



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Five - Issue Four

April 2015

A Non-Profit Community Publication

OUR WATER - OUR LIFE

Sonia Furstenau
Area B Director

On March 13th, we came together to kick off the Shawnigan Gathering. We celebrated our community and worked on building our cooperative future.

That evening, toddlers and teenagers, parents and grandparents danced to the uplifting tunes of the Twisted Vine Farm Band. We waited patiently for pizza, caught up with friends old and new, and strengthened the ties that bind us together as a community. There was an abundance of joy, goodwill, friendship, and delight that saturated the evening, and the whole next day. The Shawnigan Gathering was an extraordinary success, and a clear indication of the high number of vibrant, engaged, and committed people who live in Shawnigan.

Ten days later, we came together again. This time, not in celebration, but in crisis. Instead of joy, the overwhelming sentiments in the room were shock, disbelief, sadness, anger, and despair.

The circumstances were dramatically different, but one

essential thing remained the same: we were united as a community.

And it is this that is most important, for it is in being united that we are the most powerful.

We are united in being unwilling to accept the risk of a contaminated soil site in our watershed.

We are united in our view that the Ministry of Environment made a grievous error in issuing the permit, and the Environmental Appeal Board has made a grievous error in upholding it.

We are united in our clear message to the Minister of Environment and the Premier that the provincial Cabinet must revoke this permit immediately.

Now we must be united in action. Write to the Minister of Environment, the Premier, and all of the Cabinet Ministers. Write to the newspapers. Support the legal efforts of the SRA through donations and volunteering. And when the time comes, be ready to stand up and stand on the road for our community, our



Photo by Sally Davies

drinking water, and our future.

In as much as we must be firm and determined in our stance with the provincial government, we must be kind, caring, compassionate, and

supportive with each other. We are on the side of right, on the side of justice, and on the side of fairness – and it is inevitable that what is right, what is just, and what is fair

will be the eventual outcome, but it may take time. The strength that we will need to continue to fight will come from our commitment to our community and to each other.



Photo by Sally Davies

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS
APRIL 2015

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Lori Treloar
Dave Hutchinson
editor@shawniganfocus.ca

LAYOUT:

Taryn Treloar

ADVERTISING:

Kim Hennecker
ads@shawniganfocus.ca

FOCUS TEAM:

Linda Nelson
Farrell Magnusson
Monica Foster
Sally Davies
Peter Nash
Bev McCooley
Marcy Green
Grant Treloar
Janet Neilsen

ACCOUNTS:

Kim Hennecker

COPY SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:

For APRIL 2015
Please send copy in
by March 25th as an
email attachment using
Microsoft Word, text,
RTF or Appleworks to:
editor@shawniganfocus.ca
Please do not send a PDF
as it does not convert prop-
erly. Leave hard copies of
articles in the Focus box at
the The Chippery:
1- 2740 Dundas,
Shawnigan Lake

AD SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:

Contact Kim at ads@shawniganfocus.ca Ads
should be sent in correct
sizing, B&W, high resolu-
tion, and as a JPEG or PDF.
Kim is available to help cre-
ate or reformat your ad.

CLASSIFIEDS:

\$10 (under 30 words) ads@shawniganfocus.ca

ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an
independent, local, non-
profit publication, produced
by the volunteer Focus team.
Shawnigan Focus endeav-
ours to inform; promote
involvement in the commu-
nity; and interest a broad
cross-section of the resi-
dents of Shawnigan Lake.

Shawnigan Focus is
delivered, free of charge,
to postal addresses in
Shawnigan Lake (Area
B). Out-of-town subscrip-
tions are available for \$30
per year. Contact: editor@
shawniganfocus.ca

*Views expressed in
articles and letters are
not the opinions of The
Shawnigan Focus, but
of the authors.*

Additional copies are
available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Shawnigan Focus - Box 331,
Shawnigan Lake, V0R 2W0

Introducing:
GoodGrief@ShawniganFocus.ca

Most of us would admit to
sometimes turning a blind eye
to bad situations that “some-
one” should do something
about. The hassle of deter-
mining whose responsibility it
is, and then dealing with “offi-
cialdom” is why many prob-
lems do not get addressed.
Another reason is not want-
ing to “rock the boat”. As a
result, nothing gets done.

One of the objectives of the
Shawnigan Basin Society is to
discourage actions and behav-
ior that damage the ecologi-
cal and social health of our
watershed. The society also
wants to encourage positive
behavior and promote aware-
ness of relevant issues.

The Focus has agreed to
host an email service which al-

lows people to report on situ-
ations that may be a cause for
concern. Examples include
faulty septic systems, dam-
age to riparian areas, illegal
dumping, inappropriate use
of fertilizers/pesticides, etc.

If you have a relevant con-
cern in this area please send a
note to: GoodGrief@ShawniganFocus.ca

The Focus will forward the
email to the Shawnigan Basin
Society who will then follow-
up with the appropriate au-
thorities assuming the issue is
determined to be significant.
As with letters to the editor,
the Focus will require contact
information. If the issue is of
public interest and is printed,
then names may be withheld.



As an introductory topic we
are publishing a letter regard-
ing squatter docks at road-
ends. How does this relate
to the ecological health of
the lake, you might ask?
There are 70+ road ends
around the lake and it would
be desirable to have them
left relatively undisturbed.



3rd year students of the Op-
erations Management Course
from the Gustavson School
of Business at the University
of Victoria met with Patty
Oldfield of the Village Chip-
pery to help her with options
of maximizing space and
expansion.

*From left to right are
Liam McDonough, Angus
Wong, Rachel Hartley
and Karley Skaret and
Patty in the front.*

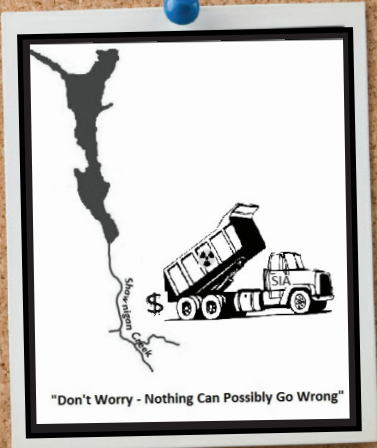
What's Coming Up?

Mother's Day
Picnic in the Park

Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park
Sunday, May 10 11am-1 pm
Children's outdoor activities,
crafts and facepainting. Pack
a picnic, bring a blanket and
enjoy the day.

Hosted by the Area B Parks
Commission and supported
by the CVRD

For more information,
contact Gaileen at
250-929-8372



Frances Kelsey Dry Grad Annual
Garage Sale and Silent Auction

April 25th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Frances Kelsey High School

Donations are still being accepted.

Please contact Laureen at 250-743-4233
or Barane at 250-744-8534



Area B Parks
Commission AGM

Thursday April 16
7 pm at SLCC

TO DO

-sign the petition
-watch for Community
letter writing sessions



WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS... EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

The Focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special 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.

Congratulations to Georgia Collins for her well written article in the March 2015 edition of the Shawnigan Focus on the demolition of St. Michael's Residential School in Alert Bay. I had seen it a couple of times and was always struck by its looming, haunting physical presence. Add the awful mental dimension and it's good that it is gone.

In a lighter vein, congrats also to young Peter Salmon for his article on over-protective parents. And, well done to the Shawnigan Focus for providing the forum for a number of interesting articles.

Cheers, Steve Housser

A Couple of Things

1) Front page of the Citizen March 4 ... Water Control Critical. Indeed, where are those snow-capped peaks around us? Mason's 'Beach' will be just that ... a beach - no paddling for the kids.

For the time of year - I have never seen the lake so low - maybe it is time to 'really' regulate the Weir flow and retain water. I'd be interested in how the operation/management of the Weir is conducted and per whom - what are the pros and cons? Who decides the regulation of the Shawnigan Lake level?

2) Kudos to Malahat recycling and Kelsey School Grad fundraiser at Mason's Store. The Bin seems to be picked up and emptied on a weekly basis ... with overflow - a lot of folks are taking advantage of it and, so far at least, there is no end to scrap metal that might otherwise blight our roadsides. Maybe if Malahat Metal Recycling finds it convenient, it can be a continuing thing.

One other thing of note - for years and years and years I have never seen so little 'wrangling' (indeed if any) in regards Area 'B' - are we content, or is some kind of a bomb about to fall?

~Reg Blackmore, Shawnigan Lake

Editor's Note:

With respect to the weir operation, the September 2011 issue covered this topic in some detail - see: www.shawniganfocus.ca Perhaps it is time for a reprint.

With respect to the bomb falling, Reg sent this in before the EAB decision - tempting fate perhaps.

A Grand Gathering

I would like to thank "all the

people" that put together such an amazing event. I know how much work goes into these kinds of events.

We enjoyed the variety of the music played on the Friday night and, to my surprise, Sam Connelly was one of the singers that evening. I remember when he was born.

