



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fifteen- Issue Nine

September 2024 P'uq'ulenuhw
"The time when the leaves turn colour"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Great Fire of 1930

Shawnigan Lake Museum

As often happens in a small community, events are locally chronicled as being "before" or "after" some momentous or disastrous happening.

Shawnigan's disaster happened shortly after noon on April 2nd, 1930, when fire destroyed the whole of the commercial village on the waterfront. The SLAA Hall and Library, McLaren's Store, the Post Office, the McLaren building and barn, and the water tank along the tracks were destroyed.

"Men from the Shawnigan Lake Mill, the neighbourhood stores and boys from Lonsdale's school fought the fire. They were handicapped, however, by the lack of water supply and the presence of a high wind." Losses were estimated at \$40,000 (\$750,000 today).

In November, 1930, the court heard from numerous victims of the fire in a special hearing at Shawnigan Lake. Margret Clay, Victoria Public Library Librarian testified to the value of the lost books. A. H. Killan of the Provincial Library testified that the Shawnigan Lake Library had been kept in better shape than most libraries in the province.

Justice W A Macdonald found the E&N Railway Company liable for the loss because of negligence in starting the fire on the right-of-way under dry climatic conditions at the time (there had been no rain for over a week at the time)

Almost a year after the court trial, on October 10, 1931, the new community hall opened with grand ceremony.

The new hall, erected by the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association

to replace the one destroyed by fire was officially opened Saturday evening. C. H. Dickie, federal member for the district, performed the ceremony and accompanying him was Mrs. Dickie, who was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the ladies of the committee.

After making a tour of the building, Mr. and Mrs. Dickie were escorted to the stage in company with S. J. Heald, president; F. T. Elford, vice-president; Mrs. F. T. Elford, Mrs. A. I. Dyson and Mrs. F. M. Gannon. The president introduced Mr. Dickie to the 250 assembled guests.

In a happy little speech Mr. Dickie recalled the many pleasing events that had taken place in the old hall. He complimented the directors for their unselfish work and stated that in his opinion the new hall was second to none on the Island. It was admirably planned, well-constructed, and was a standing monument to what could be accomplished with united effort. He urged the district to rally around the management and make it a true centre of community life and effort.

Following the formal opening a dance



c1940 Old Community Hall

took place to music supplied by a five-piece orchestra. The hall was equipped with every modern convenience, for the time, and was a third larger than the old hall. H. E. Hawking and F. T. Elford acted as Masters of Ceremonies. The supper and arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. A. Kingsley and a group of Shawnigan ladies. They transformed the dining-room into a bower of autumn foliage and flowers and served a dainty supper. Those attending came from all parts of the district as well as Victoria.

The 1931 Community Hall continued to be the heart of the community

for decades. It was sold around 1990 to help pay for the new Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, in Elsie Miles Park. It was sold again in 2015 by the CVRD as part of the Elsie Miles Park expansion. The building was torn down in 2015.

(Assembled with information from "Green Branches and Fallen Leaves", Vancouver Sun, Victoria Daily Times and community recollection).

To learn more history about Shawnigan Lake, visit the Shawnigan Lake Museum when it re-opens...



c1912 SLAA Hall



c1980 Old Community Hall

South Cowichan Arts Guild

Leanne Boschman

From my experience of book clubs over the past few decades, I've found that they are as diverse as their members and the places where book lovers meet.

There are book clubs that have been going for over half a century. One book

club took twenty-eight years for their discussion of Finnegan's Wake.

The *Inspired by Reading* Book Club is heading into its third season. What's happened so far? For the past couple years, from autumn through until springtime, we have met in a cozy

corner of the Mill Bay Vancouver Island library branch and enjoyed conversations that were engaging, heartfelt, and lively.

The books discussed have touched on topics ranging from challenging social issues, environmental concerns and the wonders of nature, to the complexity of human relationships.

Those cold, rainy evenings were warmed and enriched by the power of story-telling—both the narratives in the books under discussion and the stories they sparked about our own lives.

