



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Sixteen- Issue Three

March 2025 Wulhxus'
"The time when frogs start to sing"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Art of Storytelling Festival 2025

Presented by Cowichan South Arts Guild and Shawnigan Lake Museum

COWICHAN SOUTH ARTS GUILD AND SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM
ARE DELIGHTED TO PRESENT THIS WONDERFUL CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY!

COAST SALISH CULTURE THROUGH STORY, SONG, CRAFT & GAMES

The Art of Storytelling Festival - Building Connections, A Sense of Place - 2025

Join Elders Qwiyahwulthw Robert George & Thuitsiye Pamela Bourque for a delightful and engaging afternoon of **story, songs, craft & games**.

Come and experience their warmth & humour as they share their cultural teachings through a variety of traditional art forms, and help to build deeper connections within our communities.

For more information about their many important projects in the Quw'utsun' (Cowichan) Valley, please visit Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society's website at:
www.journeyofourgeneration.ca

To reserve your spot contact:
hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com
All ages, skill sets, & backgrounds welcome!
Register soon - space is limited to 25 participants
\$30 fee

Sunday, March 23rd, 1pm - 4pm

Shawnigan Lake Museum
1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd, Shawnigan Lake

COWICHAN SOUTH ARTS GUILD AND SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM
PRESENT

THE ART OF STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

BUILDING CONNECTIONS, A SENSE OF PLACE
2025

Sunday, March 23rd, 1pm - 4pm \$30
Family-friendly and hands-on workshop - Coast Salish culture through stories, songs and craft with respected elders Robert Qwiyahwulthw George and Pamela Thuitsiye Bourque

Friday, March 28th, 7pm - 9pm Free
An intimate evening of oral storytelling for adults and youth featuring local Storyteller Jared Qwustenuxun Williams

Saturday, April 5th, 1pm - 2pm Free
Victoria StoryTheatre - children under 12 yrs and their families

To reserve your spot contact:
hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com

Find Us At:
www.cowichansouthartsguild.com

The Great Bloom

Will Dawn save the forest or bring comedic disaster?
By Sydney Marino

FREE EVENT!

PRESENTED BY
COWICHAN SOUTH ARTS GUILD
SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM
CHES
Celtic Harp Ensemble Society

THEATRE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SATURDAY APRIL 5, 1:00PM
SHAWNIGAN LAKE MUSEUM
(1775 SHAWNIGAN-MILL BAY RD)

This Festival includes a main Oral Storytelling evening, an afternoon family Storytheatre performance, an amazing Coast Salish Cultural workshop, as well as opportunities for related activities. Most of the festival happens in or near Shawnigan Lake's newly expanded Museum in the heart of the Shawnigan Village.

March 20th, 6pm

- Celebrate Whimsy's 1st Birthday during CSAG's Spring Community Singalong - multigenerational, Art Packages, Story Songs, & Whimsy!
Location: Elsie Miles Park Pavilion (beside SLCC)

March 23rd, 1 - 4pm

- Intro to Coast Salish Culture with Stories & Craft - multigenerational, rich hands-on cultural learning with Robert Quiyahwulthu-hw George & Pamela Thuitsiye Bourque.
Location: Shawnigan Lake Museum (maximum 25 participants)

March 28th, 7 - 9pm

- Cozy evening of Oral Storytelling, shared evening of connection for adults and interested youth. We are very excited to be hosting Indigenous Storyteller Jared Qwustenuxun Williams as special guest.
Location: Shawnigan Lake Museum (maximum 60-70 audience members)

April 2nd, 10:30am

- Stories & Crafts - geared to youngsters & families.
CSAG's Community Arts Caravan collaborates with South Cowichan Library
Location: meet at Mill Bay Library, held at the Playground

April 5th, 1- 2pm

- An uplifting StoryTheatre performance 'BLOOM' — geared towards families & children 12 & under
Location: Shawnigan Lake Museum

Shawnigan Focus Team

Co-Editors:
Lori Treloar
Kim Hennecker

**Advertising and
Accounting:**
Kim Hennecker

Layout:
Grant Treloar

Mailing address: 1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
Shawnigan Lake BC V8H 3B7

250-743-8675
shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Shawnigan Focus

South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

The South Cowichan Seed Library is open again!

