



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fifteen- Issue Twelve

December 2024 Shits'ulwe'sum
"The time to put paddles away."

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director
Shawnigan Lake Museum

On December 6th from 5-7pm and December 7th from 1-6, the Museum is holding the 1st Annual Simply Shawnigan Art Show and Sale. This will be the first public event in our new space. We will have a variety of art pieces from four different

artists – Robert Amos, Judy Cadorette, Alisha Winder and Cim MacDonald. We hope you will stop by and check out these great gift ideas – for yourself, or for others.

The expansion project is still not fully complete yet, but the Art Show was meant to happen in September and couldn't. It will

be a no-frills event this year but we will go ahead with it as the artists have been preparing some beautiful 'Shawnigan' pieces.

The museum is a work in progress, but there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

- The new and expanded gift shop is stocked and ready



Meet me at the



Simply Shawnigan Art Show

Do you love Shawnigan Lake?

On December 6th from 5-7 and December 7th from 1-6, the Shawnigan Lake Museum is excited to invite you to the 1st Annual Simply Shawnigan Art Show. This event will take place in our new space. The museum itself will not be accessible.

We have four talented artists participating in this show, each with their own unique style. Every piece will be about Shawnigan. This a great opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind gifts for yourself, or for anyone who is passionate about Shawnigan.

Christmas is coming...

Hope to see you there!



Robert Amos



Judy Cadorette



Alisha Winder



Cim MacDonald

for sales—it is now open for sales, Mon-Fri, 10-2 until Friday December 20th

- The books for our 'library' are being catalogued
- Several new exhibits are in progress
- Exhibits that were disrupted during the project are in the process of being put back together. It is exciting to watch it all unfold.

A big thank you to the dedicated volunteers who are helping to put the museum back together. Special thanks to Pieter, Gary, Jill and Grant.

It is likely that the Grand Opening will be January or February as there is still a lot to do. We will let you know when a date is set.

Thank you to everyone who has shown interest and encouragement throughout the long construction process. We have been working toward this for many, many years. An expansion was essential

for the sustainability of the Museum. Although it is a small community, with a large seasonal influx, the history of the area is surprisingly big. People like Alice Ravenhill, Frances Kelsey, EJ Hughes, Bruce Hutchison and even the first Prime Minister, Sir John A Macdonald to name a few, and so many more, are woven into the history of Shawnigan.

We truly appreciate the financial support from the many Donors and Grantors who could see the vision, and how it would benefit the Shawnigan Community.

How can you help the museum? Let us know if you want to volunteer! Check out our gift shop - we have some great items! Support us with a donation. It has been difficult for us to raise money for the last 16 months, as we didn't have a place to hold programming or events.

We can provide tax receipts.

Thank you to all of our advertisers for supporting this local publication! We couldn't do it without your help...

The Focus team encourages community members to submit editorial content, including letters; articles of local interest, bouquets you would like to offer to people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

'Tis the season for holiday hours!

- Mon, Dec 23: early closure at 5pm
- Tue, Dec 24: early closure at 1pm
- Wed-Fri, Dec 25-27: Closed
- Mon, Dec 30: early closure at 5pm
- Tue, Dec 31: early closure at 1pm
- Wed, Jan 1: Closed

The Inspired by Reading Book Club, run by the Cowichan South Arts Guild, meets Tuesday, Dec 3, 6:30-8pm. The book being discussed is *Jennie's Boy* by Wayne Johnston. The library has both the book and the downloadable audiobook.

The book for January is *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese, available from the library in multiple formats but request it soon! If you're unsure how to order, please email, call, and drop in for help.

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 delivered to their door monthly.