On Saturday, I took my 88 year old friend for the third year in a row to the Gathering. Bridgett was a great sport doing 15 minutes of Yoga to start off the day. We listened to the speeches and watched the Cooperative Community Awards given out. I am proud to say I have worked with some of these fine people in our Community.

The gym was full of tables showing us what our Community has to offer. Bridgett spent an hour talking to people and enjoying this marvelous time interacting. We ate at the concession run by The Chipperry - Patty, your egg sandwich was so delicious!

Meetings, dancing and music filled the halls of the Community Centre till 4pm.

Well done, Shawnigan Lake! I can't wait until next year.

~Janet Neilsen

Unmitigated Gall!

The issue of illegal structures located on lakefront road-ends just keeps getting worse. A recent real-estate listing for a residence on Norbury Road states: "this home has lake access with a dock to put your boat and enjoy the summer fun". The home is not waterfront. To the dismay of neighbours, the dock has been unlawfully built and expanded over several years on the Norbury road-end. The foreshore is owned by the Ministry of Transportation.



Illegal dock at end of Norbury Rd.

The real estate advertisement states that a sale is pending. Do the prospective buyers understand the deceitful nature of the property listing?

The CVRD Zoning Bylaw for Shawnigan now has a W-4 Freshwater Conservation Zone which applies to lakefront road-ends, and which permits passive recre-

ation, but prohibits privately owned structures. This is long overdue as many of the 70+ road-ends around the lake have had ramshackle squatter docks and other structures placed on them over the years. The unfortunate neighbours are forced to put up with obnoxious behaviour typical of the sort of individuals that are happy to take advantage of others. These structures are not taxed, have no insurance, and impede access to emergency vehicles in many locations.

And please don't bring up "grandfathering". When a new by-law causes something that was previously legal to become non-conforming, then it is sometimes allowed to continue (grandfathered). These docks and structures were never legal in the first place. It is only right that they all be dismantled. Notices should be published in local media and posted on the structures allowing 60 days for removal prior to official action.

Regards, ~An Aggravated Resident

RE: Plastic Boom-doggle

Dear Editor,

With regards to Dave Hutchinson's article "Plastic Boomdoggle" about the log boom at Mason's beach, I think it is important to clarify that the Parks Commission members in attendance at our meeting in October, including myself, had significant concerns about this solution when it was first presented. At the time, we had a number of concerns and questions and requested that an invitation be extended by the presenter to the engineers of the project to provide further explanation before the Parks Commission could endorse this solution.

That request was either forgotten or ignored and the next time the Parks Commission heard of this solution was at our January meeting when told by the engineers that it was a done deal. I, as well as other members of the Parks Commission, felt frustrated to have not received answers to our questions, and by the assertion from the engineers that this costly measure was chosen without the input of local expertise and instead, based on a model that is sufficient for a smaller, remote "lake" that resembles more of a bog than a lake.

~Gaileen Flaman, Shawnigan Lake

CVRD Update

The Editor,

The ingrained culture of increasing spending and taxes every year in the CVRD is hard to break. Most other governments and politicians in Canada have had the discipline and determination to control costs to provide relief for taxpayers. But the CVRD has never reduced its spending in any of the past 20 years. There's always some nonsense about why taxes must increase and it has little to do with providing more services to the public.

The CVRD staff wants to spend almost \$80 million in 2015 of which property taxes are \$33 million of that. In the past 6 years CVRD taxes have gone up by more than a third (35%) when growth and inflation in BC has been less than 6%.

No CVRD board has been able to stop the 20 year cycle of huge salary increases for senior staff. Salaries and pay for 225 employees eat up half of all taxes collected by the CVRD. More than 40 staff now make over \$100,000 per year plus generous benefits and pensions paid by our taxes.

There's lots of fat that can be trimmed in the CVRD. The Economic Development department has wasted more than \$7 million in the past 10 years with little or nothing to show for it. Most of the time the CVRD goes to court it loses the case and pays huge legal bills. Most transit buses we pay for run empty a lot of the time.

The annual charade and amateur hour of last minute budget games by the CVRD board and staff wastes a huge amount of time dealing with the \$1 million they give away to special interest groups each year. But they mostly ignore the other \$78 million in spending proposed by staff.

In 2015, staff want to increase CVRD spending by \$1.7 million and raise taxes in the Cowichan Valley by more than 7%. Most of that goes into a black hole called "general government" which already has a \$2 million budget, and something called "liquid waste complex" along with many pet projects of some directors and staff.

I am certain taxpayers could easily find savings of \$1.7 million and more in the \$80 million budget and then have

no tax increases. In fact a tax decrease is entirely reasonable and possible if the CVRD board did a thorough job in tackling the spending culture they have fostered and encouraged in their organization. How about starting with «doing more for a lot less»!

~W.E.(Bill) Dumont

Bad Karma

Dear Editor

The recent letter to the Focus from Ms Bell-Irving regarding her Karma Shack has caused me great uneasiness. First, I do not wish to be unkind to anyone, I truly believe Ms Bell-Irving is just somehow misguided in her rationale. The reality of the matter is that her Karma Shack is an eyesore. It has grown in its accumulation of unwanted dross to the point of sodden materials and useless waste. Whether put there by Ms Bell-Irving or not, as the creator of this dumpsite she must take responsibility. It is now a haven for rats and other vermin.

I do not know if this Karma Shack is indeed on Ms Bell-Irving's property or on road allowance but, either way, it is her responsibility to get rid of it, and all it contains. Ms Irving now says she doesn't feel she should have to pay for the garbage removal. I am sorry, but we are all responsible for our mistakes. If you wish to get rid of good unwanted items you can either advertise them on UsedVictoria or donate them to our local Salvation Army store, thus maintaining their quality.

In Ms Irving's letter, we are directed to her gofundme site as she is soliciting for funds to help pay for the dump fees. I find on this site, pleas for funds for her car insurance, her brothers house insurance, and her general household running costs. I find this all very confusing. Ms Bell-Irving resides on Shawnigan lakefront property, a place I would imagine many of her donors would wish to be able to do.

I am concerned with the roadside eyesores that are multiplying on the south Shawnigan Lake Road, and which now seem to be creeping up the lake. Considering that on her gofundme site I saw many pictures of Ms Irving in various parts of the province holding protest banners and signs, I feel that Ms Bell-Irving would understand fully if someone stood in front of her Karma Shack with a sign reading "Save Shawnigan Lake"

Ms R. Barnes, Shawnigan Lake

Water Letters

Honourable Christy Clark,
P.O. Box 9041,
Stn. Prov. Government
Victoria, B.C. V8V 9E1

March 27, 2015

Dear Premier,

I am compelled to write about the unfortunate opportunity that has presented itself after a sequence of events involving the Shawnigan Lake watershed and SIA. I do not need to go into the technicalities, as I am sure you are aware. However I do think a leadership opportunity has presented itself and not surprisingly, it would be of great interest to the residents of Shawnigan Lake, as well as all community members

of the Cowichan Valley.

I am a recent graduate from Simon Fraser University where I specialized in Environmental Studies. Having had the fortunate opportunity of growing up within the vibrant town of Shawnigan Lake, it is, therefore, my educated opinion that the EAB's recent dismissal of Shawnigan Lake's appeal, which sought to prevent the dumping of contaminated soil by Cobble Hill Holdings, is a terrible oversight. As you can imagine, any adverse publicity about a contaminated watershed will most-- definitely have significant economic impacts on this community. That, however, pales in comparison to the

seriousness of the very real human threat that now jeopardizes the health and well being of families, resulting from the SIA permit being upheld.

If the research regarding Shawnigan Lake's watershed was assessed in its entirety when making this decision, I have no doubt that sound human judgement would have prevailed and our community could rest assured, knowing that we successfully avoided an environmental crisis. Water may well be one of the major issues for the next twenty years and a party/government that has the foresight to acknowledge that fact should attract a lot of positive attention. I would be proud if you as the leader could reconsider what is happening in this area, taking into account the whole issue. Everyone is looking for politicians who are willing to take on the challenge of protecting the health and well being of this province's citizens and Shawnigan Lake is turning to you and asking for that help.

Now is the time for the Liberal Government of BC to demonstrate their leadership in environmental protection, by intervening and rescinding this permit. It is undeniable that a very serious, if not tragic, mistake is about to be made in Shawnigan Lake. Despite the many aspects of this whole situation that I have not discussed, I remain dreadfully unconvinced that placing a contaminated soil dump in close proximity to our community's watershed is in the best interest of our citizens. Therefore, I ask you again to please rescind this permit, in the interest of both the environment and community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Best regards, Hollie Moulaison

Coming of Age in Shawnigan Lake

The recent decision by the Environmental Appeal Board to allow the dumping of contaminated soil into the Shawnigan Watershed has been an epiphany for me, and I suspect, most people in our community.

Like most people, my understanding and perception of government, of judicial process, and of the very people we elect to represent us, has been irretrievably shattered. I believed that the Ministry of the Environment was there to protect our drinking water

and the air we breathe. I believed that in a semi-judicial process that all evidence would be heard, weighed, and most important factored into an ultimate verdict. I believed that the people we elected represented the will of the people who elected them and the greater good of the whole community they served.

