach, Wharf Park, and two spaced along the Trail in between. These locations will offer people places to lock up their bikes while they go for a swim, walk up to our wonderful Village businesses, visit our soon-to-be expanded Shawnigan Museum, or just rest their "bones" while they take in our breathtaking lake views.

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Email to:
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Send in word or text format, not pdf

If you include a photo, send as separate jpg file
Photos should be high resolution

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

Department Members Attended 19 Incidents to Jan25th

- Sunday, Jan 1 – Assistance on Northgate Rd
- Monday, Jan 2 - 1st Responder off Sherburn Rd
- Tuesday, Jan 3 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Saturday, Jan 7 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Jan 8 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Jan 8 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Jan 11 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Jan 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Jan 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Jan 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Jan 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Jan 16 - 1st Responder off McKean Rd
- Tuesday, Jan 17 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Jan 17 – Alarms Activated on Fitzgerald Rd
- Friday, Jan 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Jan 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Jan 24 – Structure Fire on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Jan 24 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Jan 25 – Assistance on Northgate Rd

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email: sierra.acton@cvr.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Meetings TBA. Held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan 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
- **Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
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

(continued from page 3 - Area Director's Report)

The Board of the CVRD is currently working through the area and regional budgets. This process will be complete by the end of February. As discussed at length during the election, there will be an unavoidable increase in Area B that will be mostly due to the changes in the regional recreation funding model (as approved by referendum) coupled with inflation, which in Canada was a whopping 6.8% last year!

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. Hope to see you at the Volunteer's Fair Feb 4th. As always I'm available, your Area Director Sierra.

Sierra Acton
CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake
Sierra.Acton@cvr.bc.ca
(250) 715-6763

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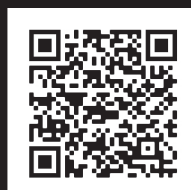
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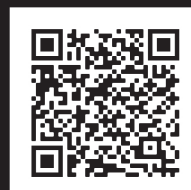
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