



Shawnigan Focus

Volume Three - Issue Nine

SEPTEMBER 2013

A Non-Profit Community Publication

CONCERN GROWING OVER PERMITTED TOXIC WASTE

FAMILIES OF SHAWNIGAN AND MILL BAY

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS APPROVED* FOR OUR WATERSHED

* by your BC
government

PHENOLS

LUNGS, LIVER
URO-GENITAL,
KIDNEYS,
ACUTE TOXICITY

CHLORIDES

WHICH ONES?

BENZENE

CANCER
LEUKEMIA
BONE MARROW

TOLUENE

VISION LOSS
CONFUSION
DEATH

ETHYL BENZINE

LIVER, KIDNEY
DAMAGE

XYLENE

NERVOUS SYSTEM
DAMAGE

STYRENE

MALIGNANT LYMPHOMA
LUNG TUMOURS
CARCINOMA

CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS

eg. D.D.T., P.C.B.'s
IMMUNE SYSTEM,
CANCER

GLYCOLS

DAMAGE TO BRAIN
HEART, LUNGS,
KIDNEYS, CENTRAL
NERVOUS SYSTEM

MTBE

ODOROUS AIR
AND GROUNDWATER
CONTAMINANT

VPH's

VOLATILE PETROLEUM
HYDROCARBONS,
BONE MARROW,
PULMONARY
VASCULAR THROMBOSIS

DIOXINS

CANCERS,
REPRODUCTION,
LIVER, THYROID,
"HIGHLY TOXIC"

PAH's

CARCINOGENIC,
MUTAGENIC,
BIRTH DEFECTS

FURANS

SKIN, LIVER,
REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTION,
NERVOUS AND IMMUNE
SYSTEMS, CANCERS



BE AFRAID. BE VERY AFRAID

OR

HELP STOP THIS www.thesra.ca



Now that the Provincial Government has officially approved the SIA Permit, concern is growing over the extensive list of poisonous materials which will be allowed.

The August 21st decision permits South Island Aggregates (SIA) to accept and process contaminated waste at their Stebbings Rd. site which is adjacent to Shawnigan Creek. Treated effluent will be discharged into a branch of the creek which runs into the lake just six kilometres downstream. The lake is used as a community water supply by several thousand residents.

The project calls for five million tons of contaminated fill to be processed over fifty years. Both the Ministry of Environment and SIA claim that state-of-the-art technology and appropriate monitoring will mitigate any risk to the public.

Posters are appearing listing toxic substances and their related health effects.

CVRD - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2013

CVRD Moves to Exercise Zoning Authority Over South Island Aggregates Soil Remediation Facility

Duncan, BC - The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has served notice to South Island Aggregates (SIA) that the company's proposed remediation facility violates zoning on their property.

"We have instructed our lawyers to inform SIA that the proposed remediation facility and land use is not permitted under the CVRD's zoning," said Rob Hutchins, CVRD Chair. "The CVRD takes its responsibilities to uphold its land use bylaw

very seriously. Consequently, we are in consultation with lawyers about making an application to the BC Supreme Court to ask that it rule on the CVRD's authority to enforce the zoning on the SIA property. Our next actions will depend on the responses we get from both SIA and the Environmental Appeal Board."

The CVRD letter to SIA putting the company on notice that their project does not comply with zoning regulations was served on SIA Thursday. The zoning on the SIA property is F-1, which does not allow for the proposed land use.

SIA was recently issued a permit by the BC Ministry of Environment to build and

operate a soil remediation facility capable of treating up to five million tonnes of contaminated soils over fifty years.

The CVRD has been firm in its opposition to the proposed soil remediation facility and has taken action to protect residents who depend on potable domestic water supplies from the Shawnigan Lake watershed. The CVRD estimates that over 12,000 people depend on the watershed, including approximately 2,700 residents served by CVRD owned and operated systems that draw water directly from Shawnigan Lake and wells drilled into aquifers down slope from the SIA property.

The CVRD will also appeal the Ministry of Envi-

ronment permit issued to SIA to the Environmental Appeal Board citing the Ministry did not adequately take into account that the SIA proposal does not comply with CVRD zoning regulations. The CVRD also plans to apply to the Appeal Board for a stay to prevent SIA from acting on its permit while the appeal is under consideration.

The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) has already launched its own appeal of the decision, and has requested that the Appeal Board issue a stay on the SIA permit. Chair Hutchins said he expects the CVRD and SRA will cooperate to ensure that each party maximizes the value of their legal expenditures and will not be duplicating efforts.

The CVRD has also requested an investigation under Section 29 of the Drinking Water Protection Act. "People are afraid that their drinking water is at risk of being contaminated," said Chair Hutchins in a letter to Vancouver Island Health Authority Medical Health Officer Dr. Paul Hasselback. Chair Hutchins went on to say. "It seems irresponsible to locate a contaminated soil facility in a drinking water watershed that provides water to so many people."

For Further Information Contact: Rob Hutchins, Board Chair, CVRD Tel: 250.210.1471 Email: rhutchins@ladysmith.ca

See page 12 for more coverage on the permit

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SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 2013

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OCTOBER 2013 Issue: October 5th

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ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for a fee. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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

Additional copies are available in The Village.

MAILING ADDRESS

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Letters to the Editor

The Farmer

The farmer can't have his land made to be workable, but there can be a toxic soil treatment plant in our watershed...

So...no words, other than the following can describe these happenings, Total stupidity... nothing more...nothing less.

David, Shawnigan Lake

Gratitude for Fire Department

As a resident of Shawnigan Lake for 22 years, I am truly grateful for the work of our Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department in attending situations on such numerous occasions. The Shawnigan Focus reports all the calls in their newspaper and it highlights the effort it takes for our volunteers and RCMP in responding to life and property safety. Every time we hear the sirens in our community, we all think and worry about what's going on, especially during the summer months. With all the recent reports on spotlighting the huge effort and dedication that volunteer fire fighters and other safety personnel in ours, and other jurisdictions exhibit, I thank you on behalf of my family and friends in our community for your work, your bravery and your dedication! Bravo!

Cathy Macpherson

Cowichan Tourist Info Centre

Add to the list - yet another reason why Shawnigan needs to control it's own destiny - the soon-to-be-completed Duncan er... "Cowichan Tourist Information Centre"

This million-dollar boondoggle must have been conceived by people who have not done much travelling in the past few years. Driven by a North Cowichan group, and supported by Duncan, the South End was again outnumbered in its vote against the proposal.

