



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun

Focus

Volume Sixteen- Issue Seven

July 2025 Tum'qw'i'lus
"The hottest time of the year"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

YOU'RE INVITED

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025

SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM
RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

1775 SHAWNIGAN-MILL BAY ROAD

TIME: 1:00-3:00

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE OFFICIAL REOPENING OF THE NEWLY
EXPANDED SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM!

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION AS WE UNVEIL EXCITING
NEW EXHIBITS, EXPANDED SPACES, AND FRESH WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE
STORIES OF SHAWNIGAN LAKE-PAST AND PRESENT.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS INCLUDE A NEW E.J. HUGHES GALLERY AND MORE!

DISCOVER THE STORY OF THE KINSOL TRESTLE AND OUR REGION'S HERITAGE

VISIT OUR EXPANDED GIFT SHOP

WHETHER YOU'RE A LONGTIME LOCAL, A NEW NEIGHBOUR, OR JUST LOVE
HISTORY-THIS IS A CELEBRATION YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE

~NELSON MANDALA

South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

- The Summer Reading Club for kids starts July 2. Stop by for a reading record, draw slips, trading cards, and more.
- Join us for Snake! Story & Craft on Wed, July 9 at 10:30am. Meet Nebula, a ball python, while you learn snake facts, hear a story, and stay for a craft.
- The Stuffie Sleepover is on Mon, July 14 - drop off your most outgoing stuffie by 3pm for a sleepover at the library! On Tuesday, pick up your stuffie along with a booklet with photos.
- Button Making is happening on Fri, July 25, 2-4pm. Make a button by bringing or creating you own art to wear.
- Join us for a Firetruck-themed Storytime on Wed, July 30, at 1:30pm for songs, stories, and a special guest!
- Teen Summer Challenge runs from July 2 to August 31.
- Adult Summer Reading Challenge runs all July and August. Pick out a

free book to help with your bingo and enter to win a \$50 gift certificate to Volume One.

- Library Mouse is awake and hiding in a new place each week. Find them and pick out a sticker!
- Online Human Rights Book Club for Adults: the book for July is Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi. The book club meets online on Monday, July 28, 2:30-4pm. Call or drop by for help registering.
- 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.
- Tech Help: Drop by or call to make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.

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



Shawnigan Focus Weather — June 2025

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

	June Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Average High	20.2	23.7	21.4	22.5	21.0	22.8	20.7	24.4	21.3	23.4	21.1
Average Low	10.0	10.6	9.8	8.2	9.9	10.5	7.3	11.8	10.0	10.3	9.3
Extreme High	40.5	34.1	30.7	31.4	29.0	32.7	29.6	33.2	29.8	32.9	29.8
Extreme Low	0.0	6.6	5.8	4.2	5.5	5.8	2.8	7.7	6.0	6.1	5.0
Precipitation	40.0	23.7	62.8	23.1	41.2	14.4	53.0	12.6	42.8	18.5	50.0
Days w precip	11	5	10	5	9	4	9	4	9	5	9
Year Precip	631.7	629.7	780.9	513.6	588.1	476.2	654.0	434.0	592.5	513.4	653.9

2025 Rank since 1914: 8th warmest, 28th driest

Lake Readings	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Temperature	20°	24°	20°	19°	20°
Temperature 2024	15°	18°	17°	19°	19°
Surface Elevation	116.24m	116.22m	116.18m	116.18m	116.16
Elevation 2024	116.29m	116.31m	116.28m	116.241m	116.21

Charcoal Socks

Shelagh/Shemama Bell-Irving

Thank you Shawnigan for grabbing charcoal socks off the logboom across from Memory Island and off my road side stand. So far, 30 socks have left from there. In addition, 12 socks have been deployed to the north end in various green blobs.
I also delivered 10 socks to a friend on Fuller Lake after I heard about their algae bloom no swim VIHA order. 2 weeks later, 90%

of the algae is gone and the lake is clearer than it has been in years according to an old timer swimmer. On June 25th, water was tested by North Cowichan to be cleared for swimming The proof is in the pudding.
I need more socks as I have run out. You can drop them off at my house by my car or near the charcoal sock display on the road, that would be great. Charcoal is the answer to the algae blooms and the weeds.