The Inspired by Reading Book Club, run by the Cowichan South Arts Guild, meets on Tuesday, April 1, 6:30-8pm. The book being discussed will be *Crying in H Mart*: a Memoir by Michelle Zauner.

The Learning with Syeyutsus online lecture series happens on March 6, 12-1pm, with a conversation with Dr. Marie Battiste, Mi'kmaq educator and scholar, and Sa'ke'j James Youngblood Henderson, authors of an updated edition of *Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: A Canadian Obligation*. The April 6 event will be Éléna Choquette talking about her book, *Land and the Liberal Project: Canada's Violent Expansion*.

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 by or call to make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.

Book a Librarian: do you need help finding digital books, researching family history, or checking out sources? Let's meet! 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 open:

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — February 2025

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network and Weather Underground

Weather Icon	February Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Average High	7.8	4.7	7.4	5	8.4	5.8	8.6	5.8	8.6	5.325	8.3
Average Low	0.4	-0.6	1.8	-1.9	0.8	-0.9	1.7	-0.8	2.0	-1.1	1.6
Extreme High	18.3	13.4	10.9	15.6	12.3	14.7	12.3	15.0	12.0	14.7	11.9
Extreme Low	-16.7	-9.2	-2.8	-11.7	-2.3	-9.9	-2.3	-9.8	-2.2	-10.15	-2.4
Precipitation	134.7	168.4	177.3	149.5	144.2	148.1	144.2	135.3	143.7	150.3	152.4
Days w precip	16	17	21	17	22	17	22	17	18	17	20.75
Year Precip	350.0	244.0	472.0	210.9	381.3	206.8	381.3	192.8	380.6	213.6	403.8
Precip since Oct 1	884.7	974.6	1148.3	895.4	1025.9	791.8	1012.3	757.3	891.7	854.8	1019.6

2024 Rank since 1914: 22 nd coldest, 15 th wettest				
Lake Readings	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
Temperature	3°	1°	1°	3°
Temperature 2024	5°	5°	5°	4°
Surface Elevation	116.24m	116.22m	116.16m	116.59m
Elevation 2024	116.96m	116.65m	116.48m	117.39m

Comments:

February 2025 was a month of stark contrasts.

The first half of the month was dry winter weather that began in mid-January.

Up until the 15th of the February there were 33 continuous days of freezing temperatures, peaking on the 11th with -9° to -11° temperatures.

During the cold spell there were four days of snow, with a total of close to 40 cm on the ground at one time in most spots.

The next two weeks of February the rain was back bringing it to higher than normal accumulation. There were only 3 full sunny days during the cold spell.

In the last four days of February, a glimpse of spring arrived with some sun and double digit temperatures, the first time since November.

Warmest day of the month was on the 28th; coldest night was on the 11th.

The sunrise and sunset are now changing more than 3 minutes each day.

Sunset on February 1st was 5:13 pm changing to 5:57 pm on the 28th. Daylight saving time begins on March 9th.

Museum Update

Lori Treloar
 Executive Director

February was another busy month at the museum. The big news is that we now have a conditional occupancy permit, with the stipulation that we complete the access from the road when the weather is better. Our architect, Brian, has drawn a plan and we have a contractor who has offered to do the work.

There are still a few things that need to be done by the contractor, such as painting touch ups, work

on the canopy and a few other minor items, but we are very close to the finish line. It has been a very long project, but it will be well worth it. The gift shop remains available online, and in-person on weekdays from 9:30-2:30.

The dishwasher is now installed, and operational, and VIHA has approved the kitchen. The Legion kindly donated some of their redundant kitchen items to get us started. We have at least one person that has completed the Food Safe course, which

is mandatory for kitchen approval, and we will get other people certified as we move forward. We have a grant application submitted to cover the tables, chairs, dishes, etc. for 60 guests.

Our amazing collection of historical books for the Community Living Room library are catalogued (thanks to our volunteer Tony) and ready to organize once the shelves are built. We have a grant application submitted for the shelving but haven't heard yet.

We have submitted a grant application for a lamp standard, with banner arms, for outside the building (waiting for a quote), and/or a new cabinet for the Indigenous collection. Unfortunately, writing grants and hoping to get funded is a recurring theme for non-profits.