80% of the world population has a smart-phone and 89% use their phones throughout the day, according to the web (accessed on

my iPad). The majority of today's tourists will be accessing Trip Advisor, Urban Spoon, and the Cowichan website for up-to-the-minute user rated info, in whatever language they speak, and at whatever time or day they happen to be visiting the Cowichan Valley.

Travelers often know before they leave home what they are hoping to see and will be planning their itinerary accordingly. When I visited Amsterdam last year I passed a queue of people several blocks long, waiting to visit the "Anne Frank House", and walked through the door with my iPad in hand showing my reservation, and prepaid admission.

We did not bother to travel across Paris to see the "Catacombs" because "Trip Advisor" told us the site was closed for the duration of our stay.

Coming north from Victoria, you have already passed all the sites that this edifice will be promoting, and coming south from Nanaimo you have to cross the highway.

It would have made far more sense to have small rest-stops in site specific areas with toilet facilities, a picnic bench, wi-fi availability, and a water machine for cyclists all incorporated into a simple kiosk arrangement with enamel signs of historic information and photos: totems in Duncan, logging in Lake Cowichan, marine history Cowichan Bay and of course, the Kinsol Trestle in Shawnigan. First Nations history on reserve land with attractive signs would be a location signature for tourist photos. Passengers of the Mill Bay Ferry might be interested to know that the ferry terminal intersects the home of the Malahat Nation.

Even better, co-locate tourist info sites with the excellent small museums located in Duncan, Chemainus, Lake Cowichan and the gem we call our own in Shawnigan Village, thus allowing local sites to be promoted by volunteers who actually know them.

Sally Davies

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift. ~ Albert Einstein

Shawnigan Moments

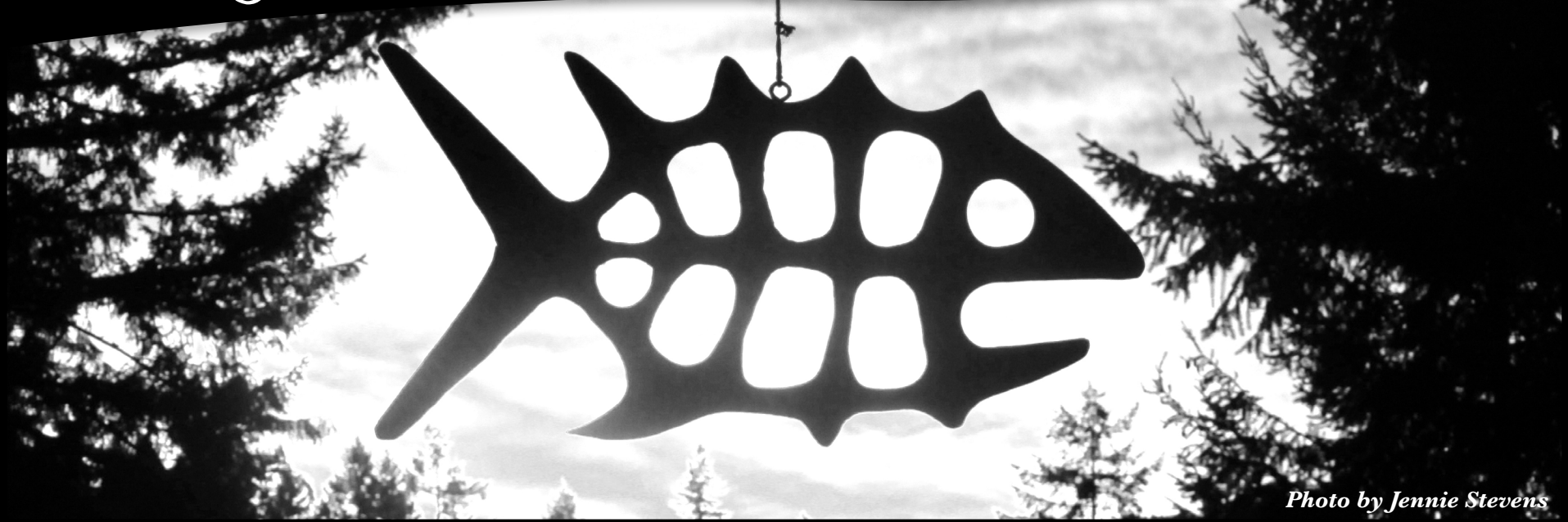


Photo by Jennie Stevens

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...

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. Send letters to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

A new watershed function for Shawnigan Lake

I find it rather ironic that Director Fraser needs to set up a new function, especially when he has claimed that the management costs of the CVRD need to be reviewed.

Setting up another function costs money to maintain it and monitor it. Draft Bylaw No. 3737 is setting up a function that will cost the taxpayers \$50,000.00 annually. The function will supply funds to the Shawnigan Basin Society to look into various aspects of the piecemeal approach for watershed management. This is fine. However why not use the existing South Cowichan groundwater function? This function which has a limit of \$100,000 has been set up to perform everything that the Shawnigan Basin Society needs to do. Why do we need to set up a duplicate function? I was able to secure \$25,000 per year for five years from this function; this funding has allowed Dr. Mazumder to continue to do his research on the water quality of Shawnigan Lake.

So I would challenge Director Fraser to work with the Electoral Area Directors from Areas A and C to come to some sort of arrangement to fund the society through this existing function, instead of creating a duplicate function. I would like to offer my best wishes to the Shawnigan Basin Authority on their tasks that lay ahead of them.

Ken Cossey

Reply to Ken Cossey's Letter to the Editor in the September 11th Edition of the Cowichan Valley Citizen: (See above)

Our Watershed Needs Action not Study

Ex-Director Cossey has a rather interesting sense of priority. During his six-year term of office Shawnigan was further subdivided, gravel-pitted, clear-cut logged and visited with numerous dumps of contaminated soil that place our lake, streams and aquifers at risk. Issues of ailing septic fields were not addressed and the South Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan lapsed without effect. Lake foreshore was denuded in many places, inappropriate boathouses were built, illegal docks at road ends proliferated and lake congestion increased. During this time Dr. Asit Mazumder of the University of Victoria, with assistance of the South Cowichan Water Study fund, came to the truly astonishing conclusion that Shawnigan Lake was showing evidence of pollution and that we needed to do something about it. It appears, of course, that we did not.