This year I have a pair of muskrats that have moved into one of my docks. They are pulling my weeds...thank you muskrats. I can't supply muskrats for everyone, but I can supply charcoal socks that absorb the nutrients feeding your weeds.
Let's do this Shawnigan.
Let's clean our water.
Thank you Shawnigan
You can email to laketrust@shaw.ca if you want socks.
Watch my algae experiment on <https://tinyurl.com/2bjf6nvn>

Opinion Eric Ronse

re: Letter to the TC Editor (June 17th)
The letter was ill-conceived in my opinion. Victoria is quickly becoming a metropolis. In a short 25 years, the whole southern tip of the Island, excluding North Saanich and Metchosin, will effectively

become one city. Paving over the rail line would forever deprive us of the possibility of installing a fast rail installation. We need to only look at Europe and the Middle East on their methods in dealing with congestion on their roads and highways. Their rail lines have trains vastly exceeding the speed cars are currently

limited to. I beseech an MLA to step forward and place that matter squarely before the Provincial Government. Do it now while it is still financially viable! Forego this opportunity and we will need an exorbitantly expensive system such as Vancouver needed by installing its above-ground Sky Train. Prepare for the future now!

Locally Made Custom Wood Furniture!



SAVE 25%

On All In-Stock Wood Tables
(for the month of July only)

LOCAL • HANDCRAFTED
READY TO DELIVER!

Shop & Showroom
Located in Shawnigan Lake
SPECIALIZING IN
CUSTOM DESIGN

778-977-0911

Info@willowgroove.com
Www.willowgroove.com
Follow us on :

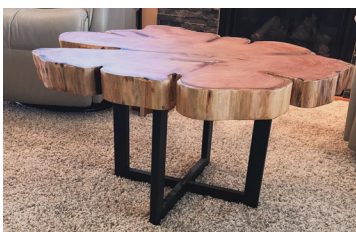


Willow Groove West Coast Custom Furniture



Willow Groove Art Furniture

Thank you for supporting local. * Designing & Creating Art Furniture since 2017.



ONE MEMBERSHIP...
YOU GET IT ALL!



Did you know?
Your membership at Valley Health and Fitness includes Cycle Fit, Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Fit Camp and more!
Access to cardio equipment, strength equipment, functional training equipment and free weights. As well as infrared sauna and towel service.

VALLEY
HEALTH and FITNESS

#1-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd. Cobble Hill
Call (250) 743-0511
www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca



EACH
ALUMINUM
CAN RECYCLED
SAVES ENOUGH
ELECTRICITY TO
LIGHT A 100
WATT BULB
FOR 3.5 HOURS



1350 Fisher Rd.
islandreturnit.com

Advertise in
the Focus!

Be Safe on the Lake!

Boating Licence Requirements:

- All motorized boats and PWCs (Personal Watercraft) in BC powered by 10 horsepower or more are required to have a Pleasure Craft License.
- All Canadian boaters, operating pleasure craft are required to obtain a boating license... To operate any brand of

(PWC Examples: Jet Ski, Wave Runner, or Sea-Doo), you must be at least 16 years of age and carry a valid Pleasure Craft Operator Card with you.

- Not having the required Pleasure Craft Operator Card or proof of competency on board = \$250 fine

Boating Equipment:

Things to Do

Kinsol Trestle
Shawnigan Museum
Shawnigan Wharf Park
Mason's Beach
Memory Island
Hike Mt Baldy
Trans Canada Trail

On the Water

Everyone loves cruising in their boat and looking at houses. Please remember to occasionally look behind you and minimize your wake when you are within 30m (100ft) of shore.

Big Wake sports should be contained (start and stop) inside the Green areas on the map. All water sports should happen between dawn and dusk (1 hour after sunset.) Enjoy!

Please make space and watch out for Swimmers and Non-powered watercraft ALWAYS have the right-of-way

If you have a stereo, please use it responsibly
Loud music travels much further over water.

Got a fast boat? Be advised the maximum speed on the lake is 65 km/h (40 mph or 35 knots)

Please limit your maneuvering in shallow water (5m / 15ft or less.)
There are lots of unmarked rocks/trees and we do not want to disturb the fish beds or the weeds. Let's stop the spread of Milfoil!

If you brought it with you, please pack it out again.

Welcome to Shawnigan

Map labels include: Trestle, Mason's, West Arm, Shawnigan Lake Rd, Trans Canada Trail, Memory Island, Mt. Baldy, The Gallery Marina & Gas Dock, Beware of Congestion, and various other points of interest.