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

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

Shawnigan Focus Weather — November 2024

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

Nov Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Shawnigan Area Average		
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2023	2023	
Average High	8.5	8.3	8.6	9.2	10.0	8.8	9.5	8.9	9.9	8.8	9.5
Average Low	2.6	3.9	2.6	3.6	1.9	2.8	0.9	3.8	2.8	3.5	2.1
Extreme High	20.0	13.1	14.3	14.9	15.4	13.8	15.1	14.2	14.6	14.0	14.9
Extreme Low	-15.6	-0.2	-1.6	-0.8	-2.2	-1.4	-3.4	-0.8	-1.0	-0.8	-2.1
Precipitation	182.7	213.4	180.3	181.9	153.5	198.0	173.7	187.4	156.2	195.2	165.9
Days w precip	22	24	17	24	18	22	17	22	17	23	17.3
Year Precip	1056.2	1379.0	1087.3	1067.6	820.0	1177.3	1000.8	1048.2	733.9	1168.0	910.5
Precip since Oct 1	340.1	427.4	405.3	339.7	303.9	378.1	389.5	340.6	297.4	371.5	349.0

Rank since 1914: 37th warmest, 44th wettest

	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
Lake Temperature	11°	10°	9°	8°
Lake Temperature 2023	11°	10°	8°	7°
Surface Elevation	116.16	116.24	116.61	116.66
Surface Elevation 2023	116.28	116.46	116.46	116.35

Comments:

November 2024 was a fairly typical month with lots of cloudy, showery and raining days. November is typically the 2nd rainiest month of the year, with this year being slightly above normal.

20+ days of rain were close to the average, with just a skiff of snow overnight in a few areas on the 18th.

Eight days had temperatures of 10° or greater, with the lowest temperatures bottoming out near or below freezing on the 15th and 28th.

There were only two days with partly cloudy skies and the rest of the month had cloudy or rainy conditions.

Sunset on November 1st was 5:53 pm (daylight saving). On the 30st it was 4:21 pm. Between now and the end of December is the darkest time of the year with sunset not really changing more than a few minutes, and sunrise bottoming out at 8:07 am on New Year's Eve. Noontime sun elevation hovers near 18° above the horizon (in June it will max out at 65°).

Lake levels are normal for this time of year. If we get two or three very rainy days, the level will bounce up, but if there is a dry spell of a week or so, the level will drop down significantly.

The lake water temperature continues to be about a degree warmer than normal for this time of year.

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Nature Rambles

Genevieve Singleton

Tth'iwug' is the Hul'q'umi'num' (First Nations language in the Cowichan Valley) word for Red elderberry, (*Sambucus racemosa* ssp). Tth'uykwikw is the Hul'q'umi'num' word for Blue elderberry, (*Sambucus caerulea*). There is also a Black elderberry found in the interior.

The focus in this article is the berries and giving



Red Elderberry - *Sambucus racemosa* ssp

you an opportunity to see the berries of the two species found on Vancouver Island. The Blue one is later in flowering, and fruiting, than the Red elderberry. You can still see Blue elderberry in fruit on the Island. Note how the Blue gets a whitish "bloom" on the berries.

Note that there are differences in the leaves of these two species. The flowers of the Red are in a pyramid shape whereas Blue is flat topped.

Both species have cyanide-producing compounds in all parts of the plant except the flowers, and berries **MUST** be cooked before eating in quantity. Both can be made into



Blue Elderberry - *Sambucus caerulea*

syrops, jellies and have medicinal properties. Pojar and McKinnon state in reference, "Plants of Coastal BC" that caches of Red elderberries have been found in archaeological sites dating back hundreds of years. They were an important food on the coast. However, they are small and seedy, requiring more preparation and time cooking than some domestic fruits. Many other uses for these plants to be shared another time.

Shawnigan Focus

We Are All Connected – Why Biodiversity Matters Holiday Special at Sylvan

Bernhard H.J. Juurlink
Vice President
Shawnigan Basin Society

In the November issue of the Shawnigan Focus Linda Gregory had an article on biodiversity. So why should we care about maintenance of biodiversity? For the last few millennia Western and many other cultures have maintained that humans are separate from and superior to all other living things on earth and that the earth is ours to exploit.