Mr. Cossey suggests that the South Cowichan Water Study function, shared among Shawnigan,

Mill Bay, Cobble Hill and Cowichan Bay, is all that we really need. In other words, further study to describe our watershed problems is the right way to go. I differ with this poor substitute for action. I believe that we actually have to do something about the many threats to the Shawnigan Watershed. The Water Study function is important as a source of information but very little action will take place to accomplish practical results if all we do is study the problem. Dr. Mazumder's work will continue and the Ministry of Environment will continue to sample our waterways with participation from local schools and the Shawnigan Residents Association. We will be informed by these studies but not empowered unless we translate them into actions.

To address watershed conservation and restoration we need to achieve greater control of industrial development, waste treatment, forestry operations, subdivision approvals, recreation development and interface fire protection than we have in the past. That is what the Shawnigan Basin Authority is being set up to accomplish, through development of a watershed master plan and active delivery of management and restoration projects, all with extensive public engagement.

The proposed funding for the Authority, the 50K per year, is intended to foster comprehensive action. It is intended to give the Shawnigan Community the leverage to seek more extensive funds from government infrastructure programs and foundations that normally require local contributions ranging from 30% to 70%. Otherwise, as an unincorporated Electoral Area, we have little clout in the funding sweepstakes. People who wish to be accurately informed about the action stage of Shawnigan's watershed efforts should attend the Basin Society Public Meeting at Dwight School at 7:30 pm on Saturday, September 21st.

Bruce Fraser, Area Director, Shawnigan Lake

Contaminated Soil Class-Action

A leading local real-estate agent stated that she would not buy a property in this area. A commercial real-estate development has lost two clients who wanted to invest in this area once they became aware of the contamination issue, and several very experienced Lakers indicated that the real-estate market here is not functioning.

This is not a surprise. Research is showing that significant property value reductions occur if there is a new landfill containing harmless household waste. It is being confirmed that the Minister of Environment is going to allow what they call acceptable levels of dioxins and furans to be put over top of our watershed. Thus anyone buying real-estate, when given the option to buy a property without this risk, will likely choose not to invest where there

is the risk of contamination.

As a result, discussions are taking place with the Slocan class action group, as they have shown an interest in collaborating on this issue. Everyone who owns real-estate in the watershed may be interested in participating, as we anticipate the action will be for hundreds of millions of dollars of compensation for destruction of property value.

This action will be taken against everyone who has played a role in bringing contamination to our watershed. The next update may contain information on how you can participate.

Ronald (Ron) Witherspoon, CEO, SRW Aggregation Services Ltd.

Contaminated Soil Destined for Shawnigan Lake

Few were surprised with the Ministry of Environment announcing that South Island Aggregates (SIA) had received a permit to deposit five million tonnes of contaminated soil in a pit above Shawnigan Lake. Last May Ministry officials told us that the permit would be issued if the SIA's proposal met the technical requirements.

Appeals to the Environment Minister by the Cowichan Valley Regional District, and also the public, to stop the entire process, fell on deaf ears. Results of critical examinations of the SIA proposal done by recognized professionals were apparently dismissed. Were concerns about health and security of drinking water never factors in the Ministries evaluation?

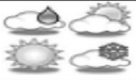
Water runs downhill, so if millions of tonnes of contaminated soil are put into a pit, in a watershed, above a nearby lake, close to the major stream that feeds the lake then Murphy's Law says that in time the lake will be contaminated. The Ministry decision to issue this permit makes no sense whatsoever!

Perhaps we should ask whom benefits from the SIA permit aside from those directly involved. Certainly the major developers in Victoria, some based in Alberta, might. Often their projects involve huge excavations and a site to deposit the displaced soil is vital, especially if the soil is contaminated. Did the SIA proposal lead to financial support from some developers during the Liberal Party's successful corporate fundraising in Alberta prior to the election?

Somebody, besides SIA, gained from this permit to deposit five million tonnes of contaminated soil in a pit above Shawnigan Lake. Perhaps it was the Liberal Party with the lure of campaign dollars trumping public safety?

Joseph Gollner, Oak Bay

Shawnigan weather ~ AUGUST ~ UVIC WEATHER NETWORK ~ BY GRANT TRELOAR

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	23.1	24.8	26.3	23.8	24.8	24.9	25.7	24.0	24.9
Average Low	11.9	13.4	13.3	12.7	12.8	13.6	13.3	13.2	12.7
Extreme High	36.1	32.4	34.2	29.9	32.6	31.6	34.3	30.0	32.0
Extreme Low	3.3	9.9	9.3	8.8	8.8	9.7	9.2	9.5	8.5
Precipitation	29.3	43.1	3.8	33.1	3.0	36.1	3.0	38.3	3.4
Days w precip	6	8	2	8	2	9	2	11	2
Lake Temperature: August 4 th : 24° August 11 th : 23° August 18 th : 22° August 25 th : 22°									

Peace begins with a smile
~Mother Teresa

Peace is a state of mutual harmony between people or groups – a cessation of, or freedom from, any strife or dissension. In 2002, the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent annual date for International Day of Peace (IDP).

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. Eleanor Roosevelt

It isn't always easy to find (or to make) peace, especially in a small community where there is much work to be done. Most people have opinions on what is right and/or how something should be done. People tend to gravitate towards others with like thoughts. Little groups form. The groups gain power,

and then certainty that their way is the best (or the only) way and are spurred on by the conviction of their followers. Soon the little groups become distinct and discordant.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. Mother Teresa