I now understand this all to be an illusion; as our Ministry of the Environment approves this abomination in the first place and paves the way for its realization at the complete opposition of every member of this community; as our Minister of the Environment tells me to be comforted by "the science" that met with "their" objectives: as the lawyer for SIA grins into the news camera and tells us that all the scientists who testified think that the danger to Shawnigan's watershed is acceptable. Proudly, John Alexander tells us on the front page of the Times Colonist that the dredge coming our way is "just salt water, after all". Salt water, as we were later to learn being the most toxic substance to enter a fresh water environment by way of equipment not designed to withstand its corrosive effects.

I will now, as St. Paul advises, "put away these childish thoughts" and take up metaphoric arms, to protect the water I drink and the world my grandchildren will inherit.

Sally Davies

Act Now!

If there was ever a time to educate oneself about the facts surrounding the contaminated soil dump in Shawnigan's watershed, it is NOW!

The community must band together to fight for the right to protect their watershed from the dumping of 5 million tons of contaminated soil over the next 50 years, in a decidedly unsuitable site. It is important to note the dangerous precedent this would set for other communities, should mining licenses throughout the province become potential fill sites for toxic waste. Are there no consistent criteria for choosing appropriate sites for fill of this nature? With Victoria & Vancouver's stringent protection over their watersheds, it is clear that there needs to be a shift in thinking here!

Following are some of the many reasons to question the wisdom of the Ministry's decision to grant SIA their permit to accept contaminated soil:

1. There is already an appropriate site which is able to accommodate contaminated soil, located south of Goldstream Park, which would save this ecologically fragile portion of the route to Shawnigan from any danger related to the trucking of contaminants.
2. CVRD has offered, and is still open to helping to find an alternate site to dispose of contaminated soil, providing another alternative for disposal of Victoria's dirty soil.
3. All experts that spoke at the hearings agreed that a community's watershed was not an appropriate location for a contaminated soil dump.
4. There is no appropriate risk management plan arranged in the event of a natural disaster affecting the site, or if the liner is faulty, installed incorrectly, or breaks down over time.
5. Experts have agreed, nothing is without risk & the liner will break down over time! Who will be around to monitor, & clean up the devastation then?
6. SIA has been made responsible for self monitoring... need I say more??
7. There is NO BENEFIT to the residents of Shawnigan, yet we bear ALL the health risk and financial burden if anything goes wrong.
8. At a time when the crucial importance of water is a focus all over the world, and with the improvements to the Provincial Water Act coming into effect, it is outrageous to think that the Ministry of Environment could make a decision that is in direct conflict with their mandate.

The residents of Shawnigan Lake are united in sending out the message that this situation is not acceptable for any community to endure! No one should have to fight for the right to clean drinking water. This issue is not just Shawnigan's, it is an important one for us all!

What use is the Ministry of Environment, if not to protect the most valuable resource known to the planet? Please help Save Our Water!!

Jennie Stevens

Mason's Store

Family owned since 1956
Your one-stop convenience store.

We have everything:

Subs & Hot-Dogs - Slush - Instore Bakery - Lottery
Giftware - Greeting Cards - Balloons - Fax & Photocopy
Dry Cleaning - Rug Doctor - Hunting Licenses - Fishing Tackle

1855 Renfrew Road
Ph: 250-743-2144 Fax: 250-743-7883



VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS

**Group Fitness | Personal Training | Weight Loss
Supplement Centre | Infrared Sauna | Tanning
Strength & Cardio Equipment | Free Weights**

Valleyview Centre
#1-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd, Cobble Hill
Email: info@valleyhealthandfitness.ca
Web: www.valleyhealthandfitness.ca
Phone: 250-743-0511

Biggest Loser
BOOTCAMP
Cowichan Valley

jazzercise

MASTER PLANNED CONSERVATION COMMUNITY
ELKINGTON FOREST
YOUR PLACE IN NATURE



Situated in 1,000 acres of mature and protected forest, Elkington Forest is a new conservation community. Located south of Shawnigan Lake, between Victoria and Mill Bay at Trailway Drive and Goldstream Heights.

Forest, lake and ocean view lots from **\$199,000**
Rancher, or small footprint house, and lot from **\$399,000**
Phase One - 50% Sold

The First Annual Big Tree Festival
"Healthy forests for a healthy world"

Show Home **Open House**
12 - 3 pm Sat. & Sun.
Brandon & Janine Foreman
Tel. 250.508.3299
www.elkingtonforest.com

At the Elkington Forest Conservation Community
Between Victoria & Mill Bay
April 18, 2015 - 11 am to 4 pm
Everyone is welcome
Admission is free

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
Newport Realty



Continued from page 4

Enraged Mother Elephant

I'm not an alarmist, nor am I an activist, I don't like fights so I generally keep to myself and applaud those who do stand out in the rain or march with their picket signs, who camp in remote places with no comforts in an effort to stop things they believe aren't right or protect things they think are. I admire those people who are compelled to make a strong stand against something, I sit in my comfortable chair and I am grateful that these passionate people are making a stand and having an impact.

So when the signs went up in my own community and I heard of the fight against a company proposing to put a contaminated soil dump above the Shawnigan Lake aquifer I was complacent. The very idea that this could actually happen seemed so ludicrous that I patiently waited, confident that the right decision would be made by the powers that be. I wasn't worried, I didn't need to be. Surely this couldn't be taken seriously, really, a contaminated soil dump on top of a mountain. Surely someone with some common sense would put a stop to it.

Well you can imagine my horror when on Friday, March 20, the BC Government Environmental Appeal Board, the very people who are supposed to be looking out for the environment of BC, came down with their decision to allow 100,000 tons of contaminated soil... per year...for 50 years (that's 5 million tons of contaminated soil!) to be dumped directly above the aquifer and within meters of a stream flowing into Shawnigan Lake, the water source for a community of 12,000 people.

They say this contaminated soil will be contained within a liner. What, you mean forever? That liner will last forever? I don't think so. I don't think it will last even a few years and neither do many of the experts. But even if it were to last 100 years before it fails what about the people living here then? My grandchildren, their children, and their children's children. However you look at it, the Environmental Appeal Board has allowed for the poisoning of a community? It's just inconceivable.

Now I will become an activist, I will do whatever it takes to protect Shawnigan Lake, where my water comes from, where my family and community live, where I had planned to entertain my yet unborn grandchildren.

I was once told that my animal spirit was a mother

elephant. At first I thought that wasn't so great, others were told they were lions and tigers. But then it was explained to me that a mother elephant is the most formidable of all animals. She will passively mingle with her tribe and care for her children and live a quiet life, but if she ever feels threatened and the need to protect her herd, look out! Well this has awakened my mother elephant and I will do whatever it takes to protect what I love. If there are any other mother elephants out there I invite you to join the charge, after all, it could have been your drinking water, your community and your grandchildren at stake.

Lots of information can be found on the website of our regional director: www.sonia-furstenau.ca

~Alison Philp, Shawnigan Lake

The Location Couldn't be Worse

South Island Aggregates (SIA) has received the go ahead to fill their quarry on Stebbings Road with giant containers constructed out of plastic liners filled with contaminated soil. To be clear, this is not about "dirt from dredging the ocean" or just "some soil from an old gas station"; the permit gives SIA the permission to accept soil containing high concentrations of chemicals/metals like Mercury, Pesticides (including DDT), and PCBs. In addition, this is not just local soil. Soil has already been brought to the Island by barge from places as far away as Prince Rupert.

The Ministry of Environment knows that Shawnigan Lake is a valuable source of drinking water that needs to be protected. Unfortunately, rather than finding a low risk site, the Ministry is depending on engineered containment in the form of liners, clay and a sophisticated water treatment plant to keep the watershed safe.

There are various reasons this is a terrible idea:

The location couldn't be worse. The dump is on a hill, next to a stream, over an aquifer.

Water leaving the site will enter the creek and eventually Shawnigan Lake or possibly even the aquifer beneath the site. (On the topic of aquifers, the dump is actually closer to Victoria's Watershed than it is to Shawnigan Lake.)

SIA is going to continue blasting in the quarry, even after they start installing the plastic liners and accepting fill.

The monitoring of the site will be done by SIA themselves.

SIA has already failed, at least

once, to properly treat the water leaving the site.

This is not about finding a place to put the waste in the absence of a good alternative. There are other places this waste could go on the South Island. The CVRD has even offered to help find additional sites. The fundamental issue is that the current site offers no real natural containment: it is on the side of a hill, next to a stream, over an aquifer. If the engineered containment solution fails, pollution will enter the watershed. The problem is, liners can leak and water treatment plants need to be maintained ... in fact, we really don't need to look any farther than the Mt. Polley disaster to see what can happen when we rely solely on engineering to protect our natural environment.