EMERGENCY: 911

Non-Emergency Numbers
RCMP 250-743-5514
Ambulance 250-746-4233
Fire 250-743-2096
CVRD 250-746-2500

- A Canadian-approved flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size must be available on the boat for each passenger on board.
- Equipment required on board pleasure crafts of any size, including non-powered: Buoyant heaving line at least 15 metres in length. Watertight flashlight or Canadian approved flares – Type A, B or C. Sound-signaling device (example: a whistle).
- **Towing a water-skier, wakeboarder, kneeboarder or other towable device requires the use of a spotter. A spotter is a person who observes the person being towed.**
A spotter must be in the boat at all times
- The towing vessel must be equipped with an extra seat for each person that is being towed in case an emergency recovery is necessary.
- Only personal watercraft designed to carry three or more people can be used for towing a water-skier

- The person being towed must wear an approved flotation device (a 'ski belt' is not considered to be an approved flotation device)
- Do not tow water-skiers between one hour after sunset to sunrise
- It is a criminal offence, as governed by the Criminal Code of Canada, to tow a person after dark
- Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- While it is possible to pull a skier behind a jet ski, by law it must be a three-seater. This is because you need a driver, a second person to be a spotter and room (a seat) to recover the skier or every person on the flotation device. To pull a 150-200 pound skier, you should ideally have a 110 horsepower (or greater) jet ski.
- 3rd offence: at least 120 days of imprisonment
- Consumption of Alcohol on Boats Alcohol may be consumed on board the pleasure craft if it meets all of the following conditions:
 - The vessel has permanent sleeping facilities
 - The vessel has permanent cooking facilities
 - The vessel has a permanent toilet
 - The vessel is anchored or secured alongside a dock

Paddleboards

- Stand Up Paddleboards require, at a minimum, a Personal Flotation Device, a floating throwing rope and a sound signalling device. A watertight flashlight is required for low light or nighttime conditions
- Option 1 – Wear a lifejacket with a whistle (no buoyant rope required).
- Option 2: Carry a lifejacket on board with whistle and a buoyant heaving line.
- Option 3 – No safety equipment which carries a fine of \$200- \$500 for non-compliance.

The RCMP is the law for all the above infractions on Shawnigan Lake.

Operators with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood are liable to the following fines:

- 1st offence: at least \$1,000 fine
- 2nd offence: at least 30 days of imprisonment

Please share with visitors and guests. Download HR map: <https://lshawniganfocus.ca/resources/2024/WelcomeToShawnigan.pdf>

Huge Shout Out to a Local Hero – Joshua Zeman

Laura Zeman/
Sarah Davigde-Cardinal
South Cowichan Community Policing & Engagement Society

Dear South Cowichan Community,
We are proud to share



a powerful story that reminds us all of the importance of situational awareness — especially as we move deeper into fire season.

Earlier this week, Joshua Zeman, son of the Youth Director Laura Zeman of the South Cowichan Community Policing & Engagement Society, was on his way to swimming lessons when he noticed smoke coming from a mailbox near the Black Swan Pub in Shawnigan Lake. Without hesitation, and with the kind of calm leadership we don't often see in someone so young, Joshua spoke up.

His mother shared:

As a result of his leadership and advocacy, we called 911 and a fireman came and put it out. The fireman said that if Joshua hadn't reported it, it could have become a huge fire and inflamed the house that was beside it because of all the combustible bushes in the area. He also said Joshua's

situational awareness was rare — and something truly special.

Thanks to Joshua's quick thinking, what could have been a devastating fire was stopped in its tracks. His actions not only protected the nearby home but demonstrated how community safety starts with awareness and action.

In a time when wildfires are becoming more frequent and more destructive — as we've seen in provinces across Canada - this is a powerful reminder that every set of eyes matters. Fire safety is real. It affects us all. And Joshua's story is an inspiring example of what can happen when someone takes responsibility for their surroundings.

So, from all of us here in South Cowichan, we want to say a

heartfelt thank you to Joshua. You are a true local hero, and we are incredibly proud of you.

Let this be a reminder to us all: See something? Say something. It could

save a life.