Inspired by Reading is open to the public, and book selections are based on creating and sustaining a hopeful and

compassionate mindset. This year we will be back at the Mill Bay library and we warmly welcome new members to join us on November 5 at 6:30 pm when we begin with the 2024 Canada Reads winner, *The Future*, by Catherine Leroux. For the full list of books please see the Cowichan South Arts Guild website at: cowichansouthartsguild.com

Shawnigan Focus

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca
www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

Family Storytime is back! Join us at the Mill Bay Centre playground for stories and music! Monday, Sept 9, 16, and 23 at 10:30am.

Little Wanderers is an art program for children happening on Saturday, Sept 7 & 28, hosted by Jasper Art Therapy. Create art inspired by nature and natural materials. For more information, go to jasperarttherapy.com.

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.

Intermediate Conversational Spanish meets 6:30 to 7:30pm on Tuesdays. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting.

Conversational Scottish Gaelic is a fun way for people interested

in learning Scottish Gaelic to practice together. Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm.

Intermediate Chess meets Wednesdays at 1pm. For experienced players looking for matches.

Tech Help: Drop in Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays or make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.

If you know someone local who is 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 right at their door monthly.

Did You Know? The Library gets the Times Colonist and Globe & Mail each morning?

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

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

10am - 5pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Shawnigan Focus Weather — August 2024

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network and Weather Underground
Reported by Grant Treloar

Weather Icons	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Average High	23.6	25.3	27.2	24.3	27.1	24.2	26.9	24.5	26.3	24.6	26.9
Average Low	12.0	13.2	13.8	12.9	13.4	10.8	11.0	12.4	13.6	12.3	13.0
Extreme High	36.1	32.7	37.2	31.8	36.2	31.6	37.1	32.0	36.0	32.0	36.6
Extreme Low	3.3	7.7	10.4	6.8	9.2	4.9	7.2	7.0	10.6	6.6	9.4
Precipitation	27.9	67.1	9.0	58.0	7.9	59.9	11.4	44.9	8.8	57.5	9.3
Days w precip	6	9	4	9	5	9	5	9	5	9	5
Year Precip	682.8	866.8	635.4	660.3	478.9	728.8	571.5	651.4	460.0	726.8	536.5

Rank since 1914: 26th warmest, 13th wettest

	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28
Lake Temperature	25°	25°	24°	21°
Lake level change	-1.3cm	-3.8cm	-2.5cm	0cm
Surface Elevation	116.07	116.03	116.00	116.00

August began with a continuation of July's dry, warm weather. At mid-month, a not-so-usual thunder & lightening storm ushered in cooler, wetter fall-like weather for the subsequent 10 days.

During this period, the temperature struggled to reach 20° on a number of days. The 26th was the wettest day with totals ranging from 15 mm in the village to close to 25 mm in the typically wetter area near Cigarmaker's Bay. Overall, 9 days of rain was a bit more than average.

Until the mid-month cooling, daily mean temperatures were near the top three rankings for the past 110 years. A late month hot spell bumped up the temps a bit and August ended up in the top 20 for temps.

Five days had temperatures of 30° or greater, and 18 days had more than 25°. Six days were less than 20°. 11 days were full sun, 6 days with partly cloudy skies and 14 days with cloudy conditions. The 28th was a particularly cool night, with temps in the single digits.

The sunset times in August were noticeably earlier which is normal for the waning summer months. Sunset on August 1st was 8:51 pm. On the 31st it was 7:57 pm, almost an hour earlier. The shorter daylight hours will continue as daylight diminishes by 3½ minutes daily through September.

Lake levels are a bit higher than normal for this time of year and the water temperature is close to normal. Usually the water temp hangs on close to 20° until mid-September. In 2020 it made it until the first week of October.

What's Shakin' at The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS)?

Shirley Astleford SBS

SBS Volunteers enjoyed engaging with everyone at this year's Cobble Hill Fair. Thanks to everyone who supported our t-shirt

brought questions about water quality, the status of the contaminated fill site on Stebbings Rd and milfoil. If you are interested in what the SBS has been up to for the past year, join us on September 17 at the Mill

speaker from Boundary Watershed Stewardship Society. The presentation will include the following. Shawnigan Basin Society - Current Objectives of the Shawnigan Basin Society with a focus on Community Forest Trusts <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/ebcp.html>

Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society - The Power of Forests: Protecting Communities and Nature with A New Forest Act Guest speaker, Jennifer

Houghton, Project Manager for BFWSS, will offer a short presentation regarding The Power of Forests project.