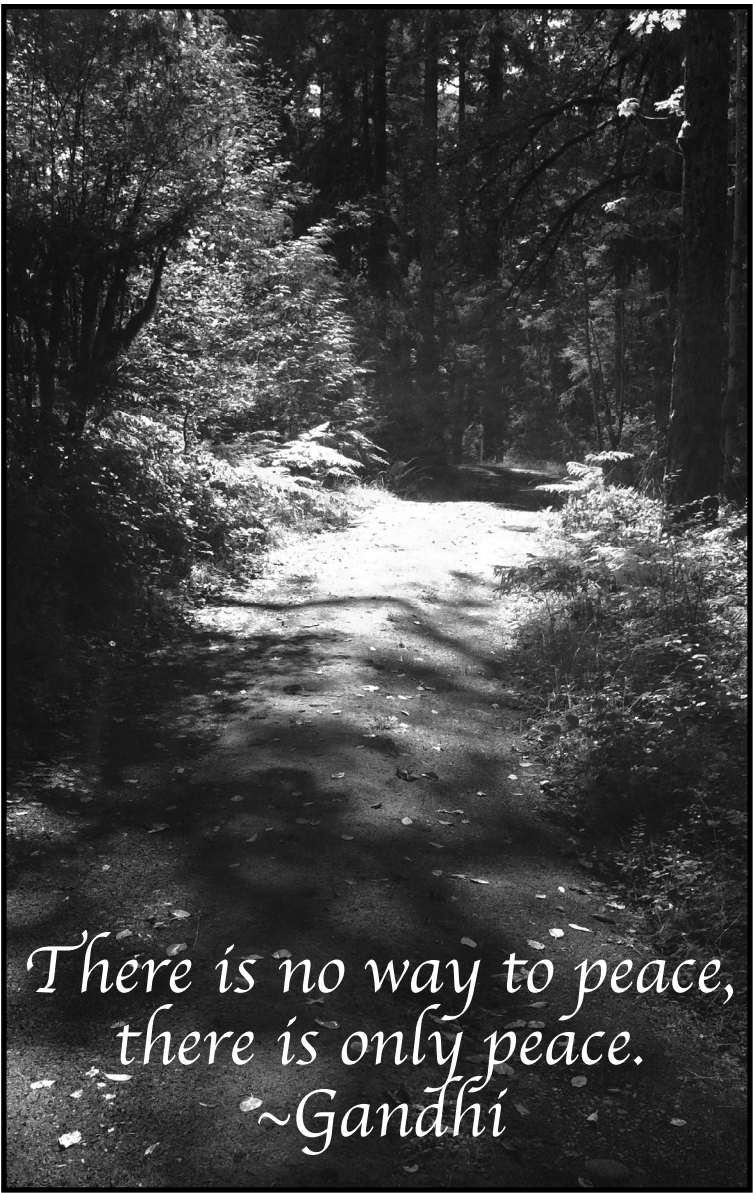
In a community, like Shawnigan, which is fraught with immense challenges, the big picture – what is best for Shawnigan – whether it is development, watershed, lake use or any number of other issues, should be kept front and centre. The little groups, and there are many, are working diligently to problem solve and to look for solutions to some of our basic problems. Too often, however, more than one group is work-

ing on the same issue and, unfortunately, in the isolation of their own group rather than inclusively. Sometimes the result is that we overlap, and spread our resources thinly rather than building a collective momentum and pooling the energy.

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. Nelson Mandela

There is immense talent in the Shawnigan community. Just "Imagine", as John Lennon so aptly wrote, what could happen if we stopped letting our differences interfere with the big picture. Working together, in peace, is the only forward-thinking movement we can embrace if we want to make progress.

Give peace a chance ~ John Lennon



We Need to Grow Up

"The Pizza Shop Perspective...One local businessman's view"

Rick Restell

The permit to South Island Aggregates has been approved to dump hazardous material in our watershed. The cries of anguish from our fellow residents are being heard; people are lashing out at our politicians, the environment ministry and SIA.

Who is the right target here? Who is to blame?

It must be the politicians, right? No – our provincial

politicians are prevented from politicizing this issue. To prevent politicians from using environmental issues as election incentives, these kinds of decisions have been given over to the Ministry of Environment as they have been with BC Ferries and ICBC. These decisions are free from political interference and are made with only scientific data and a set of criteria.

Then it must be the Ministry of Environment. No – they have nothing to gain here. They're a bunch of bureaucrats that are paid to follow protocol.

The owners at SIA must be

out to destroy our watershed then? No – the owners of SIA are just business people doing what business people do. They believe that their containment system will work and that we are all wrong about the risks. They are our neighbours and large employers here in South Cowichan. They don't want to hurt the lake.

So, who do we blame? Last month I discussed the fact that we make all the decisions in our democratic society. We had the power to stop this from ever becoming an issue. The last time that incorporation was introduced the residents

here rejected that plan. Had we become an incorporated municipality, we would be controlling our own land use right now instead of relying on the provincial government to decide these things for us.

We are the largest area that is not incorporated in BC. It is about time that we stood up for ourselves and stopped the whining and finger pointing about issues that we could be controlling. The Shawnigan Residents Association has completed a phase 1 study of incorporation. We need phase 2 before we can appeal to the province to allow us to incorporate. This phase is

about what we want to take on as a municipality and what we want to leave in the hands of the CVRD. This is a complex study that takes all the costs and operations into account so that we can make an informed decision that will meet the provincial government guidelines.

We all need to get behind this, because if we don't, we will continue to face land use issues that threaten our way of life. How long should we allow the province to make all the decisions and then complain about the results instead of looking after ourselves? We need to grow up.



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All Yoga classes are drop-in. Pre-registration required for Aerial Dance, AcroYoga and workshops.

Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission

Margaret Symon,
*Parks Commission
Chair*

As fall reigns in summer, the Shawnigan Parks Commission hopes you've been able to get out and enjoy this year's endless summer sunshine by exploring parks and trails in our community. The Parks Commission resumes regular meetings (usually third Thursdays) on Sept. 19, at 6:30 pm, at the Shawnigan Community Centre. Public are always welcome to attend!