We are in the process of organizing the 3rd Annual Storytelling Event, with CSAG (Cowichan South Arts Guild) which will happen in late March. We collaborated with CSAG for the first and second annual storytelling event



Work on accessible pathway to Museum and Park

which was held at the community centre. This year there are several fun, family activities over a ten-day period, including a workshop to create a memory pouch, led by two Indigenous Elders; a night of stories with four talented storytellers; a family friendly story theatre presentation and more. We are very excited that the 3rd Annual Storytelling Festival will happen at the museum, in late March – see page 1 for details. To register for any of the sessions please email:

hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com

In the meantime, we will be hosting/testing other events in the museum over the next few months as we continue to prepare for re-opening with regular hours.

We have started thinking about the Opening Celebration. At this point, it will likely happen in early summer as there is still a lot of work to do with exhibits and clean-up in the old and new areas. Another benefit is that many of our members and donors are summer residents, and we would love to include them.



Timberframe Canopy now complete

Restoring Lakefront Shores - The Natural Edge

Marcy Fenske
Shawnigan Basin Society

We all love Shawnigan Lake. It is highly valued for a variety of reasons and purposes. Residents with waterfront properties have a unique relationship, a direct connection and, unlike visitors, have an intimate knowledge of the subtleties of lake life through days and seasons, with many relying on the lake for water. They get to delight in quiet witness to the many wild inhabitants that also rely on this beautiful habitat for life. There is also witness to the pressures and negative changes that occur.

A number of factors impact lake water quality and stems from various sources in the Shawnigan Creek watershed: industrial activity, soil deposit sites, agricultural activity, clearcut logging with resulting soil exposure/erosion/sediment mobility, clearing of land for property and subdivision developments, density of waterfront residences and very little protected

lakeshore areas. There is also the issue of failing septic systems and residential/commercial use of fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides and shore erosion from weather events and wakes caused by boating. In addition to contaminants, these factors introduce excessive nutrients to the lake that contributes to the problematic growth of Eurasian Watermilfoil.

There is a way that lakefront residents can give back and mitigate some of these pressures; being ecologically sensitive and having a natural shore. A natural, vegetated shore is not only essential to habitat provision to the many creatures that live here, its evidenced to be most effective at stabilizing shores from erosion, filtering surface runoff contaminants, increasing resiliency to impacts of climate change, improving cleanliness and clarity of lake water and overall enhancing the functions of our watershed.

The Shawnigan Basin Society is currently seeking waterfront properties interested in naturalizing their shore. The SBS is pleased to be your local connection to shore restoration expertise as the only western partner in Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge shore restoration program. We also have expertise right here at home.

A vegetated shoreline is comprised of native shrubs, trees, plants, grasses, ground cover, flowers and aquatic plants and enhances the beauty of a property

without hindering view and access. It provides habitat for aquatic animals, birds, mammals and pollinating insects.

Shoreline stabilization, using native vegetation, is environmentally and functionally superior and the preferred remediation followed by bio-engineered designs, rip-rap applications (rocks) and vertical shore walls. Parks Canada lists shore erosion remediations in this preferred order. Native vegetation is ideal as it belongs here, suited for our growing conditions and once es-

tablished will not need irrigation and will not overtake areas like invasive plant species do.

In terms of timeline, May would be the best time for Spring planting as well as options for planting in the Fall. Further details about the Natural Edge Program can be found on our website at shawniganbasinsociety.org. Those interested in participating can email us at info@shawniganbasinsociety.org

We look forward to working with you!