In contrast, First Nations people such as Coast Salish say: “Hiiye’ yutul’tst’u to’ mukw’ stem ‘I ‘u tun’a Tumuhw ‘i’ tu qa’, i.e., Everything in the natural world is connected as part of our family; we are all relatives” – quotation taken from the Xwulqw’selu Watershed Planning Agreement (S-xats-thut tst – We Agree).

DNA analyses by modern science is in agreement with this perspective that we are all related. The last common ancestor of all placental mammals lived



about 65 million years ago while the last common ancestor of all plants and animals lived about 1.5 billion years ago. From this understanding there should arise a philosophy that all living things have a right to exist and flourish – this, thus, is one reason for maintenance of biodiversity.

This philosophy may not sway all people. A loss of biodiversity not only reduces the richness of the earth but will disrupt the balance of ecosystems as we know them.

Some of these disruptions can have a major impact on human society.

I will give two examples. One is the consequences of White Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS is a fungal disease affecting bats that has decimated the bat populations in many areas of North America. Note that most North American bats are insectivores and eat many crop- and tree-damaging insects.

A recent study conducted by Eyal G. Frank on the consequences of WNS in the Eastern USA was published in the September 6, 2024 issue of the journal Science. Frank showed that the collapse in the bat population was associated with farmers using 31% more pesticides. Despite the increase in pesticide usage there was

a reduction in the quality of crops causing a 29% reduction in farm income.

Surprisingly, there was also a 7.9% increase in infant mortality (not related to accident or homicide). In hindsight this should not have been a surprise since there is an abundance of evidence that pesticide use is related to decreased health of the affected population, particularly of infants and children.

The second example is our forests. Canadian forests used to be diverse, comprised of a mixture of conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs. Deciduous trees and shrubs make the forest more fire resistant.

Many of our diverse forests have been replaced with monoculture resin-filled conifer plantations since such trees more commercially desirable, however, making these forests more susceptible to forest fire. The elimination of much of the deciduous trees and shrubs also has devastating consequences on creatures that feed on leaves and berries.

The solution to the biodiversity crisis is to set aside 30% of all habitats by 2030 and then another 20% by 2050. The SBS supports this goal.

This December 14 the Victoria Baroque Youth Orchestra returns to Sylvan United Church to share their “joyful, professional presentation of the Nativity” in Handel’s Messiah, Part I. “The professional integrity of the [musicians], plus a sing-along choir made up of children and adults is a truly creative, inclusive, and unique experience” said Sue Doughty, local musician, teacher, and conductor.

Founded in 2022, the Victoria Baroque Youth Orchestra has musicians ranging in age from 9 to 21. Led by Elyssa Lefurgery-Smith, it focuses on collaborative playing (without a conductor) in the style of the 17th and 18th century and incorporates a beautiful Dutch harpsichord into the continuo that always delights audiences.

“It’s been a joy welcoming the VBYO to the area where they invite local students to join and be a part of the ensemble,” said soprano soloist Eve Daniell. “I also appreciate them presenting just Part I. I find a full 3+hr Messiah a daunting prospect but, with just the Christmas portion,



I get to hear the beautiful, timeless music and leave wanting more. I think it’s an excellent event for all ages and all experiences of orchestral music.”

The youth orchestra will give two performances on Dec 14 - a 2.30pm all-ages Sing-Along performance where the audience is the chorus (with the support of the professional soloists), and an atmospheric 5.00pm Candlelit performance. “My whole family loved it last year and we can’t wait to sing along again!” enthused Sylvan’s Rev. Katherine Brittain.

Alongside Daniell are soloists Ciara Beaudin, mezzo soprano, Adam Dyjach, tenor, and Kyron Basu, baritone,

Tickets are available at the door, or in advance from the church 250-743-4659, sylvanunited.ca, or Eventbrite.



ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY
SHAWNIGAN LAKE



Visit our website for more information:
www.stjohnsshawniganlake.ca

Applications

SJASL is currently taking applications for the 2025-2026 academic year. We're in our sixth year of operations and as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Accredited school we offer BC curriculum to Grades 4 through 12, enhanced by the framework provided through the IB's Middle Years Programme (MYP) for Grades 6-10, and the Diploma Programme (DP) for Grades 11 & 12.