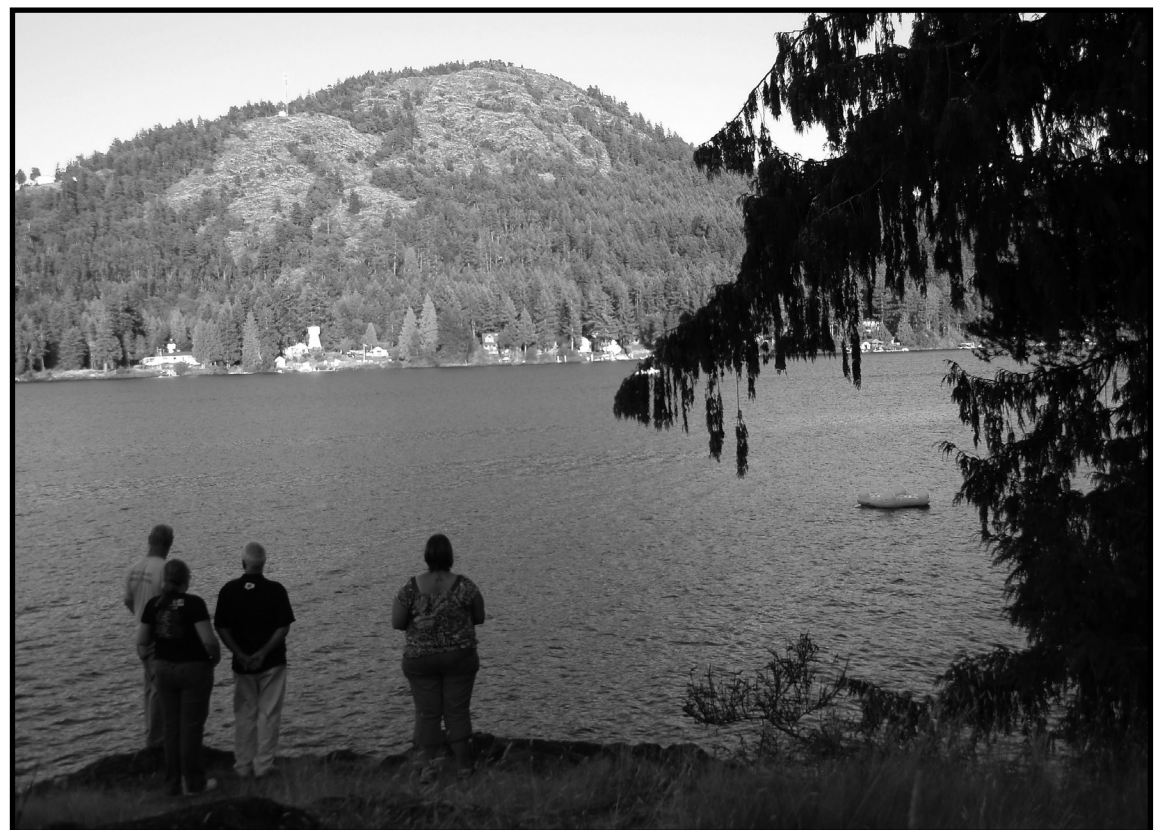
This summer, along with an impressive contingent of community volunteers, I had the pleasure of assisting with the CVRD's surface water sampling program. The CVRD coordinates the program in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Except for stewardship groups, little work has been done to quantitatively monitor streams and their water chemistry. The water sampling program was developed to establish baseline data at local streams in order to monitor the long term health of our watershed(s). Data obtained from the program will help to provide better information about land use management. The sampling program will also help to understand the

impacts of upland land use on shellfish at Mill Bay. Streams feed rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Ultimately, the program aims to enhance our ability to protect water at the source for human use, as well as for fish and wildlife.

The program had its beginnings in 2007, when the Ministry of Environment set water quality objectives for Shawnigan Lake. The purpose of the current follow-up, or "attainment" monitoring, is to determine how conditions have changed since 2007. Similar monitoring is being conducted at various bodies of water throughout British Columbia.

Sampling is conducted during the "worst" conditions at the height of summer (when flows are low, and pollutant concentrations are high) and again in the fall (typically, when the rains resume, and turbidity is high). The program involves 5 weekly samples in summer, and additional sampling in the fall. While each stream and near-lake perimeter site has specific parameters, sampling at all sites measures *ecoli*, phosphorus, metals, and turbidity.

Approximately 17 volunteers, including 5 dedicated local students, turned out ev-



ery week between July and the end of August, and sampled 13 locations through Shawnigan Creek and Saanich Inlet watersheds. The water sampling program is supported by the CVRD, MoE, Shawnigan Residents Association, Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable, Mill Bay and District Conservation Society, Cowichan Community Land Trust Society, private residents, and the Malahat First Nation.

A final report by the MoE will include interpretation of the data to show what's turning up in our watersheds.



Thank You Ms. Thow!

Members of the Shawnigan Lake RCMP recently presented Ms. Anne Thow with flowers and a plaque for her many years of assistance with the RCMP.

Ms. Thow stepped up years ago and gave the Detachment a boat house to utilize every summer for the police boat. She is always very welcoming when she sees us, whether it is dur-

ing patrols or the unfortunate late night or early morning emergencies over the years.

We have now moved our police boat to its new home at Shawnigan Lake School.

The plaque aptly states: "*Ms. Thow: Thank you for your dedication in helping to keep Shawnigan Lake safe. Sincerely, Shawnigan Lake RCMP.*"



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Another great day

Garth Harvey, President
Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society

(This report was prepared in June but got lost in cyber space, but the delay has only increased our appreciation of your generosity)

Another great day on June 2nd - the very first Shawnigan Lake Adventure. A great big THANK YOU to all who participated - walkers, kayakers, cyclists, geocachers, volunteers, businesses, musicians, artists, staff, and committees. The numbers were fewer than last year. Our gross was higher, \$22,742.00, but our take-home pay, \$8,309.00, was less due to higher insurance, food for rest

stops, and other sundry things (and they tell me pennies do not count). However, the best number of the lot was an increase in pledges per person, which shows that we, in the Cowichan region, are willing to share with others in less favourable circumstances. So, if I am in trouble I do not want to be any place but here.

All the smiles, happy chatter and laughter could only have come from a community that was having fun. Stats support this conclusion. Again, this year, we had about 40%

returned questionnaires. The Adventure was rated excellent plus good 95%, rest stops 93%, food 98%, and 96% for registration.

Thank You to all who took the time to suggest what and how things could be improved. Your comments will have a great deal to do with shaping next year's event.

For each family caregiver in the valley that your generosity has touched, we offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

See you next year.

Shawnigan Residents Association

Jason Walker
Director of Communications and Administration

As many readers are likely aware, on August 21st the Ministry of the Environment saw fit to ignore the public opposition and scientific evidence and granted the high-risk SIA contaminated soil dump and issued a permit allowing SIA move forward with their project. This will be the largest toxic soil dump on Vancouver Island.

In response on August 26th the SRA filed a notice of appeal to the Environmental appeal board requesting a hearing so that oral arguments can be heard in order to request the EAB reverse the MOE decision. Subsequently, the SRA has taken further action and filed an application for stay to prevent SIA from moving

forward until this matter has been heard.

The SRA is profoundly disappointed that the Ministry of Environment has disregarded the will of the community and is jeopardizing the health, safety and well-being of the people of Shawnigan Lake. We call on the Minister and Premier to enact their authority through an Order in Council to overturn the MOE decision which, along with conflicting science that does not support this project, the public benefit in this matter has also gone unrepresented.

The SRA will argue that the risks of the landfill failing to contain the contaminants and poisoning the watershed and lake are far too high. We made

a commitment to engage in whatever legal means necessary to stop this permit and we will continue to do so.