The proposed New Forest Act would phase out the current forest tenures and "professional reliance". It would decentralize decision-making to local communities and First Nations through Community Forest Boards. BFWSS is holding events across BC in fall 2024 to share the details of the

proposal and rally people to join the campaign. For more information on the Power of Forests project: <https://boundaryforest.org/problem-solution/>

Public Question & Comment Period to follow the presentations

Tickets by donation are available on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca/community-perspectives-the-power-of-forests-tickets-1001782176457>

SBS will be hosting more speaker's series events in the village to round out the year. Email us with the topics you are most interested in learning more about. admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org All new monthly donors will be entered into a prize draw for your choice of prize from our new swag. Support your watershed stewardship group by donating to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/shawnigan-basin-society/> You can also stop in at Masons Store for a fantastic shirt or water bottle.

Cowichan Valley Auto Detailing
www.cowichanvalleyautodetailing.ca

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Owner

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250 709-1990 cell/text
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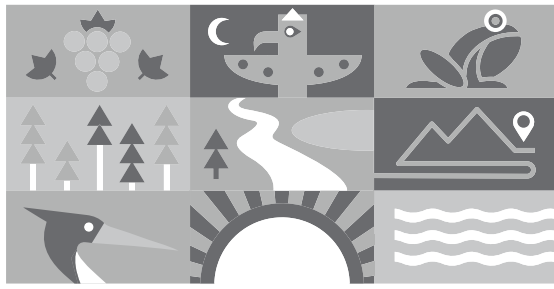


fundraiser and those who

an update and special guest



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Garden House Charity Book Sale Coming Up

The Garden House Foundation fund annual charity book sale will take place at Bonner School in Mill Bay on Saturday, October 26th, 9 am to 3 pm, and Sunday, October 27th, 9 am to 2 pm.

Expect to be greeted by 20,000 quality used books that are just waiting to get to your house! Kiddos, especially, should head to the stage where 5,000 children's books, all 50 cents each, will whet their appetites for a lifetime of literary adventures ahead. Other prices remain steady with most books going for \$2 and \$3. The silent auction, as well as jigsaw puzzles, musical scores, CDs and DVDs,

top off this year's enticing offerings. Each year organizers think the books are the best ever, and this year is no exception! Sale profits go into a permanent fund, with annual grants given to Cowichan Valley organizations which support families and animals in crisis, including Cowichan Women Against Violence and the Duncan and District S.P.C.A. Since 2008 the fund has grown steadily due to sale proceeds, cash donations, investment interest, local government grants and matching funds. But this is a special year, as the total raised so far will exceed \$300,000 by the end of December.

A grand total of over \$80,000 in grants, including matching funds, have been given since the fund began, while the permanent fund, valued at \$218,000 as of July 31st, will continue to grow in perpetuity. Struggling families and animals in distress are thankful for your unwavering support. Every purchase you make will keep on giving forever! Book donations are not being accepted at this time as storage is full. Please check the website in January for updates: www.gardenhousefoundation.wordpress.com
*The Garden House Foundation Fund is held at the Victoria Foundation.

CHARITY BOOK SALE GARDEN HOUSE FOUNDATION FUND



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Saturday, October 26th 9AM to 3PM
Sunday, October 27th 9AM to 2PM

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www.gardenhousefoundation.wordpress.com

Did You Know?



The weir behind the Black Swan

Prior to 1964 there was no mechanism for controlling the lake level. Very dry summers saw very low levels; unusually wet winters saw correspondingly high levels which would sometimes cause logs and debris to block the outlet.

In the early 1980's the Ministry of Environment (MoE) imposed stipulations on the three water license holders requiring the construction of a new weir in order to maintain minimum lake flows during the summer months.

In 1983, the MoE, with input from the community and various stakeholders, established a "rule curve" which stated target lake levels to provide storage and prevent flooding.

This specifies a gradually declining level for the period of March 15th to October 1st. Specifically, the level should diminish from 116.3m to 115.75m, which corresponds to a decreased water volume from 800 litres per second to 375 litres per second.