~Alex Acton, Shawnigan Lake

Write letters, make a noise

A recent permit was given by the B.C. Ministry of Environment to dump tons of contaminated waste in our watershed. Does this sound like the environment minister is protecting us to have clean drinkable water, which is our right. Shawnigan is a wonderful community situated just north-west of Victoria and is and has been a playground for many people, especially in the summer months for boaters and water skiers. The so called scientific process has many flaws, as usual, and has not got the people's best interests in mind. Our watershed is very close to the Victoria, Sooke watershed. This situation potentially can harm that watershed as well.

We need your help PLEASE ask all our government officials, the Minister of Environment, Minister of Health, etc. to rescind this permit to SIA.

Our water on the island is in danger and we must not let this happen. Write letters, make a noise.

Thank you, Beverly McCooley

Is SIA a Necessity or an Imposition?

Placement of a contaminated soil facility in the Shawnigan headwaters is a direct challenge to the base of the Shawnigan economy. Our fresh water lake is our major asset. It defines our community, it underpins our rural economy brand now and in the future and it is a major source of the social pride that knits us together. The social contract that the community expects from its senior government is that it foster Shawnigan's economic, social and environmental future, not degrade it for the profit of a single business.

If the contaminated soil facility in the Shawnigan headwaters were a matter of necessity, as the Environmental Appeal Board would have us believe, then alternatives should be entertained in a democratic society in which governors respond to the sensibilities and welfare of the people. Our governors would be looking beyond the proposed engineering models of an unsolicited proposal and considering the wider context of community well-being.

By no stretch of credulity is the SIA facility a public necessity in its current location. Contaminated soils can go to Alberta, to the Mainland, to Cumberland, to the facility in the Highlands or be processed at the site of origin. There is no argument available that suggests that the SIA site on Stebbings Road is actually a public necessity. It most surely is an economic windfall for the quarry owners, a matter of convenience for developers in Victoria and potentially cheaper than some other sites, but is it not actually necessary. If it is not necessary, the Shawnigan public should be forgiven for asking why the government is so determined to have it imposed on us.

But, let's just suppose that the most powerful argument for the current permit is that an additional dumpsite on southern Vancouver Island is necessary. If that were truly the case then the logical approach of government would be to conduct a search for sites that meet its own stringent environmental criteria, not just jump at a proposal from a private sector interested party who just happened to have a quarry that had to be refilled with something, preferably lucrative.

The SIA quarry does not

pass anything resembling stringent environmental criteria for a contaminated soil facility as abundantly attested to by independent professionals. Particularly in its present location it not only attracts professional controversy, but it also does not represent the results of a diligent search. Ironically, an elegant and practical alternative has been on the table for the past three years. The CVRD offered to government a collaborative search for a suitable site within our region that would not compromise a community watershed. Money was set aside by the District to enable the local government to provide its share of the cost. Government did not respond to this offer.

In the meantime the CVRD Board voted to support the legal fight against the SIA permit to the tune of nearly half a million dollars, in partnership with the similar commitments of the Shawnigan Residents Association.

The CVRD money is coming from a tax levy from every community in the Cowichan region.

The near million that has been raised to fight the SIA permit at the Environmental Appeal Board is just the first salvo in our own defense. It is not the last. If a dump site in Cowichan was really necessary, could we not have used such a mountain of local cash, and likely an equivalent paid to the provincial law team and the EAB, to find a suitable site rather than impose an unsuitable one with all its negative economic, social and environmental consequences?

~Bruce Fraser



CVRD GATEKEEPER

CVRD Parks & Trails Division is seeking a Gatekeeper for West Shawnigan Lake Park. Duties involve opening and closing the park gate on a daily basis for a 12 month period.

Should you be interested in this position or would like further information, please contact :

Brent Wilson
Park Operations Supervisor
Telephone : **250-746-2672** or
Email : bwilson@cprd.bc.ca

Key Communication Points

1. This permit poses serious risks to Shawnigan Lake and other BC Communities:

- ★ Community bears 100% of the risk and endures a negative impact – zero benefit to Shawnigan – benefits go to a corporation.
- ★ Risks are environmental, health, and economic – fundamental risk to drinking water and an assault on property values for everyone.
- ★ An engineering failure cannot be remediated in a watershed, especially in an aquifer.
- ★ Company is responsible for self-monitoring; this is shown not to work (Mt Polley, for example) and the MOE has demonstrated over the last 14 years that they do not have the capacity to monitor or to enforce remediation.
- ★ There are no plans in place to deal with a failure on the site, either by the company or the ministry.
- ★ Engineering failures are commonplace and to be expected in a mining operation lasting 50 years.
- ★ Mining licenses throughout the province become potential fill sites for

contaminated soil, a precedent that affects every community, not just Shawnigan.

2. There are serious oversights, errors, and omissions in the Ministry process

- ★ The process is flawed and does not serve the people of BC or protect the environment.
- ★ All of the experts who testified during the hearings agreed that the site is not suitable for a contaminated soil dump.
- ★ It is unheard of to dump contaminated soil on a site in a community watershed where no contamination exists and there is an active quarry with ongoing blasting.
- ★ Victoria and Vancouver drinking watersheds are protected, as all drinking watersheds in BC should be.
- ★ The Statutory Decision Maker erred in a number of ways in issuing the permit
- ★ Did not consider expertise, competency, ethical conduct, and financial viability of the company.
- ★ Did not consider the financial impact on the community.

3. Flaws with the EAB decision include:

- ★ Reliance on SIA’s engineering report, even when their qualified professional did not testify and the report was demonstrated to be full of errors during the hearings.
- ★ CVRD offered to work together to find a suitable site in the region –this offer was ignored by the Ministry of Environment. It remains on the table as an honourable and practical alternative. The Tervita site is an example of an existing alternative dump site within the CRD.
- ★ Decision assumes Ministry of Environment is competent and able to do the monitoring when in practice the Ministry is understaffed and unable to deal with problems that arise (eg. Mt Polley). This is demonstrated in the illegal soil dump sites already in the CVRD.
- ★ A significant amount of information was omitted from the decision that was presented during the EAB hearings.

Actions

- ★ Appeal to BC Provincial Cabinet by writing letters requesting that the permit be revoked and that the province take up the CVRD offer to search for a suitable site that does not compromise a community watershed:
- ★ www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/
- ★ Use key points, but also make your letter personal – how does this affect you? Why does it matter to you and your family?
- ★ Always be respectful in your communication
- ★ CC Bill Routley (bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca) and John Horgan
- ★ (john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca) on all letters
- ★ Write letters to the editor – try to keep these under 250 words and link them to other current stories in the papers (eg. World Water

Day, Nestle controversy, drought conditions and the need to protect dwindling sources of drinking water).

- ★ Monitor www.soniafurstenausau.ca for communications, action plans and status updates. Send an email to Sonia at soniafurstenausau@gmail.com to be added to a distribution list for email updates.
- ★ Support SRA’s legal action plan through donations – www.thesra.ca

Letters to the Editor Email Addresses:

- ★ Victoria Times Colonist: letters@timescolonist.com
- ★ Cowichan Valley Citizen: news@cowichanvalleycitizen.com
- ★ Cowichan News Leader: editor@cowichannewsleader.com
- ★ Island Tides: news@islandtides.com
- ★ Victoria News: editor@vicnews.com
- ★ Vancouver Sun: sunletters@vancouvernews.com
- ★ Vancouver Province: provletters@theprovince.com
- ★ The Globe and Mail: letters@theglobeandmail.com
- ★ National Post: letters@nationalpost.com

Provincial Cabinet Email Addresses

- ★ (All addressed as “Honourable”)
- ★ Premier Christy Clark: premier@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Mary Polak, Minister of Environment: env.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture: agr.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource: flnr.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines: mem.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Rich Coleman, Deputy Premier:

mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca

- ★ John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations: abr.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education: aved.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Children and Families: mcf.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development: cscd.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Peter Fassbender, Minister of Education: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Michael de Jong, Minister of Finance and Government House Leader: fin.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Terry Lake, Minister of Health: hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade: mit.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training: jstt.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice: jag.minister@gov.bc.ca

- ★ Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation: sdsi.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation, and Citizens’ Services: tiacs.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Deputy House Leader: minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Tourism and Small Business: stsbs.minister@gov.bc.ca
- ★ Mailing addresses can be found at www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/



EDIE WRAGG DENTURIST INC.

April is Dental Health Month

Call to see Edie for all your Denture Needs!

VALLEYVIEW CENTRE

#18-1400 Cowichan Bay Rd. Cobble Hill, B.C.V0R 1L3

Please call: 250-743-3311



RBC Royal Bank®

Get instant results with our Rate Loss Program.

Switch to an RBC Homeline Plan® credit line and pay only prime + 1/2% vs. prime + 1% at your bank.

Join the thousands who have lost rate and saved thousands of dollars.