At SJASL students have three graduation pathways:

1. A full IB Diploma and the BC Dogwood.
2. An IB Certificate for individual Diploma Programme courses and the BC Dogwood
3. The BC Dogwood.

Application Process

- Tour of school
- Apply online by February
- Submit two previous report cards and have an academic reference completed
- Grade 6-12 applicants have an interview with Math and Reading screening questions with the Director of Admissions in February
- Grade 4 and 5 applicants come in for a shadow day in February, complete with Math and Reading screening questions
- The Football Academy applicants meet with TFA Directors
- Applicants are usually notified within two weeks about their acceptance results
- We will continue to interview mission appropriate applicants until classes are full

Hello Shawnigan Lake!

We are wishing everyone a safe holiday season. The team at SJASL will be enjoying much deserved time off with family and friends, and recharging. School will be back before we know it.

Mark Your Calendars

- December 7th-Holiday Market 10-2
- December 13th-Last day of classes
- December 18th-January 1-School and Admin Closed
- January 6th-Welcome Back
- January 21st-PCEG Meeting 6pm

For more information please contact:
Jenny Boomer
admissions@sjasl.ca

Education can change the world!

Mill Bay & District Conservation Society



Ken Gray
Director and Secretary
of MBDCS

Our 2024 season is coming to a close. The last coho were moved out on Nov. 13 and the trap was closed down for another year. What a year this was though!!!

Final numbers of fish moved were 8485, of which 7752 were Adults and 733 were Jacks.

A new all-time record for our project. That makes 5 years in a row that new records have been established. Goldstream Hatchery came and got

80 spawners for Brood stock and 38 spawners were transported to Shawnigan Lake School's Hatchery for their Environmental Sciences program.

There was some serious concern about this year's return, as their Mother run went through the torrential Atmospheric River in November of 2021. It seems Mother Nature dealt us a lucky hand to allow our spawning fish of that year to hunker down and ride out the deluge, ending up with a very good spawning result.

Our returns this year are putting us once again at the top of Coho Salmon Enhancement projects, on the BC Coast, that don't have hatchery intervention.

Quite a feather in our caps that we continue to increase the number of salmon year after year. We had huge numbers of jacks that returned this year, indicating that we should be prepared for another very substantial return next year. Another bright spot was, when the summer creek walk was done, there were very good numbers of fry that were spotted suggesting that 2026 will also be a banner year for us.

This project wouldn't be the project it is today without the dedication and hard work of our many volunteers. A huge Thank You to all of you who have given a lot of your time and effort throughout the year, to ensure this very successful project



continues to thrive. The Netters, what can be said about them and their effort to capture every Coho they could and give it a chance to spawn. Amazing dedication to put so many hours in at the trap. Thank You for all your time. Without you putting in those many hours, we certainly wouldn't have the numbers that we were able to transport to the spawning grounds.

We still have an ongoing opportunity to purchase apparel with our logo on it. Many volunteers bought the different kinds of clothing last year and wore it proudly to show their pride of being part of such a great project and organization. For new

and existing volunteers who would like to acquire some items, please go to our website - mbdcs.ca - and use the order form that is on it.

Many thanks to our numerous sponsors, whose generous donations allow us to continue to make this one of BC's blue ribbon Coho streams.

It is time to kick back and get some rest after such a great year. Time will pass quickly and, before you know it we will be back in action again in the days ahead.

Our AGM will be in the early New Year, please bring your thoughts and new ideas of how we can continue to improve our project. Date TBD.

Stay safe and enjoy your time off.

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Christmas In Our Village

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
4PM to 6:30PM

CHRISTMAS
is happening in
SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE

Santa's Mailbox

On Stage - Live Entertainment
featuring:
Pacific Edge Chorus
Kathy White Dancers
Jack Connolly on Guitar

CSAG - Cowichan South Arts Guild
Lantern Craft & Spiral Walk

Discovery School
Decorated Corridor of Trees

Local Business Participation

Mill Bay Lions - Popcorn

On-Street Ball Hockey Game

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Visit our website for more information :
www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Supported by the Province of British Columbia.