With admiration and appreciation,
The South Cowichan Community Policing & Engagement Society

VICTORIA AQUA SKI CLUB

ANNUAL NOVICE TOURNAMENT

SHAWNIGAN LAKE, AUGUST 8TH, 9TH & 10TH

3 EVENTS

Trick * Jump * Slalom

FRIDAY | REGISTRATION - 5PM TILL DARK
* \$40 for First Event * \$5 for each Additional Event *
(t-shirt included for all registered participants)

ALL COMPETITORS PLEASE NOTE
WSWBC Membership / Registration - REQUIRED
\$40 Kids | \$50 Adults | \$100 Families

SATURDAY | SUNDAY - 7:30AM START TILL 4:30PM
Tricking * Jumping * Slalom
PRIZES & AWARDS

SATURDAY NIGHT - 6PM
POT LUCK DINNER

EVERYONE WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION
2586 Lavinia Road
(off Munsie Road - limited parking)

CONCESSION * SILENT AUCTION * CLOTHING SALES

WATER SKI AND WSWBC

victoriaaquaskiclub@gmail.com



Camp Shawnigan to get a Major Facelift

creating a space that will be more inclusive and accessible for the entire community

For more than four decades, Easter Seals Camp Shawnigan has provided life-changing experiences for children and youth with physical and cognitive disabilities. Since their doors opened in 1968, Easter Seals BC/Yukon has been dedicated to maintaining a place where everyone is welcome and included, and where unique programming caters to all abilities and cultivates personal growth. Camp Shawnigan is more than just an outdoor playground for children. It is a space where children gain self-confidence, experience independence and growth, and where they build social circles and lifelong friendships. It is also a place that provides family members with much-needed respite care.

“Camp is a place where everyone is included, regardless of their abilities,” says camp Director Dale Kilgour. “It is a lifeline for children living with disabilities—a place where they get to do and experience things they might not otherwise do in other environments. Going to camp opens up a whole new world to children with disabilities, which fosters development in life skills, self-confidence and independence.”

And while Camp Shawnigan has served the children and families of Vancouver Island and the Cowichan Valley well, it is in dire need of a complete renovation.

The first thing you notice when you step onto the property is the state of the buildings and infrastructure. Dated and in disrepair, almost everything needs to be replaced. The camp’s buildings and landscapes were never equipped for full inclusion, and that is apparent. What was considered accessible and acceptable in 1979 does not meet today’s standards and cannot accommodate the wide array of disabilities faced by children today.

“Over the last 40 years, the needs have changed for people living with disabilities, while our camp’s infrastructure hasn’t evolved to meet those needs,” says Kilgour. “On top of that, the demand for an inclusive space to serve both visible and invisible disabilities has grown significantly. We can no longer accommodate the growing number of requests we are receiving from Island families and children are being excluded because of it... and this is simply unacceptable.”

According to the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, more than 4,000 children and youth on Vancouver Island are living with a physical or intellectual disability, an increase of 14.6 per cent since 2019. And the number of children and youth in BC diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), has risen 78 percent from 2015 to 2020.



“Camp is a place where everyone is included, regardless of their abilities,” says camp Director Dale Kilgour. “It is a lifeline for children living with disabilities—a place where they get to do and experience things they might not otherwise do in other environments. Going to camp opens up a whole new world to children with disabilities, which fosters development in life skills, self-confidence and independence.”





The Vision for an Inclusive Community Space

It is with all of this in mind that Easter Seals BC/Yukon set out to transform Camp Shawnigan and create North America’s first year-round, purpose-built, multifunctional recreation space for children, youth, and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

The new facility will allow them to increase the total number of children and families served and offer more inclusive programming. But it will also extend their services beyond July and August to include the greater Cowichan community.

More than just a summer camp for children with disabilities, real thought and planning went into creating a space that will serve the people of Shawnigan Lake and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)—helping meet the unmet needs and gaps in services across the region.

“We’re dedicated to ensuring the redevelopment of Camp Shawnigan creates an inclusive community recreation hub for everyone,” says CEO Lisa Beck. “The new Camp Shawnigan will help meet the unmet need for recreational facilities across the region, provide employment opportunities, and elevate the quality of life for all who live and work in the Cowichan Valley.”

After a lengthy survey and report on the unmet needs in the Cowichan Valley, including a two-day Open House forum with Shawnigan Lake residents in the spring of 2022, and discussions with the CVRD Council, Easter Seals BC/Yukon has developed a plan that considers more than just their mission activities.

“Our gymnasium, climbing wall, fields, multi-purpose space and pool/hot tub all will be made available to community groups, area schools, sports teams and clubs through accessible community rentals,” says Beck. “And with its extensive Universal Design features, Camp

Shawnigan will be ready to accommodate the recreational needs of the significant population of older adults (50+) in the community.”