This will be a difficult journey emotionally and financially, however, the cost of doing nothing is not an option. We are seeing your help in getting involved with the SRA and contributing to our Legal Action Fund.

There is strength in numbers and we are not a community that will roll over. Please visit our website to see how you can join the SRA for \$10, get involved, attend out fundraising events and get for up to the moment information www.thesra.ca. We believe in safe, drinkable, livable, swimmable water; help us save Shawnigan water.



Thank you for the support!

Thanks to an outpouring of support from the Shawnigan community, the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) raised over \$13,000 at their Sunday, September 8 Bottle Drive at Mason's Store. This is a good example of how engaged the community is in opposition to the SIA contaminated soil permit. All proceeds have gone to the SRA Legal Action Fund. Thank you Shawnigan! For more information about the SRA, please visit www.thesra.ca.



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SHAWNIGAN PLACEMAKING EVENT

September 28th, 2013

Brandy Gallagher
Ecovillage

"Magic is brewing in the air as our community comes together with creativity and self-organizing extraordinaire! For over 10 years Shawnigan Lake has been host to Mark Lakeman, Visionary Architect and Community Animator, from Portland, OR. He has been touring, teaching, presenting and supporting Design Charette processes locally and up and down the islands. As a long standing friend of OUR ECOVILLAGE he has linked the work he founded with City Repair, Portland to the 'Rural Repair' done with some of the folks who have taken on setting precedent with ecological design in land use and building construction on OUR team.

Over 7 years ago, the hope of creating an 'intersection repair' project as part of taking back our community began as a conversation. This was taken further when the folks who created the S.L.A.M.

Festival put forward a design and application to spearhead a traffic-calming and safety project at the intersection in front of the Purple Building and The Art House. At the time of the Festival a beautiful cob/earthen artistic bench was crafted and edible landscaping began with new fruit trees being planted on the streetscape in front of The Art House. However, more support was needed to move forward with the full design for this community project.

Now the time is ripe! September heralds a time for the weaving of conversations in Shawnigan to come together. INSPIRE!Fest, on September 21st, is an exciting time to unfold the next layer of community design for our 'Intersection Repair' process. With some stories and facilitated process...it is hoped that we can bring together a next draft of design that fits poetically with the ideas from the Village Development Committee. Christine Lintott, the wonderful Architect who

has been volunteering with the VDC and putting all the amazing work into visual representations, has met with Mark Lakeman and she has already shared a project with him in Victoria this past year!! We have another Dynamic Duo to support our community process!!

Carrying forward the energy from the Solstice weekend & INSPIRE!Fest, on SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2013 - we will, yet again, host Mark Lakeman, and Christine Lintott for a SHAWNIGAN PLACEMAKING EVENT - an afternoon presentation and dialogue related to community hopes for taking back our streets - taking back our neighbourhood - taking back our community!! As we further realize our vision, we hope to unveil the next step of the planning! We have invited the wide variety of stakeholders - Government, academia, business/corporate...and all of us grassroots community folk!

PLACEMAKING is a world phenomenon that is creating

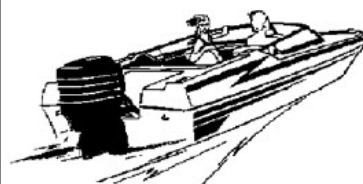


processes for neighbourhoods to cities to reclaim common and public spaces. City Repair Project.org has been a major North American catalyst in incubating community projects everywhere. It is a privilege for our community to have such incredible support as having Christine Lintott

and Mark Lakeman helping us with our community building and transformation process.

For information on location and times of the SHAWNIGAN PLACEMAKING EVENT please contact: info@ourecoville.org or 250-743-3067.

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Streamkeeping Newsletter

Fearon, Laura, Roy, Kevin, Eryn, Shawnee
Dwight International School

The Streamkeeping group at Dwight School Canada has had a great year so far learning about the streams and aquatic wildlife of the valley. There are six members who get together weekly to work with Kai Rietzel from the Cowichan Land Trust. She has been teaching us many things about the conditions found in healthy streams.

We have learned about an experiment that was started over 40 years ago where Coho were placed in a river that leads to Shawnigan Lake, where our school is located.

The salmon are unable to spawn upstream, due to a number of waterfalls. We went and watched them vainly attempt to surmount the first fall. A local volunteering organization uses a series of pulleys to ship the fish upstream and past the rapids so that they may spawn in calmer waters.

We have also been working in collaboration with Scott Noble at the Shawnigan Lake School fish hatchery. He has been teaching us how to raise Coho fry. At this point in time we are incubating over two thousand fertilized eggs and we are patiently waiting to see the results.

Recently, we uncovered the

notations of a much older streamkeeping group which existed during the tenure of a previous school located on this campus. Upon recovering these, we quickly discovered that the notes were quite incomplete. In finding this small difficulty, we have decided to not only complete this research but also expand upon it. We have future meetings planned with a Community Advisor from the DFO who had worked with these sites in the past to help us understand exactly where they are.

We greatly appreciate Kai for all of her direction in all of our endeavours that we have been pursuing. Thanks to her, performing all of these tasks has been a treat.

Water we doing?

Dwight sets its sights on sustainability.

This summer, five Dwight students volunteered their time and energy to help out in their local community. Shayda Swann, Darian Slater, Liam Oaten, Jason Rutherford, and Mariah Rutherford spent a sunny July morning on the banks of the Cowichan River learning how to collect water samples and data; then, for the following six weeks, the students, along with teachers Sonia Furstenau and Valerie Russell, went each week to four sites around Shawnigan Lake to gather information on the streams that feed into and drain out of the lake.

At each site, students measured the oxygen levels, the conductivity, and the temperature of the water and they collected three vials that were sent to the Ministry of

Environment, where they were tested for E-coli, as well as other contaminants. The students were part of a group of about 12 people who were collecting water samples from all around the Shawnigan Watershed; the data collected will help the CVRD to better understand the challenges faced by the watershed. Thank you to Mariah, Jason, Liam, Darian, and Shayda for stepping up in their community!

Furthering their commitment to Community Service and Ecological Sustainability, all of the staff and students at Dwight School Canada will participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on Thursday, September 19th. This will be the fifth straight year participating in this event.