Time To Slow Down?

Opinion

Why isn't the speed limit 30 km/h going through the Village of Shawnigan Lake?

Now that the Railway Trestle has been taken down near Recreation Road, larger trucks (we just had the paving trucks from the East side of the lake drive through the village for weeks) and other transport vehicles are also travelling through the Village of Shawnigan doing 50 km/h plus all our local traffic.

Our Village has become busier, over the years, especially by the Post Office area. There are people opening their car doors along the parking area and people walking to the stores and us cyclists.

As I ride my bike down the hill past the Police Station (going just past the road to the Community Centre), on the right hand side of



the road, there is a sign telling people to slow down to 30 km/h. (unfortunately not many people do this!) See photo.

I have nearly been hit on my bike as I'm traveling towards Masons store where the road meets the tracks through this intersection.

It was brought to my attention, by a long time resident, that it should be time to change the sign by the Shawnigan Graveyard to slow to 30km hour going into our Village and down past the Police Station.

Is this a job for Highways or Area Director or both?

Malahat Legion Supports Wounded Warriors BC

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

Across Canada, Legions enthusiastically support Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC), a national charity dedicated to enhancing the mental health and well-being of Canadian veterans, their families, and families of fallen soldiers since 2007. WWC's tailored programs cater to individuals, couples, and families, incorporating innovative K9-assisted therapy.

Our Vancouver Island Wounded Warrior chapter is very active in raising awareness. In 2025, eight runners will embark on an impressive journey, covering 800 kilometers over eight days. The first leg will take place in early

February, from Sooke to Sidney. The following run will commence on February 23rd at Port Hardy, the northern tip of Vancouver Island, and conclude in Victoria on March 2nd. On March 1st, the runners will stop at the Malahat Legion, where they will be greeted with hot chili, courtesy of the Legion's kitchen. A generous donation of around \$4,000 to \$5000 will also be presented to support their cause.

You may wonder how this donation is possible. Due to funding restrictions imposed by the BC Gaming Commission, which limit donations to provincial charities only, the Legion relies on alternative sources. One such source is a donation

box located at the Legion bar, where members and patrons can contribute to Wounded Warriors BC. While Legion members generously support this cause, their donations are supplemented by other sources to make a more significant impact.

Last November 24th, our free Christmas Market was a resounding success. We offered 40 table rentals to local Island vendors, who showcased their unique offerings to an eager audience. With all tables filled and a waitlist for cancellations, the event raised over \$700 for the Wounded Warrior donation box. The market was widely advertised as the "Shawnigan Lake's Largest Christmas Market" on our website, Facebook page, Eventbrite, and roadside sign, attracting an estimated 300 visitors. Many found perfect Christmas gifts, making both vendors and shoppers happy.

Our Treasurer hosted a highly successful online auction last year, raising \$1,200. This year's auction took place from November 26th to December 3rd, offering numerous donated items, including a \$400 poppy



quilt and an 18-hole golf game with power cart. Our website's auction software made bidding easy and enjoyable, with automatic notifications to bidders when they were outbid. Building on last year's success, we expect this year's auction to be even more impressive, thanks to an impressive array of items.

December 2024 at the Malahat Legion

Regular Hours

Fridays and Saturdays

- Bar 1:00-7:00 PM
- Kitchen 1:00-4:30 PM

Drop-in Events

Wednesdays

- Crib 1:00-3:30 PM

Fridays

- Euchre – 2:00-4:00 PM

- Mahjong – 1:00-3:30 PM

Saturdays

- Meat Draws 3:00-5:00 PM

Special Notice:

- Ham and Turkey Meat draw Saturday, December 14th.
- Last Meat draw this year is December 21st.
- Legion will be closed Christmas and Boxing Day.
- Bar open but kitchen closed Friday and Saturday on the 27th and 28th.
- Our calendar: <https://malahatlegion.ca/legion-published-calendars/>
- More Legion events are available at <https://malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events/>



Local Shawnigan Lake Resident, Lori Timpson, finishing up at Our Legion at recent Event

Mason's Store

... wish our Shawnigan Lake friends and customers a ...