Introducing the RBC Rate Loss Program: a fast and easy way to go from paying 4% (prime + 1%) at your bank to 3.5 % (prime + 1/2%) by switching to an RBC Homeline Plan® credit line. You could save as much as \$5,000 in interest payments* and worry less, sleep more and feel better. And we'll even cover your switching costs*. So get with the program – and lose the rate you've been carrying today.



Contact me today to find out more: Emily Black Mortgage Specialist 250-715-7692 emily.black@rbc.com

Advice you can bank on™



ALL SEASON COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Power & Window Washing, Gutter Cleanout & Snow Removal Planting & Removal of Trees, Hedges, Perennials Green Space, Yard, Site & Building Maintenance Landscape Installations, Grass & Turf Care Haulage, Small Moves & Junk Removal

SENIORS DISCOUNTS • FREE ESTIMATES • SERVICE PACKAGES

Paul Chorney: 250-510-5177 www.canopypropertyservices.com

Canopy Has You Covered!

* We will pay the basic title insurance fee (not including migration fee), appraisals/property valuation fee and one discharge/switch out fee at another financial institution (up to \$300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance \$50,000. * Savings based on \$100,000 secured line of credit with interest being paid over 10 years comparing a 3.5% annual interest rate to a 4.0% annual interest rate. The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. Rate is effective as of September 20, 2011. Personal lending products and residential mortgages are provided by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. © / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. 39106 (09/2011)

WildSide: TickTalk



Ticks: Lyme disease can be a very serious illness.

Keilih Gates

Spring has sprung! Flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and the sun is shining. Outside beckons and with it comes another harbinger of spring-ticks. It’s that time of year when ticks in their nymphal stage are looking for a mammal host. South Vancouver Island is home to species of ticks that carry Lyme disease and other bacterial infections which can be passed on to people and pets.

To avoid being the unwitting supper of this tiny insect, you should do regular tick checks and also check your canine friends when enjoying outdoor activities. Whether you are in the yard gardening, hiking, or

walking the dog it is important to be aware of these pint sized pathogen carriers. At this time of the year, tick nymphs are about the size of a poppy seed and difficult to spot. Experts suggest using bug spray containing DEET, wearing light colours, tucking pants into socks, and wearing long sleeves and a hat to deter them from attaching to you. If you find yourself playing host to a tick, remove it by using fine pointed tweezers to grasp the head and pull straight out, or visit a doctor. After removing the tick, wash



Ticks: A variety of sizes.

the area with soap and water and apply antiseptic. Keep the tick alive and send it in for tests.

For more information on Lyme disease and testing visit: www.murakamicentre-forlyme.org



Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

The Mill Springs Village is newish yes, but there are some pretty awesome trails nestled behind it that have been around for a long, long time. Mill Springs is that collection of homes behind Frayne Centre off the Trans Canada Highway (by Serious Coffee). Staying on Frayne Rd to its end will put you right to a trailhead that dips off into the woodland. But that’s not all. From here you can go to so many wonderful places! For instance, if you take the left path you will eventually find yourself on the way to the naturalistic beauty of the Rat Lake trails, and straight forward will take you through a Mill Springs adventure. At first its sweet and simple, meandering behind the beautiful homes and proper-

ties, crossing over a street here and there but then... there’s an obscure path to Briarwood Rd, yup the same one that we can get to it from the Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road side. I call it the “Briarwood Trail” for a lack of a better name and/or knowledge of the area’s history. But if you go on the trail from either Briarwood or Mill Springs you’ll notice a “Trail Terminates” sign. I suspect it’s because at a certain point we tread through private property. This particular path, which I love I might add, begins with a sense newness, right down to the cutest little bridge taking you over the creek. It immediately evolves to an old logging location that dead ends at another point in the creek. But, if you take the orange flagged trail up on the right after the stairs you will find yourself traipsing behind the Cedar Creek Park and

Kerry Village communities. Then if you continue you can hook up with the trails behind the Deloume mall area and the Pioneer Plaza. Sadly you will see many tell-tale signs of visitors to the areas by the piles of fast foodness – we ourselves can choose to show the upmost respect to the land owners and bring out what we brought in – and maybe even pick up an extra handful or two! When connecting to the trail from the Shawnigan side, be sure to check out the Briarwood Community Park (<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?NID=159>) as you pass. It’s cute... and it has a geocache! Thinking of getting out there in the woods but not sure where to start or who to contact? Hiking doesn’t have to be a solo sport! Find us on Facebook at The OM Tree Studio Inc.

"We forget that the water cycle. and the life cycle are one"
-Jacques Cousteau

Shawnigan Cemetery
EST 1965
"A Community Resting Place"
Information 250 929 6100
Maintained by MALAHAT LIONS

UTHBERT CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
2 South Facing Waterfront Lots For Sale
250-743-9000

Educators Important During Middle School Years

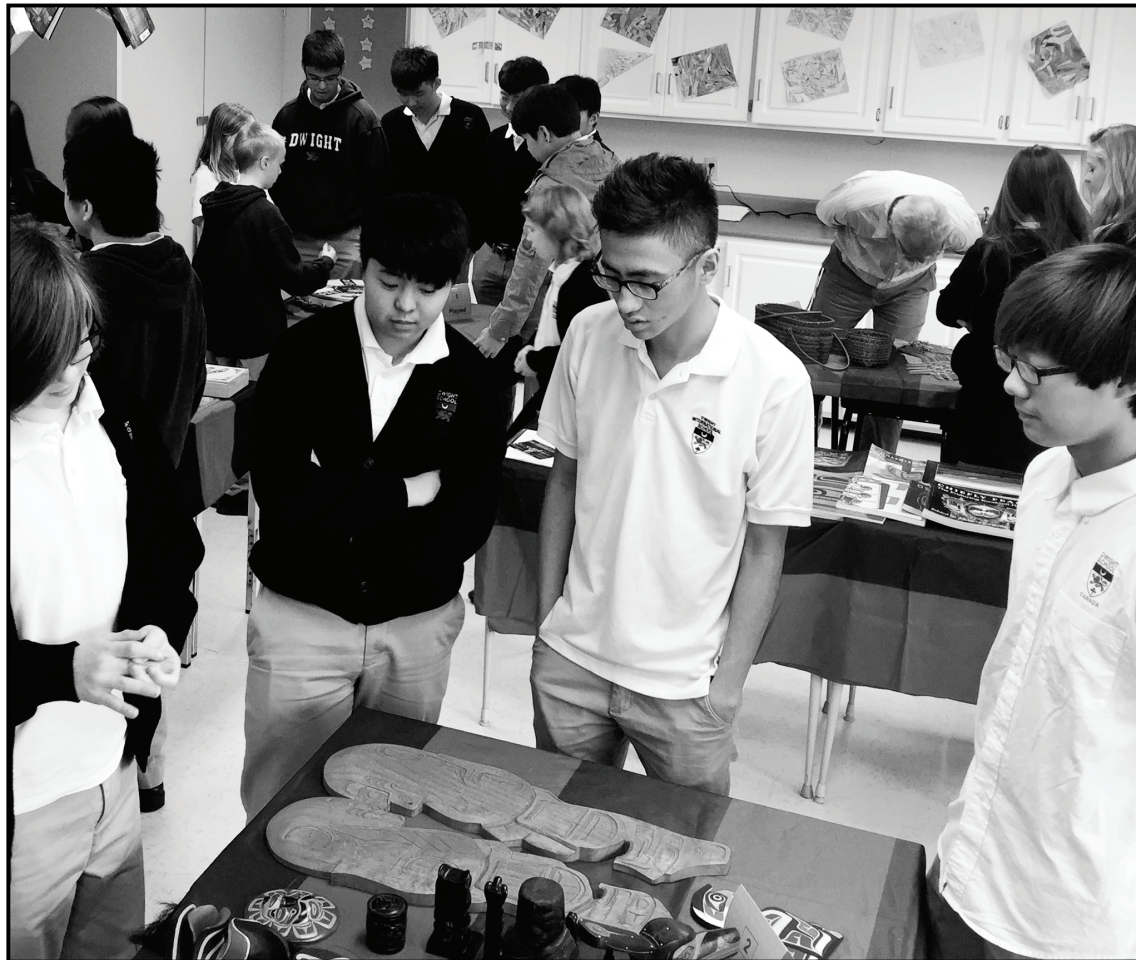
Dwight International School

The middle school years can be an awkward time of growth in a child's life. Bodies are changing, boredom often sets in, and social relationships are much more important. This time of a child's development is crucial in many ways. Science is now showing that their young brains are again in a great period of development and it is a crucial time for strengthening and building these youthful minds – developing thinking skills, finding creative expression and developing lifelong habits.

Many children try to act as an adult, wanting to grow up quickly, yet have to deal with the emotions of change and the feelings of trying to fit in. Creating an environment to support the biologically changing child is not always easy. There is an explosion of development happening at this time - physically, cognitively, socially and emotionally. It takes supportive, understanding adults to help guide these 'tweens' through their transition between the elementary and high school grades.

Teachers are a major part of their life and can also serve as guides through this jumble of growth that is occurring, by acting as a mentor and as a person of trust.