The new weir enables easy adjustment of a metal gate to control water levels, determining the frequency and degree of correction, but it is not an easy process.

It is a balancing act which is dependent on rainfall and evaporation. A frequent comment heard during high lake level events is that the weir should be lowered further. This is not possible from November to March when the weir is fully open (assuming the rule curve is being followed).

(from 2014 *Focus* files, written by Dave Hutchison)

Note: The current 2024 lake level is less than an inch (2.5cm) higher than the 20 year average.

Shawnigan Lake

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Fall Festival & MARKET

**Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
Sunday, October 20th 11:30AM-3:00PM**

**FOOD * GAMES * MUSIC * TREATS * CRAFTS
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ADMISSION BY DONATION FOR FOOD BANK

Vendors, craft persons, groups or individuals who market seasonal products or community information can register for FREE space by October 1st.
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca. Check our website for more details. Space is limited.

www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca
info@shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Hosted by the SLCA - Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Supported by the Province of British Columbia.



Shawnigan Focus Team

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Kim Hennecker

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Kim Hennecker

Layout:
Grant Treloar

Shawnigan Focus

September at the Malahat Legion

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

After a brief summer break, the Malahat Legion is thrilled to announce it's reopening this September. Following a temporary Friday kitchen closure in July and August, the Legion is now gearing up to resume its regular activities and events.

Our September 27th Friday night dinner is going to be a special one, as we bring Oktoberfest to Shawnigan Lake! Enjoy a traditional Bavarian dinner featuring pork or savoury chicken bratwurst, followed by an energetic performance by the Doctors of Rock and Roll band, dressed in authentic lederhosen. Prost!

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our other upcoming events:

- popular meat draws are every Saturday at 3:00 to 5:00 pm
- Wednesday afternoon drop-in crib starts on September 18 at 1:00 to 3:30 pm

- Majong and Euchre games are every Friday at 1:00 and 2:00 pm respectively

We can't wait to see you at the Malahat Legion and share in the fun and camaraderie. We are open Fridays and Saturdays.

- Fridays: Bar hours are from 1 pm to 6 pm and Kitchen 11 am to 5 pm.
- Saturdays: Bar 1 to 7 pm; Kitchen 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

Come out and support your local Legion! For more information check out our legion calendar, malahatlegion.ca/events.



Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

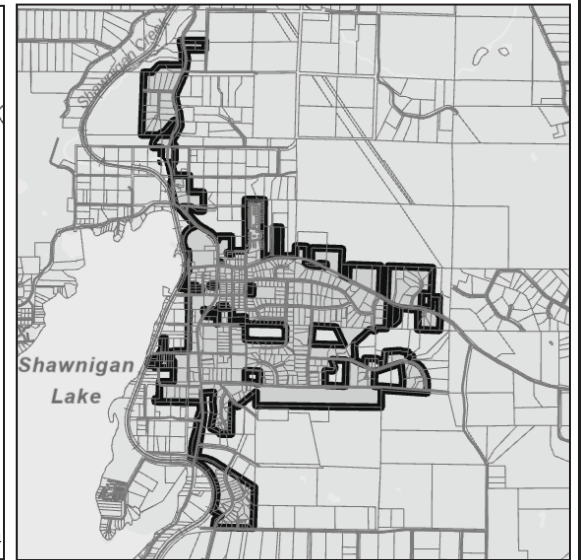
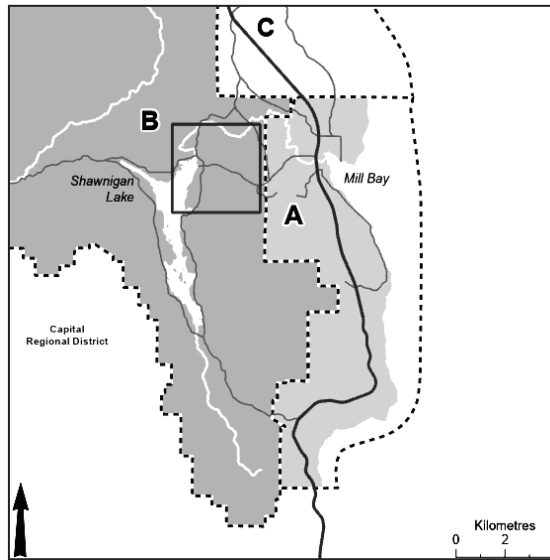
August 2024 Report