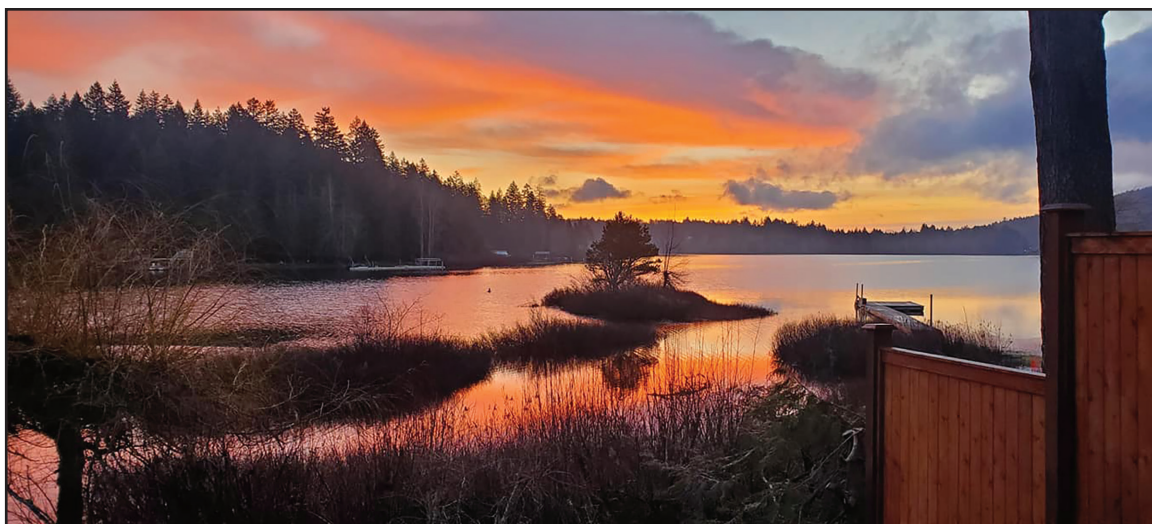


Photo by Carrie Bell

Community concern

I know that I, for one, appreciate the new asphalt paving on East Shawnigan Lake Rd. It hadn't been paved since I was a little kid - the potholes could swallow a small child, and driving it was like a video game.

The road is so smooth

now but, unfortunately, that has turned our road into a racetrack. The speed limit is 50km but the cars and trucks are going 80km or more.

Since the paving we have lost 2 kitties to the speed demons. My

kids and grandkids live across the street, and have to run to get across safe. Summer is coming and soon people will be crossing to go swimming.

Dusk and dawn is especially dangerous as deer and other critters are heading to the lake for a drink

or grandkids are heading home to bed. Please slow down. Our lives depend on it.

Life is not a race to the finish...

Thank you
Shelagh Bell-Irving



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*

*If you include a photo, send as
separate jpg or png file*

*Photos should be 300dpi or
larger resolution*

Trying to grow your Business?

Are you a new, existing or home-based business in Shawnigan Lake or beyond?
Are you looking for customers or clients in Shawnigan Lake?
Are you wondering, 'How do I tell people about my business now.?'

Consider this!!

Your message delivered to 3200+ addresses in Shawnigan Lake every month for 1¢ each! How is this possible?

Priced from \$43.80 to \$584.00
Discounts Up to 25%
One-Time & Repeat
AD Design
Advertising Program Development

Shawnigan Focus

Curious?
Call us . . . the
Shawnigan Focus
Weekdays after 11:00

250-743-2197

Advertising - shawniganfocusads@gmail.com
Editorial - shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

Advertising with the Shawnigan Focus makes our whole Community prosper!

Shawnigan Focus – 14 years later

Lori Treloar
Focus Editor

Shawnigan is a rural community that is spread out over a large geographic area. To connect and inform the community, there have been several iterations of newspapers over the decades. The Shawnigan Focus was created with that intent. It is not a money maker – it is supported by ads from local businesses and its purpose is to create community. Over time, many groups have worked toward this goal.

The first ‘newspaper’, the ‘Shawnigan Lake News’ was delivered in February 1976 to every mailbox in Shawnigan Lake. The News was created on an 1899 letter press by Steve and Joan Wachtin. They wanted a way to give back to the community for rallying to help them when their home was lost to fire. This was in circulation until 1978.

Brownie Gibson, a local historian and teacher, instigated the second community ‘newspaper’. The first monthly ‘Community Crier’, was created by the team of Brownie, Garth and Gladys Harvey, Annette Clarke and Candy McLennan in August 1980. When they were ready to move on, the Shawnigan Lake Business Association sponsored



The Crier for its final few years and distributed it quarterly. The Crier served the community for over 25 years.

For a few years, the third “newspaper” in the area, Shawnigan Times, has been distributed to roughly 600-800 homes, predominantly in the Shawnigan Village area. The Times was produced by a father/son team and their focus was to provide an advertising medium for the area. The father, Kim Hennecker, is part of the current Focus team.

When the Community Crier ceased publication, in 2006, there was a noticeable lack of communication about issues and events in and around Shawnigan (Area B).

A concerned group of Shawnigan residents

worked together to launch a newspaper to fill this void. The Shawnigan Focus Launch Team included Bruce Fraser, Graham Ross-Smith, Roy Davies, Al Brunet and Lori Treloar. The intent was to give everyone who lives, works and plays in the Shawnigan Lake area a quality local newspaper that would focus on the Shawnigan community. The vision of the Shawnigan Focus has

always been “A Strong Community Through Strong Communication”. The first edition of the Shawnigan Focus was printed and delivered in April 2011.