Becky Greenhow, teacher



of a Grade 6 & 7 class from Dwight School Canada, notes that "Middle school students, roughly spanning ages eleven to fourteen, vary tremendously in their levels of maturity. It has been said that middle school students are interested in absolutely everything...for half an hour.

Other than the first three years of life, this is the grade span in which youngsters are most transformed. These students come to us looking and

acting like children...and by the time they are ready to move into high school, many are often coming to terms with their emerging adulthood and are far mellowed than they were when they started...while they are not children and want independence, they often prefer adult guidance to full responsibility."

Becky creates learning adventures for students through an integration of subject areas and student choice. She utilizes a Points of Inquiry model. This

model allows students to build "some new understanding and knowledge through a cycle of questioning, investigating, creating, presenting and reflecting" and "allows for the integration of curricula across common themes instead of compartmentalizing and dissociating subjects from one another

Hands-on activities and experiential learning have further supported some personalized and collaborative learning for both the student

and our Dwight community."

One example of a learning adventure was a "First Nations Artist Project (November/December 2014) that incorporated an investigation of the Fine Arts 'Elements of Design' (line and shape), the Social Studies concepts that make up Canadian Culture, and the English methods of research, outlining, non-fiction paragraphing, and presentation delivery." Students shared their learning with the BC First Nations 12 class and then with their parents at the student led Parent Conferences.

A model of integration based on the International Baccalaureate programme is also planned for Dwight School Canada's new middle school campus in the West Shore, opening September 2015. Dwight School has partnered with ICE Victoria to help address the developmental needs of middle school aged children. Students will be able to develop dance, hockey or martial arts skills on a daily basis that will be integrated into cross-disciplinary connections in Math & Science, as well as in English & Socials.

Partnering with experts for the physical pursuits, students in the middle school will be challenged to pursue excellence through the guidance and expertise of teachers that care to enrich the lives of a middle school aged child.

Young Seniors Action Group Society

Ed Wiebe
Y.S.A.G.S.

April Showers

After the March rains we have had, it is time to look forward to just showers in April and some great warm, sunny days. Before that though, I want to tell you about some of our March activities.

YSAGS set up a table at the

Shawnigan Gathering to show the results of some of our crafts, carving and painting done by our members during the winter. Also our Line Dancers entertained, by dancing and inviting spectators to join in the dancing fun.

We feel fortunate to be part of this active, vibrant community as shown by the

success of the Shawnigan Gathering.

At our own regular monthly meeting on March 17 we again displayed results of our winter activities while enjoying an afternoon tea and sandwiches at the Legion.

On March 24 about 15 members car-pooled to Victoria to see 'Mystic India' at the IMAX Theatre and a

lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

As of this writing we are looking forward to a Sunday Matinee on March 29. This will be past history when you read this in the Focus. These Matinees were organized to help us get through the rainy dark days of winter. We are now done with that and look forward to starting these again in December.

Other upcoming events are the Spring Clean Up in the YSAGS room at the Legion, and tidying up the Legion parking lot and the back yard on April 7.

Our regular meeting on April 21 is membership renewal time for the following year. It is only \$20 a year and it is the best bargain around! The Tea and Sandwiches and the great company alone at this meeting is worth it.

We have a Blog: <http://blogysag.ca/> where you can see and read about some of our activities, or phone Ed: 250 743 8344 for more information. We also can be reached by email: ysagssl@gmail.com

YSAGS dues are \$20 a year and that allows you to participate in all of the YSAGS organized activities.



SUNDAY MAY 24, 2015
9TH ANNUAL SUBARU SHAWNIGAN LAKE TRIATHLON
7:00AM - 11:30AM
Triathletes and Volunteers Wanted!

Join us at West Shawnigan Lake Park or VOLUNTEER for a weekend of fun and festivities! On Saturday, enjoy a variety of fun activities during the Shawnigan Lake Triathlon Festival, including a FREE Subaru IRONKIDS Fun Run and Duathlon in the Village, the Camp Pringle Pre-Race Dinner Party (open to everyone) and the Sport & Lifestyle Expo at West Shawnigan Lake Park. On Sunday, watch as hundreds of athletes from all across North America swim, bike and run in and around spectacular Shawnigan Lake.

Info | Register | Volunteer | www.IRONMAN.ca



Placemaking and designing 'sustainable community' in Shawnigan Lake...and some big news!!

OUR ECOVILLAGE team would like to invite a creative solutions focus within the challenges faced in Shawnigan/Cowichan Region and is willing to put all resources behind supporting this. In past years we have invited area residents to make a proposal to be part of courses and guest speakers workshops who come to OUR. This year we challenge all of us to step up to 'redefine value' and work together with "PLACEMAKING, Urban Permaculture and Design" and join facilitators and teachers who are coming together to support next steps in our region.

After 15 years of bringing MARK LAKEMAN to Shawnigan (and the CVRD brought to the ISCU

Community Centre) - this year we will build on all past design work; of the recent Co-Design Team from Shawnigan Gathering (who will return to be part of this), all past visits with Mark Lakeman and his meetings with Christine Lintott (architectural drawings for SL Village Project), and the myriad of meetings/conversations/hopes of our community.

This is nothing new really - more of a next steps in alignment of potentially projects and inspiration we are all building. YOU are invited to partake in the workshops and you can find this on OUR ECOVILLAGE website at: <http://oure-covillage.org/events/2015-intro-to-placemaking-urban-permaculture-and-design/>

Though others will come to our area as participants - this course is available to those who wish to bring value at no financial cost! Please enquire!!

OUR ECOVILLAGE has finally worked with one of OUR major funders, Vancity Credit Union, to create a finance model that allows the new organizational structure to take over ownership/directorship of the «Commons» of OUR lands and projects.

This is a major shift in opportunity for new farmers and social enterprise to come together and work towards a model whereas community development and food security can be a major achievement...in our/OUR lifetime!!

•• ADVERTISE IN THE SHAWNIGAN FOCUS! Great rates, great exposure! ads@shawniganfocus.ca ••

Positive Tickets supporting youth in our Community

Oriana Parker
Volunteer Writer SCCPAS

March 25, 2015 – Shawnigan Focus

Young people in the Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay area BEWARE! You are being randomly targeted to be recipients of a Positive Ticket. The South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society (SCCPAS) will be reinstating its popular Positive Tickets program starting April 10th to July 31st. The purpose of the program is to reward young people who make "healthy, positive choices in relation to their behaviour". The tickets will be handed out by South Cowichan Community Policing volunteers, Shawnigan RCMP and Block Watch Captains. This year the First Nations is also participating in the program. It's a win-win experience.

Whether picking up litter, returning lost property, helping a senior by opening a door or carrying the groceries – there

are hundreds of different situations that call for acknowledgement and praise. Young people unexpectedly found to be doing good things for their community will be presented with a Positive Ticket that they will take to the SCCP office in Mill Bay Shopping Centre located at #120 – 2720 Mill Bay Road ((250) 929-7222) and redeemed for a prize. We are proud of the youth in our community and this is an excellent way to show it. Through this program it is hoped that youth view law enforcement officers as approachable and fun, someone they would feel comfortable communicating with. This program would not be possible without the generous donations of local businesses that sponsor it. The SCCPAS is extremely grateful to our sponsors and will be thanking them publicly at its duration. All the Positive Tickets returned to the office will go into a draw which will take place on Aug. 22nd at the Cobble Hill Fair at which six major prizes will be awarded.

Esthetics by Lois

MANICURES • PEDICURES
FACIALS • WAXING • TINTING
LASH EXTENSIONS

Shawnigan's premier
Esthetics Salon for 14 years.



Lois Saunders

250-743-5559



HOURS - Tuesday thru Saturday - by appointment
Evening appointments available

lois@estheticsbylois.ca www.estheticsbylois.ca
In Shawnigan Village @ 1755 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

Products we use and endorse :

- Dr Renaud – Skin Care
- O.P.I. Gel Colour/Polish
- Gewol – Foot Care
- Spa Binge Naturals – Vegan
- Young Blood – Mineral Cosmetics
- Cresty – Semi-Permanent Eyebrow Make-Up
- Footlogix for Feet
- BCL Spa Organics
- MICHA Lash Extensions



DWIGHT SCHOOL CANADA

Igniting the spark of genius in every child

PERSONALIZED LEARNING | COMMUNITY | GLOBAL VISION



POLAR BEAR SWIM

Staff and students from Dwight School Canada jump in the lake on March 11 to raise money for Nepalese children to go to school.