Department Members Attended 37 Incidents in August

- | | |
|---|---|
| Friday, Aug 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | Friday, Aug 16 – MVI on Renfrew Rd |
| Saturday, Aug 3 – Rescue at Burnt Bridge | Saturday, Aug 17 – Wildland Fire on W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Saturday, Aug 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd | Saturday, Aug 17 – Burning Complaint on Nora Pl |
| Saturday, Aug 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | Saturday, Aug 17 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Saturday, Aug 3 – Burning Complaint on Colman Rd | Sunday, Aug 18 – Hydro Lines on Recreation Rd |
| Sunday, Aug 4 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd | Sunday, Aug 18 – Wildland Land Fire on W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Sunday, Aug 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | Sunday, Aug 18 - 1st Responder off McKean Rd |
| Monday, Aug 5 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd | Sunday, Aug 18 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Monday, Aug 5 - 1st Responder off Sherburn Rd | Sunday, Aug 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Monday, Aug 5 – MVI on Renfrew Rd | Monday, Aug 19 – Assistance off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd |
| Tuesday, Aug 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | Saturday, Aug 24 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Wednesday, Aug 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | Sunday, Aug 25 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| Wednesday, Aug 7 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd | Sunday, Aug 25 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| Friday, Aug 9 – Burning Complaint on Baldy Mountain | Monday, Aug 26 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| Friday, Aug 9 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd | Monday, Aug 26 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| Tuesday, Aug 13 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd | Tuesday Aug 27 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| Wednesday, Aug 14 - 1st Responder off Ravenhill Rd | Wednesday, Aug 28 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd |
| Thursday, Aug 15 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd | Thursday, Aug 29 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd |



PUBLIC NOTICE



The Board of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) proposes to adopt:

- CVRD Bylaw No. 4566 – Shawnigan Village Water System Service Establishment Bylaw, 2024; and
- CVRD Bylaw No. 4567 – Shawnigan Village Water System Loan Authorization (\$3,200,000) Bylaw, 2024.

Bylaw Summary:

If adopted, these bylaws will:

- Establish a Water System Service Area within a portion of Electoral Area – B Shawnigan Lake; and
- Authorize borrowing up to \$3,200,000 to purchase the Shawnigan Village Waterworks system.

The estimated annual cost to residential property owners within the proposed service area would be approximately \$1,300 per parcel per annum until the debt is retired.

Residential Parcel Tax and User Fee Calculation Table

Proposed Service Area	Parcel Tax	User Fee	Total	Number of Eligible Electors	10%
Shawnigan Village Water System	\$700	\$600	\$1,300	1,218	122

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

The CVRD may adopt these bylaws unless at least 10% of electors within the proposed service area request a referendum by submitting a signed Elector Response Form by **4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2024.**

If you approve of this proposal, you do not have to do anything. If you object to the proposal, eligible voters within the proposed service area may sign the form. Elector Response Forms are available at CVRD Offices, online, and at South Cowichan regional recreation centres.

Bylaws and information are available for inspection at the CVRD office (175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC) from Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays, and online at cvr.ca/772/Voter-Approval.

For more information, visit planyourcowichan.ca/shawnigan-village-water or email questions to aapresponse@cvrd.bc.ca.

Learning from Each Other

Kim Barnard
*Founder-President-
 StoryGatherer*

We look after what we love, making intentional choices to maintain our investments. Even more priceless are the mentorships when we volunteer alongside community champions. Shawnigan has so many incredible souls who give of their time and talents. We are truly grateful for you!

Thank you to our club members who participated in the Cobble Hill Fair Pancake Breakfast with South Cowichan Rotary, and the Zero Waste Sorting Stations with David Slade. We served together with smiles and opportunities to learn new systems and to make a dent in the amount of garbage that would have gone to the landfill (by barge to

Washington state!). Recycling, organics and refundable beverage containers were patiently fished out of generic cans so we could get an idea of how much we could divert. It was truly a labour of love and learning. Let's do this again next year!