A lot has changed since then, but not our passion for Shawnigan Lake. We would like to hear from you to see whether you find value in the Focus. It is distributed, by mail, to every address in Shawnigan for free. Any

Shawnigan resident can to submit articles and/or information, of interest to Shawnigan, or place an ad.

We need your feedback. Do you read the Focus? Is the Focus still an efficient way to celebrate and communicate with the community?

We encourage your feedback. Please send us an email at Shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com

Welcome the Spring!

Jennie Stevens
CSAG

It is unmistakable !! Nature is sharing her message with us - the plants... bursting with the news...the birds, the frogs, they are clearly singing it out for all to hear,

So let's gather & join in

the celebration - March 20th, 6pm

Spring Community Singalong at the Shawnigan Pavilion

Family friendly, booklets provided - come join us!

hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com



Locally Made Custom Wood Furniture!



We have in stock furniture, ready to deliver!

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM DESIGNS!

Contact us today.



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. * In Shawnigan Lake since 2017.



Did you know? we offer

CYCLE FIT CLASSES

Cycle Fit (also known as indoor cycling or spinning) is a group fitness class focusing on endurance and strength with a mix of intervals, high intensity and recovery.

DAY	TIME
MONDAY	8AM, 9AM, 5:15PM
TUESDAY	9AM
WEDNESDAY	6AM, 9AM, 6:15PM
THURSDAY	9AM, 5:15PM
FRIDAY	9AM
SATURDAY	9AM



VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS

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



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!

Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

February 2025 Report

Department Members Attended Incidents in February

- Saturday, Feb 1 – MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Feb 1 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Feb 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Feb 1 – Burning Complaint on Oland Rd
- Saturday, Feb 1 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Feb 2 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Feb 3 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Monday, Feb 3 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 5 – Assistance on Silvermine Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 5 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 5 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Feb 6 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Feb 7 – Alarms Activated on Gammon Way
- Saturday, Feb 8 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Feb 10 – Alarms Activated on Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 12 – Chimney Fire on Sallachie Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 12 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Feb 14 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Friday, Feb 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Feb 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Feb 15 – Assistance on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Feb 15 – Structure Fire on Lampman Rd
- Sunday, Feb 16 - 1st Responder off Carlton Dr
- Sunday, Feb 16 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Monday, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Monday, Feb 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Feb 20 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Thursday, Feb 20 – Structure Fire on Isabelle Pl
- Friday, Feb 21 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Saturday, Feb 22 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Feb 22 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Saturday, Feb 22 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Saturday, Feb 22 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Feb 24 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Feb 24 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Wednesday, Feb 26 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd

Don't let it stop you

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams

Passionate Indigenous Chef, Salish culture educator, Hul'q'umi'num speaker and consultant

I asked my uncle, who is one of our few last elder fluent speakers, what I am gonna do when he's gone. I am always asking him for advice on language and new words.

He just laughed and said, "you think I was ready?" He talked about how we are never ready and how the old elders knew so much more than he does. All I could think is that compared to him I know very little, so compared to the elder elders I must know nothing.

On top of all that I have a stutter. I never thought I'd be asked,

let alone be able, to speak to big audiences. But today I'll present to hundreds of people and have been called upon to speak about what I do know. Even now, minutes before I go on stage I don't feel ready. I am not nervous, I am not afraid, I just feel like I have so much more to learn.

So, don't let your fear hold you back. A wiser person than me said. There are two kinds of fear. One is fear of repercussions, where we look at a fire and don't want to touch it because we are afraid for a valid reason. The other is fear of the unknown, it's standing on the edge of

change or growth and worrying will it work, will I be enough? That second fear is a test, and the trick is to feel it, witness it, and jump anyway.

Leap into your future, leap into your power. Because on the other side of that second fear is growth, strength and a sense of freeing yourself from anxiety.

If we wait till everything is perfect we will never move forward. So don't wait till you are ready, just do the hard thing now and learn the consequences on the other side of fear. After all, we miss 100% of the chances we don't take.

"The only fear we have to fear is fear itself."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

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





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



It's true

Maintenance Offer [Book an appointment now](#)



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

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE

250-743-2122

shawnigangarage.com

'A safe car is a safe drive!'