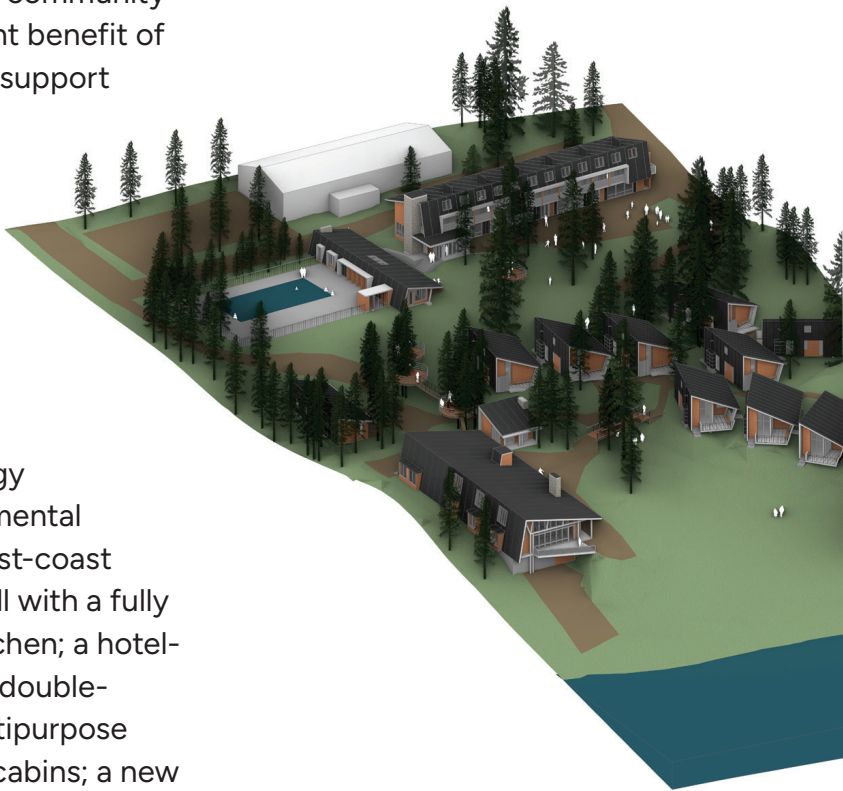
Beyond that, Camp Shawnigan will stand alone as a fully inclusive recreational travel destination for the disability community—a service that is desperately needed on the Island and beyond. Currently there are no similar spaces on the Island, including the getaway resorts in Parksville, which are not very accessible.

The space will also be able to welcome weddings, family reunions and social gatherings, as well as local community events... with the significant benefit of being highly accessible to support family members of all ages and abilities.

The new Camp will be built to achieve Rick Hansen Foundation ‘Gold Standard’ Accessibility Certification, SAFERHome Certification, as well as minimizing energy consumption and environmental impact. It will feature a west-coast inspired lakeside dining hall with a fully accessible commercial kitchen; a hotel-style building including 12 double-occupancy suites and multipurpose rooms; ten two-bedroom cabins; a new waterfront access and dock; a barrier-free gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool and hot tub, and creative arts studio.

Phase I of the project is scheduled to begin this summer. It includes the installation of the dock, re-paving of the parking lot and the construction of two of the ten cabins, which will serve as test models. The project will commence in the Summer of 2027 in time for the 50th anniversary of Camp Shawnigan.

“We’re dedicated to ensuring the redevelopment of Camp Shawnigan creates an inclusive community recreation hub for everyone,” says CEO Lisa Beck. “The new Camp Shawnigan will help meet the unmet need for recreational facilities across the region, provide employment opportunities, and elevate the quality of life for all who live and work in the Cowichan Valley.”



For more information on the Camp Shawnigan project, visit campshawnigan.ca or connect directly with the local staff at info@campshawnigan.ca

We Said No to Three-Stream — But We Got It Anyway

Sierra Acton
Area Director

Many residents in Shawnigan Lake are receiving their first bill for the new three-stream garbage service — and for many, it comes as an unwanted surprise. Despite repeated community feedback, local opposition, and ongoing concerns about cost and fairness, the service was implemented across our area. It's a clear example of what happens when an unincorporated community is outvoted by a system that doesn't reflect its wishes.

As an electoral area, Shawnigan Lake does not govern itself like a municipality. Instead, our services — from water to recreation — are administered through the Cowichan Valley

Regional District (CVRD), alongside eight other electoral areas. In the case of the three-stream garbage rollout, this meant Shawnigan Lake, the largest area, had only one vote — the same as much smaller regions like Youbou or North Oyster.