Attend our
Open House
May 1
3:30 pm
to
6:30 pm

Be sure to RSVP
by April 27 to:
events@dwightcanada.org

Grades 6 – 12
Weekday Boarding available
IB Diploma Programme
Diverse Extra-Curricular Activities
Summer Leadership Academy

2371 East Shawnigan Lake Rd.
www.dwightcanada.org

a place where
you matter

CLAYTON COUNSELLING SERVICES MILL BAY
"We Care To Listen"

Announcing the opening of CLAYTON COUNSELLING SERVICE providing services for individuals, couples and families that require help dealing with today's stresses and relationship problems. Youth and Adults welcomed. For a Free Consultation call DR. KENT CLAYTON 778-356-3838

Toxic troubles: An update on a sorry saga

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

1) SIA vs Shawnigan: A Sorry Saga

A year ago, in the March 2014 issue, we ran the “Sorry Saga” article. Parts are reprinted here as a refresher. If you are familiar with the story you can skip to the next section.

South Island Aggregates Ltd. (SIA) was founded in 2006 by Mike Kelly and Marty Block. Their quarry is located on Stebbings Road.

“I think I may have stumbled on a good thing here” said Mike Kelly in an email to the CVRD in October, 2007. “Yes, get a Mines Act permit and don’t retail and you’ll be in under the F-1 Zone radar” replied the CVRD Planning Manager. So starts the sorry saga which has pitted SIA against the Shawnigan Community over the company’s plans to spend the next 50 years depositing 5 million tons of contaminated material alongside the main creek feeding Shawnigan Lake, the source of drinking water for several thousand people.

“I would like to fill in the hole with clean fill”, he said back then, and that is how reclamation of the gravel pit began. Then, in late 2010, 59 truckloads of soil laced with tetrachloroethylene (a carcinogenic dry-cleaning solvent, aka PERC) were deposited on-site which triggered Ministry of Environment concerns over hazardous waste violations. Despite repeated orders from the Ministry and the CVRD to deal with this mound of poison, it remains to this day, a stone’s throw from the Shawnigan Creek. When the incident occurred, SIA retained Active Earth Engineering to resolve the issue. They saw an opportunity and in October 2011, SIA sought began seeking Provincial approval for receiving and processing contaminated soil.

The initial spin was that their facility would eliminate problems associated with illegal dumping; that their site was “ideal” due to local hydrogeology; and there would be state of the art facilities which would be virtually fail-safe. Also, the material to be received, although technically considered to be contaminated, would be relatively benign. The Province was on board from the start.

Significant work facilitated by the Shawnigan Creek Protection Association gradually informed an unsuspecting public. The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) got involved and commissioned the Lowen Report which challenged SIA

and Active Earth’s engineering claims. The CVRD offered to work with the Ministry to find an alternate site. The Ministry ignored this offer and repeated that the appropriate bureaucratic process was being followed. The Premier and Minister of Environment declined to interfere. A Draft Permit was issued for public comment. It became apparent that the list of permitted contaminants included many very malignant substances. PCBs, dioxins, furans, heavy metals; but not to worry, the site was ideal and nothing very bad could possibly go wrong. Despite conflicting scientific opinion and virtually unanimous public opposition, a final Permit was issued on August 21, 2013.

The SRA and CVRD and three private individuals quickly launched appeals with the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB). A Stay was applied for, and then granted by the EAB. That meant that SIA could not receive contaminated soil, pending a decision on the merits of the appeals.

SIA then applied to “Vary the Stay” because it had already entered into four contracts and would incur financial hardship if not allowed to carry out the work. To the dismay of the community, the EAB sided with SIA. One of the contracts involved 8,000 tonnes of dredged sediments from a Marine Bulk Terminal near Prince Rupert. SIA lawyer John Alexander was quoted as saying the material did not contain dangerous compounds, just sodium and chloride. Curious then that someone was willing to pay SIA to barge the stuff from Prince Rupert.

Fears were voiced that SIA was seeking to accept material from up and down the coast. Could barges laden with contaminants from Washington and Oregon be headed for Saanich Inlet, offloaded at Bamberton, and trucked up the road to be dumped in our watershed? The Prince Rupert contract lent credibility to this scenario.

One of the Permit conditions was that SIA post a security to be used to cover any inadequacy of works, default in compliance, or remediation. \$220,000 has evidently been posted. It is not clear how that amount was determined. It is a paltry sum when a community’s water supply is purposely put at risk. Should a serious event occur, the decrease in property values alone would be in the hundreds of millions.

The CVRD stated that it would also file a case before

the Supreme Court which would assert that SIA and the Province do not have the authority to override local zoning restrictions for contaminated soil. The complexities of Regional District land use jurisdiction have resulted in contradictory statements from the CVRD and the Province. The CVRD has been criticised for not asserting zoning authority earlier in this matter. No court date has been announced.

In September 2013, legal teams for both sides began preparation for the EAB Hearing. Over 7,800 documents were filed. SRA lawyer Sean Hearn said their case would be based on scientific evidence. The SRA had raised about \$130,000 from the community for its legal battle, and anticipated that it would need at least \$70,000 more.

Marty Block of SIA claimed that they had “done the science.” They had certainly paid for their version of it anyway. It had always been in the financial interests of SIA and Active Earth for this project to go forward. There would be a lot of money to be made if the Permit was upheld.

Meanwhile, the Shawnigan community wondered what happened to the precautionary principle, and what kind of government would allow its own Ministry of Environment to jeopardize a community’s drinking water. There was something fundamentally wrong with the process.

The EAB Hearings were scheduled for March 3 through 14 and March 24 through April 4, 2014

2) The EAB Decision: An Ideological Sell-Out

The EAB Hearings took far more time than planned and did not complete until July 25, 2014. The three member Panel listened to four legal teams argue over conflicting expert advice. It became clear that there were significant areas of valid concern and uncertainty. There was optimism that the appointed EAB Panel would deliver an impartial and correct decision.

Months passed with not an inkling of news. The expected fall announcement did not happen. What did this bode? It was all quiet over the holiday season (a favourite time to announce unpleasanties). 2015 was ushered in and the community started to forget the SIA threat and get on with their lives.

Then, on Friday March 20th, two days before International Water Day, the EAB finally delivered its decision. The

120 page document is clear and well-written. It is also reprehensible. To quote Steve Housser, it is “a kick in the guts” for Shawnigan.

It is organized into 4 sections (A: Jurisdiction, B: Ministry Process, C: New Evidence and D: Enforcing Compliance) which address 8 primary questions. There are 722 numbered reference points. You can view it at: <http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/ema/2015EMAList.htm>

It is beyond the scope of this article to provide a comprehensive analysis of the whole document. However, as the fight for our community watershed begins again with renewed vigour, the Focus will have much fodder for future issues. For now, we will just reprint a few of the many questionable findings of the EAB report (with a bit of commentary).

[475] Clearly, there is no consensus among the qualified experts as to whether any further investigation is required, or if it is required, how much is needed to adequately characterize the Site. However, in the end, all of the experts agree that no amount of investigation will allow characterization of the Site with absolute certainty.

[718] ... on a balance of probabilities, the geology and hydrogeology of the Site and the facility design, together with the Permit conditions, will provide the required protections.

SF: So, let’s just throw the dice

[679] Regarding non-compliance with the mine permit, the Panel finds that the incidents referenced in these appeals do not lead to the conclusion that Cobble Hill is an unreliable operator ... The Regional Director (of the Ministry of Energy and Mines) further testified that the compliance issues that he addressed with Cobble Hill/SIA were, in his view, consistent with the “growing pains” expected of an operator who does not have any experience operating a quarry.

SF: So, the mountain of questionable fill on Lot 21 that has been leaching noxious substances into nearby Shawnigan Creek for the last few years is just a “growing pain”. The encroachment onto adjacent properties, and the PERC laced soil that has been on-site since 2010 is not a problem. And we are supposed to accept and excuse “no experience”.

[272] ... The Panel finds that the fact that Active Earth was an advocate for the applica-

tion, and that its original statements about the Site were modified or corrected, does not disqualify Active Earth from being a “Qualified Professional” for the permit application. The fact is that Active Earth employs qualified professionals, including professional engineers, who must abide by the standards set by their respective professional associations.

[273] The Panel finds no merit to the assertion that Active Earth should be disqualified because they have not been fully paid for their work to date.

SF: So, if SIA is unable to pay the \$500,000 they owe (except maybe if the Permit is approved) and, because Active Earth is a professional outfit (except for a few engineering mistakes, and the occasional email describing people concerned about their water as “f**king retards”), we are supposed to accept that it is okay for them to be an advocate, and also deliver an unbiased opinion? Something is incredibly wrong and we are not alone in this assertion. The failure of this ideology is the core tenet of the 2014 Ombudsman’s Report: “Striking a Balance: The Challenges of Using a Professional Reliance Model in Environmental Protection”. The term “Conflict of Interest” could find no better example than Active Earth’s advocacy role. This is almost beyond belief!

There is much more, but this article is too long already – more to come next month.

In closing, there must be a vehement rejection of the EAB assertion that there is a “rift in the community”; that, along with John Alexander’s claim that those unsatisfied with the EAB decision, represent just “a small segment of the community”. Apart from SIA and their close connections, no one supports the risk to our drinking water; no one welcomes the associated impact to our social and economic well-being. Why would we?