Est 1925

Celebrating...

100 years as purveyors of the finest petroleum products to the Shawnigan Lake community!

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



Historic Malahat Legion Charity Support

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

The Malahat Legion in Shawnigan Lake actively supports local charities through various fundraising initiatives. In addition to the well-known Poppy Fund Drive, the Legion also hosts Saturday meat draws and 50/50 draws to raise funds. As shown in Figure 1, the Legion's donations over the past six years have been substantial, despite a slowdown during the Covid-19 years of 2020 and 2021. If you do the sum, the total is an astonishing \$242,073.

Both the Poppy funds and meat draw funds are carefully managed to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The British Columbia Gaming Commission must approve donations from the meat draw account, while the BC/Yukon head office must approve donations from the Poppy fund. In accordance with gaming rules, donations are made in response to written requests, primarily to school Parents Advisory Committees (PAC) and other Gaming-approved non-profit societies.

Year	Meat Draw	Poppy	Creative
2024	\$32,975	\$16,500	\$7,669
2023	\$26,025	\$21,500	\$7,305
2022	\$26,375	\$21,000	\$4,710
2021	\$7,700	\$11,000	\$4,589
2020	\$10,250	\$14,000	\$2,196
2019	\$20,599	\$7,000	\$680

Figure 1 Historic Malahat Legion Donations

One notable example of the impact of these funds is the CMS Food Bank, a registered non-profit society founded by Lou Thornton, the Malahat Legion's former padre. Serving the Cobble Hill-Mill Bay-Shawnigan Lake community, the food bank provides nutritious food hampers every 30 days to those in need, helping to feed families for an estimated 5 days. Additionally, shelves stocked with bakery items, fresh vegetables, and bread are available for pickup. According to the lead organizer, 2,142 hampers were handed out last year to 5,026 clients, demonstrating the significant difference these donations make in the community.

Donations from the Poppy fund are administered differently, with our Service Officer working directly with veterans, RCMP members, and their families to provide assistance. A significant portion of these funds is allocated to the Veterans Memorial Lodge in Victoria, a long-term care facility primarily serving seniors who are veterans. The Lodge has approximately 275 seniors, 165 being veterans. Notably, the lodge is home to two veteran residents aged 110 and 105.

While the Legion would like to support various registered charities, some organizations, like the British Columbia chapter of the Wounded Warrior society, fall outside the

scope of Poppy fund and gaming rules. The Wounded Warrior society provides vital support for trauma experienced by military personnel, police officers, and paramedics. Although the organization is Canadian-registered, proceeds donated to the BC chapter remain within the province. This year, the Legion presented the BC chapter with a \$3,600 cheque, with \$1,160 raised through an online auction.

To support charitable causes like the Wounded Warrior society, the Legion engages in creative fundraising initiatives. These include renting tables for Flea Markets, Christmas Markets, and occasional online auctions. Such efforts enable the Legion to contribute to worthy organizations that might not be eligible for funding through traditional channels.

The Malahat Legion is proud we have been able to provide this support for local charities, veterans and RCMP and thank everyone for their support for our fund-raising activity. We hope we are able to

continue this effort in future. **March 2025 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

Our Special Event:
• Tom Morrissey is hosting another Kitchen Party
• Friday, March 28th from 5 pm to 10 pm. Members \$15; Non \$19
• Details: malahatlegion.ca/kitchen-party-with-tom-morrissey-and-ian-todd/
• Our calendar: malahatlegion.ca/legion-published-calendars/

More Legion events are available at malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events/

Koksilah River Provincial Park Hiking Trails

Sarah Malerby
Reprise

Jack Fleetwood (William John Hardy (Jack) Fleetwood) was born in 1914 in Cowichan Station and lived his entire life in the Cowichan Valley. He was married to Mabel and had two children, Dave and Marie, and they lived on the shores of the Koksilah River and were the donors of the original land for Bright Angel Park.

Jack Fleetwood worked at many local jobs; he was a seed farm labourer, drove a grocery wagon for Frumento's General Store (Cowichan Station), worked in the woods as a timber faller, and later was a superintendent of scaling with MacMillan Bloedel.



Jack Fleetwood

Jack Fleetwood was best known as a poet, a journalist, and a historian. He wrote many articles of Cowichan historical or economic interest in the local papers, such as the *Cowichan Leader*, and also for publications such as *BC Historical News* and *Business Logger*.