When the vote came forward to introduce a region-wide three-stream collection system (garbage, recycling, and compost), I voted against it. So did a couple of other directors. But the majority — representing areas that lacked private pickup or were eager for an improved service — carried the day. And when a follow-up decision was made to charge every household the same flat fee for all of 2025, regardless of when the service actually started for them, I

opposed that too. Again, we were overruled.

Residents are justifiably frustrated. Many didn't want the service. Others had private providers they were happy with, or preferred the flexibility of managing waste on their own. Now, those same people are being billed for a service they didn't choose — and in many cases, didn't receive for the full year.

Three Area Directors fought hard for a fairer approach: a prorated fee based on actual service start date. We argued this wasn't just about trucks and bins — it was about basic fairness. But in the interest of administrative simplicity and cost-sharing, the majority declined. One of the key arguments was that Shawnigan's large population

made it critical for spreading the costs — essentially making our community the financial backbone of a service we didn't ask for.

If Shawnigan Lake were incorporated, we could have made our own decision — just like municipalities do. We might have kept our more flexible model, like Central Saanich's, which allows for optional curbside pickup or drop-off at the depot. The limitations of being unincorporated extend to many other critical issues like road maintenance, speed limits, snow removal, road-ends, storm water management and a host of other things that municipalities can control, but unincorporated areas cannot.

But as things stand, the

decision has been made. The service is here. And while I continue to believe we deserved more choice, more local control, and more say, we must now do our best to ensure the system works as well as it can for our residents.

If you have questions or concerns about your bill or the service, please reach out to the CVRD's Solid Waste Hotline. And if you're frustrated, I hear you — and I'll continue advocating for our community to have a stronger voice in the decisions that affect our daily lives.

The app is your best source or planyourcowichan.ca/curbside-collection

Recycling Hotline
250-746-2540 or email
curbside@cprd.bc.ca

What Does 30x30 Mean for Our Watershed?

Dave Munday
Shawnigan Basin Society

Thirty by thirty is a global initiative to promote conservation of 30 percent of the land and water base by 2030. This concept was endorsed by all levels of government in Canada and over 190 countries internationally. It is recognized that conservation of large blocks of land and

water are required to preserve the ecological functions that we all benefit from.

Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is working with the CVRD to establish a watershed management plan based on ecosystem conservation principles. It is now recognized that a fully functioning ecosystem can achieve many of the objectives that

support communities — water purification, water retention, and generally adaptation to climate change. We are seeing significant changes in our lake and associated streams because of development in our watershed — forestry, aggregate mining, land development, and soil disposal being sources of significant change.

There are regulations focused

on preserving the more sensitive habitats such as the riparian zones adjacent to streams and lakes. Even here, there are exceptions where we are losing ecologically sensitive areas to development that is exempt from these regulations. This is resulting in a continuous decline in the ecosystems that we need to maintain our natural environment.

The SBS is developing a management plan to reverse this trend and hopefully get 30% of the natural environment in our watershed preserved by 2030. One of the key mechanisms for forest preservation is in the form of community forest trusts. We're looking at how to use these agreements to preserve valuable habitat from development. We hope to work with Malahat Nation as the watershed is part of their traditional territory. Indigenous communities know the value of ecosystem preservation, having lived on the land for millennia.

'Rewilding' is a term that has been used to describe ecological restoration aimed at increasing biodiversity and restoring natural processes. SBS is in the process of mapping our watershed to determine how

much undisturbed land and water we currently have in the watershed. We will need to add to this base to achieve the 30X30 objective. Rewilding will require community support and will be informed by science and traditional ecological knowledge. Fortunately, the Shawnigan Creek Watershed shares a boundary with the Sooke Lake watershed. Sooke Lake Watershed has restricted access and was set aside for restoration over 20 years ago. You can learn more about this process on our website at:

[Welcome to our watershed](#)

Creating migration corridors is part of the rewilding process, and we can promote repopulation of the Shawnigan Creek Watershed with birds and mammals found in the adjacent watershed.

We all want to see our future generations enjoying nature as we have. As a community, we can protect our environment by supporting the concept of setting aside land and water in a way that preserves the natural environment. Let's work towards rewilding enough of our watershed to reverse the declines that we're seeing.



COME AND JOIN US

75TH ANN. CELEBRATION

@Camp Pringle
2520 W. Shawnigan Lake Rd.

MUSIC, ARTS & CRAFTS, BBQ, BEACH TIME, CAMP GAMES AND MORE

3 AUGUST 2025 FROM 11-4

All are welcome!