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, since its

start in 1994, has become Canada's largest contributor to the International Coastal Cleanup, a global effort to remove harmful litter and aquatic debris from shorelines. In 2011, 57000 participants nation wide cleaned up a total of 3000 km of shoreline at 1700 different sites, picking up 145,000 kg of debris. This year students will focus on various locations in the Shawnigan Basin as well as the Mill Bay waterfront.

The clean-up will be starting at around 12:30. Anybody wishing to participate can email faculty member Mario DeSandoli at: mdesandoli@dwightcanada.org.

These two initiatives mark a broader commitment to sustainability at the school. Stay tuned for details of the Dwight Sustainability Challenge!



Photo: Juliana Wigmore

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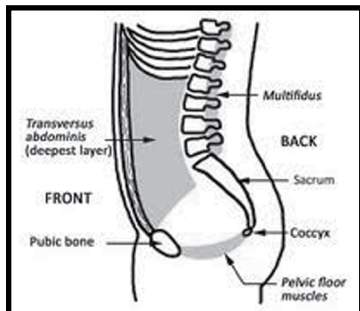
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Sit up straight! The anatomy of a healthy spine!

Nicola Cusi
KaliYoga Studio



You didn't even feel it coming. You were doing perfectly fine, no problem with the back, you didn't even do anything. Just bent down to tie those shoelaces. Stupid shoelaces - who needs them anyway? That's when it hap-

pened - that sudden sharp pain shooting up the spine, down the right leg, spasms in the lower back that didn't let you get up again.

About 90% of all back problems stem from the same issue: The vertebrae are held in place by a set of small muscle fibres, part of the multifidus muscles in the back and the transversus abdominis in the front of the body, stabilizing and protecting the spine. Those muscles form an inner layer of core muscles, keeping the single vertebrae from slip-

ping and sliding when we engage any of the bigger muscles for bigger movement. When we bend down to pick something up, small enough to not watch our posture and engage those inner core muscles, the vertebrae slide, tilt and pinch or damage the intervertebral disks and compress nerves that cause muscles to spasm. Sportive people are not immune to this problem! On the contrary! Stronger backs are capable of even bigger spinal movements and when the core is not engaged, create even more damage to the

fragile structure underneath.

Big spinal movement without engaging the core can be damaging to the spine!

In Yoga we learn to isolate those inner muscular layers from the bigger outer ones. We learn to be more aware of our posture and how to move consciously. Smaller movements are designed to activate those inner core muscles, stabilizing the spine to prepare for strong backs, big movements and prevent injury. Less is more!

How many people do you

know who suffer from some kind of back pain? To think that 90% of it could be prevented with simple regular exercises! Start early enough to avoid more serious structural damage.

With this article I want to welcome a new Yoga teacher to KaliYoga Studio. Lisa Dymond just moved to Shawnigan Lake and will focus her Yoga classes on back care and spinal alignment, including Critical Alignment Therapy workshops.

www.kaliyoga.ca



Take a Hike!

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

The Avatar Grove is truly an astounding place to be! Only 20 minutes from Port Renfrew, it is easily accessible and so amazing. I felt like a little gnome whilst walking amongst the giant cedars, firs and hemlocks that live there. The Ancient Forest Alliance (www.ancientforestalliance.org) advises that Canada's gnarliest tree lives right there in the grove as well. One of the trees is so gnarly and has such a ginormous burl (approx. 12 ft) that its nickname is Jabba the Hut.

If you're like me, you immediately thought of Hollywood's flick 'Avatar' when you read or heard the name. And, yes, the rumour says it is actually named after the movie due to its likeness to Pandora's landscape and that during the time of the area's discovery,

Avatar was a popular stage for the movie.

Not too long ago there were not any definitive trails, per se, but the subtle paths are getting more and more groovy over time as people are starting to make their way to this magical spot. From the road, there are two well marked areas to choose from, the upper and lower groves. Your fitness level will help you decide. For a gentler stroll and view of the Jabba tree, stick to the upper. The lower route, down to the Gordon River, however, features abundant old growth and great fun climbing over and through huge fallen logs and steep, rugged declines. This is not for the average sightseer in flip flops, no no!

Beautiful drive, beautiful trees and totally worth the effort. Get out to visit the

Avatar Grove and see these hundred to a thousand year old trees. Many thanks to the efforts of the Ancient Forest Alliance for unfailingly working to save this once endangered area. As of February 2012, the Ministry of Forests declared that the Avatar Grove is protected from harvesting. Whoo hoo!

Did you know that most commercial toilet papers are being made from old growth trees in Canada? Crazy, since it's not even recyclable. When we visit our Island's old growth forests I believe we help to save them. Knowledge of their existence helps to instill awe, and awareness, but at the same time we must show respect to these elders by treading lightly in their homes.

Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's viewpoints with The Iron Butts (www.theomtree.com)

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Young Seniors Action Group Society



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

Last month, we presented the two walking groups, one for women and one for men that meet every Monday morning. This month we feature the wood carving group. Dennis Smith is the group leader and here he describes some details of this group.

The YSAGS Woodcarving group meets every Friday morning from 9:00 am to Noon. We meet at the Legion in Shawnigan Lake from September to June. The group, at present, consists of about 10 members, including men and women. We are an informal group – the social aspect is as

important as the carving. We work together sharing techniques and learning from our own and each others successes and mistakes.

We have several woodcarving books and magazines as reference material and we recently purchased an electric honing machine to keep a sharp edge on our carving tools.

There are two woodcarving shows and competitions held on Vancouver Island. Our members participate in each, by entering their carving projects, There are many categories in these shows and they cater to all wood carvers, from novice to expert. Our members invariably bring home ribbons for

their winning entries.

Our door is always open to welcome new members, so come and give it a try. Woodcarving is a very relaxing and stress-free hobby. Any one can learn how to shave off the extra bits of wood that aren't part of whatever they envision in their minds and end up with a piece of great art.

We have an extra set of carving tools for new members to use so they can try their hand at it and see if they want to take up this hobby.

I can be reached by phone: 250 743 8337 or email: ysagssl@gmail.com.





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TELLINGTON TTOUCH PRACTITIONER
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Department Members Attended 17 Calls in August.
Department Officers attended 4 burning complaints.