Jack also touched many others through his involvement and generosity to local organizations and societies. He was on the boards of the Cowichan, Shawnigan Lake, and Koksilah School Historical Societies, Native Sons of BC, Baden Powell Guild, BC Folklore Society, Fairbridge Chapel Society, Forest History Association of BC, and many others.

The City of Duncan included Jack Fleetwood in their Scroll of Honour in 1985 for his years of community service and praised him as "Historian of the Valley."

In 1993, Jack Fleetwood was presented with an Honorary Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Club of South Cowichan (Mill Bay) for his many contributions to the valley.

Jack Fleetwood – The Name Behind the Trail

Jack Fleetwood (William John Hardy (Jack) Fleetwood) was born in 1914 in Cowichan Station and lived his entire life in the Cowichan Valley. He was married to Mabel and had two children, Dave and Marie, and they lived on the shores of the Koksilah River and were the donors of the original land for Bright Angel Park.

The Jack Fleetwood Trail

Back in 1998, the Koksilah River Park Society (now disbanded) established a wooden trailhead stairway and established a trail from

the Park to the Kinsol Trestle, which was named in honor of Jack Fleetwood (1914-1998), a well-known Cowichan Valley Historian (see more on Jack Fleetwood below).

When the construction of the Jack Fleetwood Trail was started, it was intended to span a total of 14 kilometers and create a link from Koksilah River Provincial Park all the way to Bright

Angel Park.

In recent years, during the Kinsol Trestle rehabilitation process, the east portion of the Jack Fleetwood Trail located near the Trestle was revitalized. However, the west portion of the Jack Fleetwood Trail had become overgrown, the trailhead staircase damaged and rotten, and Koksilah River Provincial Park had fallen victim to vandals.



Look for the Helpers

Kim Barnard
Founder-President-
StoryGatherer

We are creatures of habit, operating on autopilot much of the time. Nevertheless, our attention gravitates to what we love, spending time and money to support our values.

How wonderful to see folks making the effort to be conscious consumers!

Intentional connections amongst the people we know here are even more priceless. Treasured mentorships are possible when we choose to volunteer - often alongside community

champions. In Shawnigan and throughout South Cowichan we have incredible hearts who gladly give of their time and talents. We are truly grateful for your example.

Are you involved in or thinking of ways to help make our community better? We hosted a

February "Meet and Greet" to share stories - and celebrate our amazing volunteers!

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain for the warm welcome from the Shawnigan Basin Society and the Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub in the Village. We heartily enjoyed seeing you! There were gluten-free treats from Cory at Ladyfinger Bakery, Door Prizes, and more - with green grocery bins filled with kind donations for the Mill Bay Food Bank.

A grateful shout-out to Thrifty Foods Floral Dept. for partnering with us to make sure the past-prime flowering bulbs and other perennial delights get planted at Mason's and around our community to put on a show each spring!

We're also the Museum's biggest fans, eagerly awaiting the official unveiling and volunteer opportunities soon!

Many have noticed that our roadsides

need some TLC, which we advocate for through our provincial contractors at Emcon Services.

We encourage everyone to "Adopt-an-Area" near you that you can safely help maintain litter-free. Please plan to participate in this year's "Shawnigan Clean Up Day" on Saturday, April 26th, 2025 - details are at our website.

We welcome helpers in fundraising too! 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. We're Account #216 at the Fisher Rd Return-It Depot, to donate sorted!

Snow, Wind, Rain or Shine... Serving, Sharing and Planting... Together We Care!

www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub



Collaborations are the key to making good things happen!

A Look at Lake Levels

Dave Hutchinson
Reprise

(with notes from from 2018)

The elevation for the surface of Shawnigan Lake is officially stated as 116 metres. CVRD data for lake levels from 1999 to 2017 shows a range of 115.40m to 118.05m. This indicates a difference of 2.65m from the lowest lake level during the dry season to the highest lake level during the wet, winter months.

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.

Major flooding occurred in 1933, and again in 1935

where the lake level was just over the railway tracks near Masons Beach Park.

In 1964, Mill Bay Water Works built a rudimentary dam on Shawnigan Creek about 450m downstream of the lake. The intention was to store water that would be released in the summer months in order to facilitate a continuous water supply for their downstream requirements. Significant effort was required to adjust the height of the dam by adding or removing heavy wooden planks.