We are looking for people to join the event, if you are interested please email,
info@camppringle.ca
MORE INFORMATION
www.camppringle.ca



Cliff Evans of Shawnigan Basin Society conducting a tour of old growth forest

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency: (250) 812-8030

shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Mission Statement: To provide fire suppression, medical aid and rescue services to the community. To protect life, property and environment through prevention, public education and emergency response.

May 2025 Report

Department Members Attended 46 Incidents in June

- Sunday, Jun 1 - 1st Responder off Sooke Lake Rd
- Sunday, Jun 1 – Burning Complaint on Ravenhill Rd
- Monday, Jun 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 3 – HazMat on Simard Pl
- Tuesday, Jun 3 – Alarms Activated on Miner Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 4 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 4 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Jun 5 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Jun 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Jun 6 – HazMat on Colman Rd
- Friday, Jun 6 – Burning Complaint on Tharratt Rd
- Friday, Jun 6 – Alarms Activated on Galland Rd
- Saturday, Jun 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Jun 7 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Jun 8 – Burning Complaint on Carlton Dr
- Sunday, Jun 8 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- Sunday, Jun 8 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, June 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Monday, Jun 9 – Alarms Activated on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Monday, Jun 9 – Structure Fire on Stein Way
- Monday, Jun 9 – Burning Complaint on Lockspur Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 10 – Rescue at Koksilah River Park
- Tuesday, Jun 10 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 10 – Burning Complaint on Tall Tree Ln
- Wednesday, Jun 11 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 11 – Burning Complaint on Carlton Dr
- Thursday, Jun 12 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Jun 12 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Jun 15 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Jun 15 - 1st Responder off Baldy Mountain Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 17 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 18 – Alarms Activated on Wildflower Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Jun 19 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Friday, Jun 20 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- Friday, Jun 20 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Jun 20 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Saturday, Jun 21 – MVI on Colman Rd
- Sunday, Jun 22 – Burning Complaint on Malta Rd
- Sunday, Jun 22 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Sunday, Jun 22 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Sunday, Jun 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Jun 24 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Jun 25 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd

Malahat Legion Veteran Mural Project

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

After a fresh coat of paint last year, the Malahat Legion was left with a blank slate and endless possibilities. The old murals were painted over, and Legion members were looking for new ideas. According to President Isabelle Hammer, other Vancouver Island Legions have successfully added character to their buildings with murals on windowless sides, also helping to deter graffiti. However, with the Malahat Legion's building featuring four large windows covering over half the exterior, a full mural wasn't practical.

When a project leader was appointed, initial estimates for a professional mural hit around \$27,000 – a financing hurdle. But a creative solution emerged when the Project Leader's wife suggested partnering with local schools. This sparked a collaboration with Shawnigan Lake and Frances Kelsey, resulting in a new plan: a four-panel mural representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and RCMP. Each school would take on two panels, bringing the vision to life. The Legion still needed to fund-raise for the project, prompting the Treasurer to set a \$10,000 goal and launch the Veterans Mural Project initiative. By mid-November 2024, the Veterans Mural Project had secured its goal, combining generous member donations, and market sales from donated items.

Kudos to the visual arts teachers from both schools who rose to the challenge of recruiting the right students for their unique projects. At Frances Kelsey, visual arts teacher Rebecca Scheer faced the hurdle of a two-term academic year, where student availability wasn't guaranteed. She wisely



chose Ella Pietrzykowski, a talented student with proven artistic skills, to work on the Air Force mural independently. For the other Navy mural, Rebecca assembled a design team for the first term and a new group of artists for the second semester. Given some students had military family connections, she had a pool of enthusiastic student volunteers to choose from for the Navy mural - Sophie Sun, Ellee Dann, Charlotte Falletta, Quinn French and Livvy Horgan.

In contrast, Shawnigan Lake School, modeled after the British private school system, presented different challenges for visual arts teacher Rainbow Bartlett. With academics taking centre stage, the mural project was only launched on May 2nd. Thanks to the school's boarding system, Rainbow easily assembled teams of enthusiastic volunteers to tackle the Army and RCMP murals. Nineteen students divided into small teams, each handling different aspects of the project – from lead designers and painters to brush washers, a liaison officer ensuring accuracy, and even donut suppliers. This collaborative approach gave every student a vital role. On many evenings, students worked late, sometimes until 9:00 PM, pouring their hearts into the murals with dedication and care. Though we couldn't list the students' names in this article, we extend our heartfelt thanks

for their time, effort, and creativity.