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Christmas Day CLOSED
Boxing Day 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
New Year's Eve 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
New Year's Day 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

We're Looking for Writers Who Have Stories or Articles About Shawnigan!

Email: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

*Send your article in Word, not pdf
Maximum word count 500 words*

MALAHAT LEGION #134

The Malahat Legion expresses its heartfelt thanks to the following local businesses for their contributions to the success of the 2024 Poppy Campaign.

All donations go to our Veterans and their families.

<p>MILL BAY Laughing Lama Royal Bank Thrifty's Liquor (now known as Voyage) Subway Thrifty Foods Bosleys Third Addition Bru-Go's Coffee Island Savings Credit Union Pharmasave BC Government Liquor Store I.D.A. Island Pharmacy Tim Hortons McDonalds Shell Rise Cannabis Westland Insurance Sweet Meadows Petrocan Arbutus RV Mill Bay Power Products Rusticana CIBC Co-Op</p>	<p>MILL BAY (CON'T) Serious Coffee Island Water Store</p> <p>SHAWNIGAN LAKE Subway Shawnigan Lake Island Pharmacy Aitken & Fraser General Store Masons Black Swan Acacia Lodge Shawnigan Lake Family Practice Shawnigan Lake Coffee Shop</p> <p>MALAHAT Malahat Skywalk Malahat Post Office The Aerie Restaurant</p> <p>COBBLE HILL Cobble Hill Post Office Cobble Stone Liquor Arbutus Golf Shop Satellite Bar & Grill</p>	<p>COBBLE HILL (CON'T) Rona Shawnigan Mill Bay Auto Parts Demexx Country Grocer Drumroaster Coffee Liquor Plus (V.V.) Mirra Hair Lounge Valley View Gym</p> <p>COWICHAN BAY Cowichan Bay Pub Ocean View Suites Pier 66 Kim Wau Restaurant Great Greens Market Great Greens Liquor</p> <p>COWICHAN STATION Kinsol Veterinary Clinic</p>
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Shawnigan Focus

Daphne Spurge Laurel (Daphne laureola)

Mary Vane-Hunt

This introduced, invasive, and toxic plant is spreading around Shawnigan. The attractive-looking black berries can be deadly to humans and other animals (but not birds). According to the Invasive Species Council BC, symptoms of Daphne poisoning include skin rashes, nausea, swelling of the tongue, and coma. This plant is listed as toxic with WorkSafe BC.

Daphne Spurge Laurel was introduced by European settlers and more recently arrived via florist sales. This plant

spreads via berries, will put up multiple shoots if cut off at ground level, and will sprout roots from discarded plants.

The entire plant is toxic. They are very hardy and can survive months of drought. They look somewhat like rhododendron plants with shiny leaves and woody stems. A single plant can grow up to 1.5 metres tall. In the early spring tiny four-lobed, fragrant, yellowish green flowers form in clusters between the leaves.

To remove Daphne plants, use gloves and

other protective gear. Dig out larger plants or pull out young ones. Do not compost.

I have watched this plant spreading over last 10 years from single roadside plants around Shawnigan to large stands, killing most of the nearby native plants that the local wildlife relies on.



Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

November 2024 Report

Department Members Attended 31 Incidents in November

- Monday, Nov 4 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Nov 4 – Hydro Lines on Glen Eagles Rd
- Monday, Nov 4 – Alarms Activated on Skylar Cir
- Tuesday, Nov 5 – Assistance on Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Nov 7 – Burning Complaint on Highland Ridge Rd
- Friday, Nov 8 -1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 8 - 1st Responder off Wilmont Ave
- Sunday, Nov 10 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Nov 11 - 1st Responder off Inn Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 15 - 1st Responder off Filgate Rd
- Saturday, Nov 16 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- Sunday, Nov 17 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 19 – Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – Hydro Lines on Sylvester Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – Hydro Lines on Sylvester Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – Assistance on Hawking Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 20 – Alarms Activated on Miner Rd
- Thursday, Nov 21 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Nov 23 - 1st Responder off Ingot Rd
- Sunday, Nov 23 - 1st Responder off McKean Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 26 - 1st Responder off Ceylon Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 26 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd



The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department presents its annual



SANTA RUN

Wednesday, December 18th - 6 pm to 9 pm

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

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

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

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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**
Events: (web) *malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events*
Contact: (web) *malahatlegion.ca/contact-us*
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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In Memory of John Horgan (August 7, 1959 – November 12, 2024)

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

In pursuit of my study of the paintings of E. J. Hughes, I felt I needed to get out on the water of Shawnigan Lake and find the sites he painted. My friend Keith Bridge has a place on the lake and I asked him if he could take me out for a boat ride. He was happy to oblige.

Keith called me one evening in August 2019 and we arranged to meet at his place on the West Arm the next morning. When I arrived, he mentioned that he had invited a friend of his to join us, and within a few minutes the friend arrived - it was John Horgan, then Premier of British Columbia.

Without any formality we three lads piled into Keith's boat and got out on the water. I knew that Hughes had painted a view of Old Baldy from his boat anchored in the centre of the lake. "I have tried to paint the impression I have of the lake near our home, on a summer week day, when it was very quiet,"

he wrote on June 27 1961 in a letter to Max Stern, his dealer.

Hughes continued: "(On weekends there are, of course, many more boats and water skiers and swimmers on the lake). In case anyone wonders about the two ropes on the boat deck, the left hand, thinner rope is attached to an anchor, which I had overboard while sketching the original pencil sketch." Hughes soon gave up this practice because people kept coming by to ask if he was in trouble.

Next, I asked Keith to take me to Rose Island, and with a print of Hughes's painting in hand, we cruised back and forth trying to line up the position of the painting, though eventually we realized that Hughes had sketched the island from the shore.

At this point Horgan suggested that we drop in on Arcadia, a cottage property originally owned by Bruce Hutchison, the famous journalist. As we made our way there, Horgan told us

that as a teenager he had greatly admired Hutchison and during his summer vacations Horgan was hired by Hutchison to split wood for the fireplace. As it turned out, after about ten minutes of woodcutting, Hutchison would begin to regale the young man with stories drawn from his deep political understanding, and that soon put paid to the day's work.

We motored into the Arcadia dock and made our way up to the cottage, where we were met by Robert Hutchison, Bruce's son, and his wife. It was like old home week, with reminiscences flying all around. For my purposes, I wandered off and discovered the cabin by the shore which Bruce Hutchison had built as his writing retreat. He tells the



story of how he built it in his memoir *A Life in the Country* (Douglas and McIntyre, 1988). With permission, I settled in to paint a view of the historic little "bunkie" by the shore.

While the others caught up on stories of old times, I finished my painting just as young Luca Hutchison - Bruce's great grandson - came by with a tray of

baked salmon, brie and salad, sent out by his mother. "She's Italian, and nobody gets away without being fed," he explained. After I did justice to the fine food, we all gathered for a round of photos to commemorate the occasion.

E. J. Hughes. John Horgan. Bruce Hutchison. What a marvellous day at the lake.



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Dana Lajeunesse, MLA – starting the work



This October, you put your trust in me to be your MLA for the new constituency of Juan de Fuca-Malahat, and I'm already getting to work on the issues you have told me about. I look forward to hearing more from you throughout the term ahead. I'm also honoured to be appointed by Premier David Eby as the

Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility for the Province.