And finally, it is not just about the water. Shawnigan is a vibrant community which is poised to become an envied example of how to balance responsible economic development with ecological well-being. The SIA site, determined by irresponsible happenstance, in the headwaters of our watershed, is clearly not appropriate. We must also convince the Provincial Government that Shawnigan has the potential to contribute much more to the economy if the Permit is rescinded. How is that for proper ideology?

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director’s meetings with Sonia Furstenau**
April 13th (due to Easter Monday) at 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**
April 2 Watershed office - Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
AGM Thursday April 16th 7:00 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
April 20th 7pm at the Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday each month 7pm www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**
2 meetings per month. Contact info@slba for dates and times
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
1st Tuesday of each month 7pm. at Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **Village Development Committee**
April 25th 10-11:30. Unit 4 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd

Classified

WRITING AND PROOFREADING

25+ years of experience writing letters and preparing documents in government, at churches and for law firms - no job too small - from a 1 page resume to a 600 page manuscript - research projects - fact-checking - reasonable rates - let's discuss how I can help - Darren Lowe - darrenlowe1222@gmail.com.

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



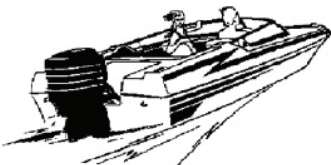
One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

CONGRATULATIONS

The winner for March was Karen Brule who wrote:
“Why, it is the window gracing “Esthetics by Lois” on Shawnigan Lake Road (in the Village)!

The lovely poinsettias appeared before Christmas and were painted by a local artist. Hope I win the coffee!”

**SHAWNIGAN MILL BAY
AUTO PARTS (1992) LTD.**
743-3355



**Mill Bay's
Auto/Marine
Parts Store**
Pioneer Square



Proud to Call the Island our Home
www.adamstreeservices.org

24 HOUR
emergency
service

ADAMS TREE SERVICE

- Tree removal
- Spiral thinning
- Tree topping
- Lot clearing
- Stump grinding & removal
- Hedge trimming & shaping
- Fruit & ornamental pruning
- Excavating & Bobcat work



Free estimates | 24 Hours **250-516-8315** Fully Insured | Since 2000



HARMONY TAILORS
Shawnigan Lake

**Repairs & Alterations
Custom Creations
Fine Dress Making**



Nina Wang : 250-466-4206 / 250-929-4685

Finding the perfect harmony between pattern, design & you.

Health - Fitness - Strength - Peace of Mind



**Daily Yoga
AcroYoga, Aerial Dance**
All Levels - Drop-in welcome!

KALI YOGA
Nicola Cusi Yoga Centre

nicolacusi@yahoo.ca
250 466 0006
www.kaliyoga.ca

Ben Kotler, MA
REGISTERED
CLINICAL COUNSELLOR



www.feelchange.ca

SHAWNIGAN LAKE 2721 Shawnigan Lake Road **250-634-1634** info@feelchange.ca

Sarah & Co Property Maintenance

FREE Estimates Seniors Discount
Carpentry, Eavestrough Cleaning,
Edible Gardens, Gardening, Hauling,
Lawn Care Packages, Landscaping & Design,
Moss-Removal, Painting, Powerwashing,
Rubbish Removal, Small Moving Jobs
RECYCLING

Sarah Davidge 250 732-3591
Nathan Pay 250 466-0521

sarahandcompany@shaw.ca



Curvalicious
New & Repeat
Boutique

New & Repeat
Sizes 14 to 28

PLUS SIZE WOMENS TRENDY FASHIONS
WEDDING & FORMAL GOWNS
GOLDSTREAM STATION, Langford
751 Goldstream Avenue #109
www.curvaliciousboutique.com 250-590-2799



Shawnigan Residents Association

The SRA held their Annual General Meeting on March 12 at Shawnigan Lake School. The SRA wishes to thank the school for their generous provision of the venue.

The Board of Directors for 2015-2016 are as follows:

- ★ Calvin Cook, currently the President and Chair to the Legal Action Committee
- ★ Lois Morrow, Vice President, and Chair to the SRA Governance Committee
- ★ Dewar McCarthy, Chair to the Finance Committee and SRA's Treasurer
- ★ Victoria Robson, Chair to the Community Engagement and SRA's Secretary

- ★ Netta Douglas, Chair to the Membership Committee
- ★ Grant Price, Chair to the Water Committee
- ★ Al Brunet, Liaison with the Municipal Status Committee
- ★ Garry Horwood, Chair of the Government Liaison Committee
- ★ Megan Cholack-Briand, Shawnigan Lake School Student Representative

The SRA spent last year spearheading the legal challenge to the SIA Permit. In light of the recent EAB decision we will continue our efforts to stop this ill-considered project, while also striving to represent all residents in other current and emerging issues in our community.

The SRA will be circulating a petition calling upon the Provincial Legislature to respect the environmental, economic,

and social integrity of the Shawnigan Lake community and for Cabinet to rescind the EAB decision upholding the SIA Permit. Expect to see this in your neighbourhood soon, and please encourage all those eligible to sign (any resident of BC 18 years or older).

The SRA is grateful for the continuing financial support of the Shawnigan Community. You can donate on-line at <http://thesra.ca/> , or drop off a cheque at Dewar McCarthy Accounting in the Village (across from the RCMP station), or send one to:

Shawnigan Residents Association
P.O. Box 443 Shawnigan Lake, BC, V0R 2W0

For updates on Facebook, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/shawniganresidents?pnref=story>

SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

PO Box 201, Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0

Phone: (250)743-2096

Fax: (250)743-2096

Non-emergency Phone: (250)812-8030

Email: shawniganfire@shaw.ca

Department Members Attended 18 Calls in March



- ★ Monday, March 2 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Wednesday, March 4 – Fence Fire on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, March 5 – 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, March 5 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Friday, March 6 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- ★ Saturday, March 7 – 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- ★ Saturday, March 7 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Sunday, March 8 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Thursday, March 12 – Structure Fire on Fern Ridge Dr
- ★ Saturday, March 14 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Sunday, March 15 – 1st Responder off Hawking Rd
- ★ Friday, March 20 – 1st Responder off Hawking Rd
- ★ Monday, March 23 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, March 23 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, March 25 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, March 25 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Thursday, March 26 – 1st Responder in Burnum Mobile Home Park
- ★ Friday, March 27 – 1st Responder in Arbutus Mountain Estates

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA

Shawnigan Weather March 2015

Stats courtesy of LIVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Trelor

	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Average High	10.0	12.8	9.7	12.6	9.3	13.2	10.2	12.6	10.2
Average Low	1.4	4.1	2.4	3.4	1.9	4.2	2.5	3.4	2.1
Extreme High	22.2	19.1	15.0	18.7	14.3	19.4	15.7	17.5	14.0
Extreme Low	-11.7	-2.2	-2.5	-3.2	-2.7	-2.3	-3.2	-2.5	-3.0
Precipitation	120.2	150.5	199.9	127.8	192.7	126.4	182.9	127.3	178.4
Days w precip	18	19	23	19	23	19	27	19	22
Precip since Jan 1 (mm)	490.8	465.7	573.7	458.7	565.3	411.3	496.8	444.9	548.6
Since 1914: 3 rd warmest 40 th driest									
Lake Temperature:		Mar 1 st : 5°	Mar 8 th : 7°	Mar 15 th : 8°	Mar 22 nd : 8°	Mar 29 th : 11°			
Lake Level Change:		Mar 1 st : -20cm	Mar 8 th : -10cm	Mar 15 th : -8cm	Mar 22 nd : +36cm	Mar 29 th : +4cm			

"The Thrill is gone....to the Village Chippery!" Try one of the new sensational Thrilled Cheese sandwiches including:

- Bacon and Blue Cheese
- Wildfire • Sargent Pepperjack
- Apple Pie • Pickle me Elmo

Open daily 11 - 7:30
Lunch, Dinner, Licensed
Dine in or Take Away
Weekend Breakfasts @ 8 AM

(250) 929-8886
Menu on line @
www.villagechippery.com

2740 Dundas Rd Shawnigan Village

Whether you
Live & Dance,
Love & Dance
or simply wish to
Learn & Dance we have the commitment,
drive and support to ensure you achieve your goals

Classes for
ages 2 to Adult

Shawnigan Lake Village | www.LTDANCESTUDIO.com | **250.661.1767**
2744 Shawnigan Lake Rd ~ below Steeples Restaurant

Est. 1925
250-743-2122

- BCAA Certified Auto Repair Facility.
- Certified Government Inspection Facility & Out of Province Inspections.
- Certified Mechanics At The Best Rate.
- Alignment Specialists.
- Tire Sales & Repair.
- Diagnostics for Domestic, Import & All Make Marine Services & Repairs.

Nationwide Partner as of January 2015

FREE Roadside Assistance and Warranty to all our customers. Ask Us How!

Call and make appointment today!

250-743-2122

Full Service Save-On-Gas Station
WINTER HOURS Mon-Fri 7-7pm, Sat 9-7pm, Sun/Holidays 9-5pm