Upcoming collaborations include the "Power of Forests" project with the Shawnigan Basin Society at the Mill Bay Hall on the evening of Tuesday, September 17th, a village litterpick for World Clean Up Day on the morning of Friday, September 20th with St. John's Academy, and a Sunday afternoon Harvest Market to support the Food Bank hosted by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre on October 20th. We're also the Museum's biggest fans, eagerly awaiting the official

unveiling and volunteer opportunities!

Planting projects are in the works for the Mason's parking lot areas in September and October. We welcome helpers! Thank you to everyone donating unsorted Return-It beverage containers, conveniently accepted at the Black Swan Seacan and Mason's Blue Bins. For multiple bags of donations, please text Kim at 250-732-0531 for assistance. (Account #216 at the Fisher Rd Return-It depot, sorted!)

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Shawnigan Focus

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
https://www.cprd.ca/list.aspx# (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cprd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information: 250-743-8675
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: *rcl134@shaw.ca 250-643-4621*
- **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*
- **Malahat Lions Club**
Contact: 250-743-0569

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Volunteers Needed
MALAHAT LIONS
Welcoming New Members



Join us on the 1ST & 3RD Thursday of every month.
Meetings held @ the Malahat Legion

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? PLEASE CONTACT :
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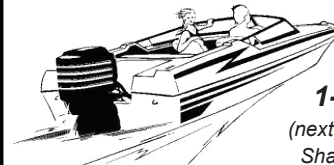
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E.J. Hughes Paints Genoa Bay

Robert Amos
Artist and Author

On February 24, 2023, fire destroyed the old Captain Morgan's Lodge, built in 1885, the oldest building in Genoa Bay. Fortunately, artist E. J. Hughes had carefully documented this building, and village around it, in paintings some years earlier.

In a letter to his Montreal dealer Max Stern, on March 28, 1981, Hughes described the subject: "On the east coast of Vancouver Island, three miles from here (Duncan, B. C.) are the small settlements of Maple Bay and Bird's Eye Cove, and a short distance from the latter, by gravel road, is the still smaller settlement of Genoa Bay. The view in the above painting is the only one of the bay obtainable from the road, and the thanks for that is due to someone who has been keeping the saplings cleared."

In the Hughes files at the University of Victoria is the original frame label for Hughes's first oil painting of the subject, Genoa Bay, Near Duncan B.C. (1975). "On the point of land just behind the boats on the left is a long horizontal sign, and on the other side of the sign, facing the open sea are the words, "Genoa Bay Marina & Café". The café and store are in the building at the top of the ramp from the float. The old houses on top of the hill were probably built years before when there was a large sawmill on this site, about 1900. They are still occupied."

Genoa Bay is a particularly pretty little cove. At the lower edge of Hughes's painting,

beyond the cut-down saplings tossed across the foreground, gentle ripples in the harbour reflect a fishing boat with a tender, a trimaran and a patrol boat ready to head out. The wharves lead to a ramp and shop with a verandah, a pre-fab building and a phone booth. There's a parking lot and three old houses, one standing on the point behind a large arbutus, looking out to sea.

Out in the water, buoys mark the entrance to the cove. A sailboat tacks in toward Genoa Bay, and a speed boat is heading out and away toward Salt Spring Island. The sense of freedom is palpable.

Upon receiving this canvas on June 4, 1981, Stern wrote: "I have just returned from a 35-day trip to Europe in which I was in five different countries and visited my artist friends, named Henry Moore,

Georges Mathieu, Emilio Greco, Pericle Fazzini, Giacomo Manzu, among others. On my return, I was delighted to find your new painting in our Gallery. It is, in my opinion, one of the finest paintings you have ever painted, and the subject matter is ideal for our gallery. I can only congratulate you on the mastery you have attained."

Fifteen years later, on January 19, 1996, Hughes and his assistant, Mrs. Pat Salmon, took my wife Sarah and I out for lunch at Maple Bay. Later that afternoon we drove through the new subdivision which was creeping up the hillside across from Genoa Bay. Hughes was keen to show us the houses that Pat's husband Martin had built, in his business as a contractor, as well as his own painting spots (all with convenient parking).



Genoa Bay, Near Duncan B.C. (1975).

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