When Shawnigan Beach Estates was established in the 1970s, water was provided by Sherwood Water Works who, along with Shawnigan Village Water Works, joined in to help maintain and operate the dam.

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.

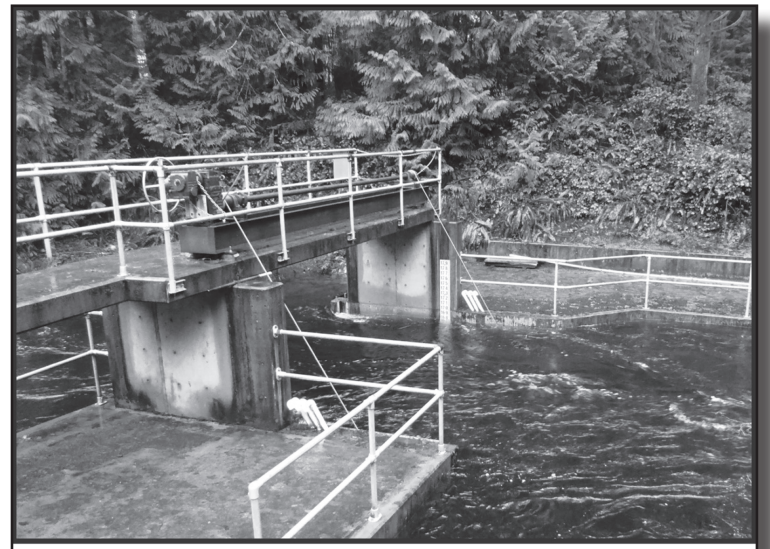
Specifically, the level should diminish from 116.3m to 115.75m, which corresponds to a decreased water volume from 800 litres per second to 375 litres per second.

In 1999 the CVRD took over Sherwood Water Works, renaming it to Shawnigan Lake North Water System.

In 2006 construction started on the new weir which became fully operational in 2008. While the current weir enables easy adjustment of a metal gate to control water levels, determining the frequency and degree of correction is not trivial.

Weir operators must attempt to set the weir gate in order to keep as close as possible to the mandated rule curve. It is a balancing act which is dependent on rainfall and evaporation.

A frequent comment heard during high lake level events



Current weir with gate fully lowered on Feb 1, 2025

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.)

Other factors come into play as well. Floating debris finds its way into the outlet. The old log boom which did a decent job of preventing this was removed in 2009 due to liability concerns.

After several years of old boats, docks logs and other detritus getting jammed up downstream, the CVRD finally installed a plastic boom which is removed each spring and re-installed each fall.

Quite light and with large gaps, it does not perform nearly as well as the heavy logs did. Also, over time, sediment and heavy debris accumulates on the creek bottom which needs to be cleaned out periodically.

In 2011 the CVRD established (via an

Alternative Approval Process) the Shawnigan Creek Cleanout and Drainage Service which is allocated up to \$18,000 per year and financed by taxation on lakefront properties and those properties served by the two main water systems.

Brent Beach, a past editor of the Focus, did a lot of research on these topics and provides much more detail on his blog which is well worth reading:

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/10/silting-and-lake-levels.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/04/lake-level-to-march-31.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2013/04/the-cleanout-could-it-get-worse.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2012/11/shawnigan-creek-water-level-study.html>

<http://brentatthefocus.blogspot.ca/2012/03/creek-clean-out.html>



Old 1964 Dam & Walkway

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: *ysagsl@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

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

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 Sangeeta Parmar, who correctly identified the spectator bench at Shawnigan Hills Park.

Cheap Ad Rates!!

Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Mason's Store

YOUR LOCAL STORE

Our Famous Instore Bakery – Sandwiches & Subs
Lottery – Greeting Cards
Fax – Propane Swap – Rug Doctor – Dew Worms

A REMINDER : **Turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Sunday, March 9!**

PHONE: 250 743 2144 FAX: 250 743 7883

SERVING SHAWNIGAN LAKE FOR 69 YEARS

Your local owner-operated vape store!



NEW HOURS

Monday - Saturday
10am - 7pm
Sunday
12pm - 6pm

www.ohmzonevapes.ca

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 Tuesday 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



"It has always been easy to hate and destroy.

To build and to cherish is much more difficult."

— Queen Elizabeth II