As a lifelong resident of the region, having grown up in Jordan River and spending most of my adult life living and working in the Capital Region, my roots stretch deep and wide on the South Island. In my early adult life, I worked in the

forest industry following in the footsteps of family members before me. After a life-altering accident necessitated a change in direction, I was retrained to work in Mechanical Engineering Technology, then later serving as a Sooke Councillor.

I've knocked on countless doors across this constituency, including in Shawnigan. I know people in Shawnigan want action on the key issues that most British Columbians want, like the cost of living, housing affordability, access to healthcare and good paying jobs closer to home and family. But people also have raised concerns and interests more specific to the community, like relying on well water, improving

waste management, and making sure transportation works for people, especially those who commute in and out of Victoria and the surrounding communities.

This new constituency covers parts of three different past constituencies, from Metchosin to Shawnigan Lake, to Port Renfrew and everywhere in between. This means I have big shoes to fill, knowing the legacies of numerous past MLAs who have represented parts of this new constituency. I give thanks to Doug Routley, Sonia Furstenu, and Ravi Parmar (who now represents Langford-Highlands). They have served the communities in our region with passion and hard work.

And I can't understate the positive impact that John Horgan's legacy had not only in this region as the MLA, but across BC as one of our great Premiers. I know his recent passing was felt deeply by the people who were fortunate to have been represented by him in the Legislature.

I'm committed to continuing to listen to you and represent your needs in the Legislature. Once my constituency office is open, I welcome you to drop by or reach out. My staff and I will be happy to hear from you and to help address your concerns.

Thank you again to the voters in Shawnigan and across the region who have sent me to the Legislature. The work is just beginning!

Christmas at Shawnigan Lake

Lori Treloar
*Executive Director
Shawnigan Lake Museum*

Christmas has always been a special occasion for the residents of Shawnigan Lake. In 1900, the Koenig Hotel on the village waterfront hosted the first Community Christmas Tree event. In 1910, the celebration moved to the brand new Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association building and the tradition continued for another 66 years.

Every Christmas, supper, entertainment and games were provided for the children. There was a giant Christmas tree to delight the children and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

For many years, every child, from infancy to 14 years old, received a present. In the fall, a committee of women from the village would canvass the area for donations and then draw up a shopping list of presents for each child. They would shop locally first and then make a trip to Victoria for the remainder of

the list. Occasionally, an overnight stay in Victoria was required to complete the shopping.

Sometime in the 1940s, the tradition of gifts was dropped from the festivities, and, thereafter, the children received an orange and a bag of candy. Lin Nelson, who grew up at Shawnigan, advised that, at some point, the PTA took up the gift giving again for most of the 1950's. She remembers that she and her friends would check out the toys in the window at Aitken and Fraser Store and hope that Santa would bring them the right gift. According to Lin, the Christmas event was huge for the community.

The students at Elsie Miles would practice in the hall and provide entertainment for the festivities. There were games for the families to participate and always a visit from Santa.

After Christmas, in 1976, it was decided that the village had outgrown the event.

The number of children, which had swelled to 500-600, was beyond the regulation capacity of the old hall.

With the expanding population in the area, it was decided that the Community Christmas Tree event was more suited to a village and no longer applied to the larger community.

Over the last forty years, a community Christmas event has taken place in most years but sponsored by different groups and held in different places. For many of those years an outdoor Christmas tree on the

corner of Shawnigan and Shawnigan-Mill Bay Roads was the focus for the Christmas celebration. Here, the community gathered to sing carols and to visit with Santa.

Later, the celebration moved to Mason's Store, again with a special tree and a visit from the jolly old elf.

In addition, every year, our Shawnigan firefighters provide the community with the much-anticipated Santa Run that brings Santa and his sleigh out to local neighbourhoods on the top of a fire truck.

Around 2000, the Village Light Up was sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Business Association, initially, and then the Shawnigan Lake Community Association, brought a community Christmas celebration back to the village.

Food, music, and, of course, a visit with Santa makes this a special occasion and a reason to gather in the village with neighbours and friends.

This year, Christmas in the Village will take place on December 7th, from 4:00-6:30.



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