The big reveal was on Saturday, June 7, 2025, with Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford, Hon. Jeff Kibble, praising the collaboration between the schools and Legion's expenses came out to around \$2,000, with most of the remaining funds donated to the schools to use as they saw fit. The students' creativity and the schools' professionalism truly shone through. This project's success is a testament to community collaboration, and we are grateful to have made a lasting impact.



2025
Visions
ART STUDIO TOUR COWICHAN
ART STUDIO TOUR & SALE
July 11, 12 & 13 10am-4pm



VISIONSARTTOUR.CA

THE VISIONS ART TOUR SOCIETY
invites you to visit the studios of 14 talented artists.
This year features several exciting new members, adding fresh variety to our tradition as the longest-running art tour in the Cowichan Valley.
See the interactive map and more information at our website:
visionsarttour.ca
and Facebook
[f/visionsarttoursociety](https://www.facebook.com/visionsarttoursociety)
or contact
Carolyn @ 250 743 5974



It's true, with us, mechanical problems melt away.



Maintenance Offer Book an appointment now

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE
250-743-2122

shawnigangarage.com

'A safe car is a safe drive!'

Approved BCAA & Government Auto & Marine Inspection, Repair & Maintenance Facility



Full-Service Co-op Partner
Serving Regular,
Premium & Diesel Fuels



Est 1925
Celebrating...
100 years as purveyors of the finest petroleum products to the Shawnigan Lake community!

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cverd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
<https://www.cverd.ca/list.aspx#> (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cverd.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

Raspberry Tea and Quilt Display

Judy van der Boom
Sylvan United Church

For nearly four decades, Sylvan United Church has held its annual Raspberry Tea and Quilt Display. We would like to invite you to this traditional event at 985 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road, on Saturday, July 26th from 2-4 pm.

If you are looking for a rustic garden setting to share a cup of tea, and raspberry shortcake (topped with real whipped cream and a sprig of mint), with your family or friends, we would like to welcome you to this event and listen to music while enjoying your company. Or, you may like a Raspberry sundae and

lemonade instead.

Afterwards, you may want to enter the Sanctuary to view and enjoy the many beautiful handcrafted quilts on display. Then, you may want to pick up your favourite baked items from our bake sale table and wander across the parking lot to stroll the labyrinth in the Memorial Garden, sit in the pagoda to meditate or finish that call with you departed loved one on the "Wind phone"

We look forward to meeting you wearing elegant or imaginative headwear in a bid to win the "best hat" prize. Cost for Tea and Quilt display: adult \$15.00; child \$5.00



Shawnigan Lake's Local Vape Store

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

VISIT US AT:

www.OhmZoneVapes.ca
1-1752 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.

Mason's Store

YOUR LOCAL STORE

Our Famous Instore Bakery – Sandwiches & Subs

Lottery – Greeting Cards

Fax – Propane Swap – Rug Doctor – Dew Worms



WELCOME TO SUMMER
In Beautiful Shawnigan Lake

PHONE: 250 743 2144 FAX: 250 743 7883

SERVING SHAWNIGAN LAKE FOR 69 YEARS

Classified

FOR SALE MISC

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS CLASSIFIED are your classifieds of choice. Your message delivered to every address in the Shawnigan Lake area. \$13.50 for the first 30 words 35¢ per additional word shawniganfocusads@gmail.com Telephone : 250-743-2197

GENERAL INTEREST

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

RENTALS

CHILDCARE

AUTOMOTIVE

LOST - FOUND

HOME SERVICES

PROPERTY SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

Cheap Ad Rates!!

Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

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



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

Congratulations!

To Richard Nelson, who correctly identified the pasture along Recreation Road.

MATTHUW RONALD-JONES REALTY

PEMBERTON HOLMES
ESTABLISHED 1887

250-732-5232
mronaldjones@gmail.com
www.mrjrealty.ca



Shawnigan Barber Shop

Fin & Denise

Experienced Barbers

MEN'S, WOMEN'S & YOUTHS' HAIRCUTS

OPEN Monday thru Saturday • Walk-Ins Welcome

At the 4-Way Stop in Shawnigan Village • Next to the Pharmacy

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW -

250-743-7033 • ONLINE @ shawniganbarbershop.ca

Shawnigan Cemetery

EST 1965

"A Community Resting Place"

Information 250 929 6100

Maintained by
MALAHAT LIONS