- ★ Friday, Aug 2 – MVI on Stowood Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 2 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Aug 5 – MVI on South Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 7 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 7 – Unattended Fire on Cullin Rd
- ★ Friday, Aug 9 – 1st

- Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 10 – 1st Responder in Arbutus Mtn Estates
- ★ Thursday, Aug 15 – 1st Responder in Burnum Park
- ★ Thursday, Aug 15 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 17 – 1st Responder in the Village
- ★ Saturday, Aug 17 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, Aug 19 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Aug 24 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd

- ★ Sunday, Aug 25 – 1st Responder in the Beach Estates
- ★ Monday, Aug 26 – Alarms Activated in the Beach Estates
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 28 – MVI on Colman Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Aug 28 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd

The Shawnigan Lake Fire department is currently accepting applications for fire fighters & junior fire fighters.

Applications can be obtained on the department website:

www.Shawniganfire.Com

Or on wednesday evenings @ 7 pm @ Hall 1, 1645 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**
1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre (SLCC)
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission**
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association Board meeting**
3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association**
1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm, currently at the Village Chipperry
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact bburr@shaw.ca to get on the mailing list. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**
Sept. 27 - 11 a.m. Inspire! space Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable**
See website for details: www.shawniganwater.org
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**
Inspire!fest Sept. 21 - 2-7 For more info: www.inspireshawnigan.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129586433786330/>
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)** A group for active seniors around Shawnigan Lake, Cobble Hill and Mill Bay. Info at: www.ysag.ca email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum** - Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4.
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com email: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca
Heritage Fair Sept. 21 2-4:30
- ★ **www.exploringshawniganlake.com**

Folk Dancing in Mill Bay

The place to be on Monday nights from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. is the Mill Bay Community Hall next to Kerry Park Arena on the Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. There you can join the Cowichan Valley International Folk Dancers as they dance to delightful music from around the world. Most dances are done in a line or a circle, so you don't need a partner in

order to take part.

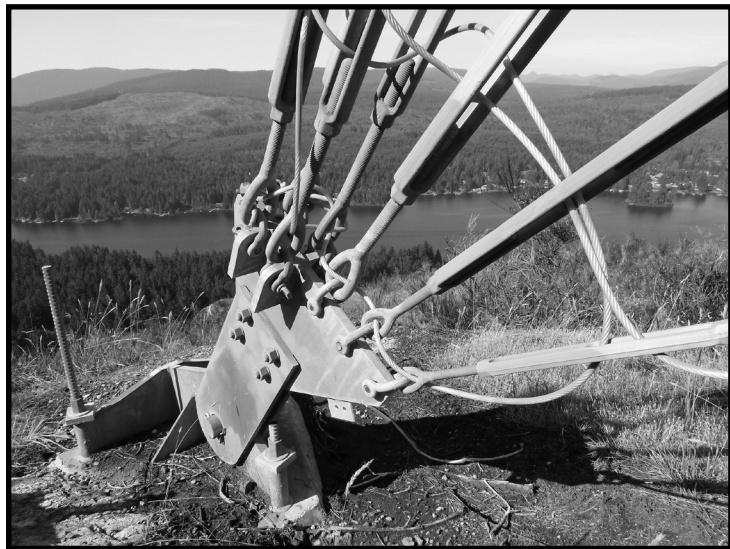
The night begins with a few easy warm-up dances, followed by teaching and review sessions for new dances or ones that have not been done for a while, then request dancing for the last hour.

Newcomers learn right along with others who have danced for some time. Once

you know some of the steps, it is often easy just to follow the leader.

The first night is free. After that drop-in fees are \$5 a night. The annual membership (for at least 50 nights of dancing during the year) is a bargain at \$80. For more information call Lyn or Jim at 250-743-2686 or Kate at 250-743-5068.

What is it? Where is it? Why is it?



CONGRATULATIONS! AUGUST
The winner FOR AUGUST was TRACY Salmon. The Photo showed the peak of the new RCMP boathouse located at Shawnigan Lake School just east of Shawnigan's read crew-house. Please see the news Release, also printed in this issue, for more information. Winners receive two specialty coffees at Shawnigan House

first correct answer sent to editor@shawniganfocus.ca

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETING September 21st at 7:30

- ★ “The State of Our Basin” and “Thinking Like a Watershed”
- ★ With Area B Director Bruce Fraser
- ★ Location: Dwight International School – Dining Hall

ANNEX AID Fundraising Challenge

- ★ Buy-a-Brick Commemorative Engraving Offer. Deadline Oct. 31st.
- ★ Good as Gold Garage Sale, with Plants! Sat. Sept. 28th 9am-3pm at The HUB.
- ★ HUB Social! Sunday Oct. 6th. Cowichan Bay Pub.
- ★ All proceeds go to Cowichan Station Area Association, a registered charity, for HUB renovations
- ★ Contact: 250-746-1794 / info@cowichanstation.org

SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL St. John's Church Cobble Hill

- ★ 21st September 10-3
- ★ Location: 3295 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill.
- ★ Free admission. Discover treasures at Giant Yard Sale Over fifty tables!!
- ★ Phone: 250-743-3095 www.stjohnscobblehill.ca

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSION

- ★ Friday, October 4th at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Location: Quw'utsun' Centre, 200 Cowichan Way, Duncan.
- ★ Join Jean Crowder, MP for Nanaimo-Cowichan, and special guest Megan Leslie, NDP Environment Critic and Deputy Leader, for dinner and discussion about environmental issues.
- ★ Tickets in advance only, contact 250-710-0351.

Young Seniors Action Group Society (YSAGS) upcoming events:

- ★ October 22 Trip to IMAX and dinner in Victoria. All day.
- ★ November 5, Evening. Potluck sit down dinner. Dance.
- ★ Check out our blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca/> Contact us at: ysagssl@gmail.com or phone: 250 743 8344



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SLA Permit Status Report

Brent Beach
Shawnigan Focus

On August 21, the Ministry of Environment awarded the permit. The conditions associated with the permit are somewhat stronger than earlier, with some additional inspections and oversight. However, the types of contaminated soil and the volumes are unchanged. The danger to the watershed is essentially unchanged. It is unacceptable.

On August 26, the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) filed an appeal of the permit with the Environmental Appeal Board. On August 29, the SRA asked for a Stay - no contaminated soil dumping while until the appeal has been decided.

The CVRD is working with the SRA on the appeal of the Permit. The CVRD is also moving ahead on a legal proceeding more closely in line with its legal authority. Regional districts have the right to zone land in the regional district. They further have the right to decide which activities are allowed based on a particular zoning.

The CVRD used this authority to restrict processing within a gravel pit in the Cobble Hill area. This legal case established the extent of a regional district's authority in favour of the regional district. This in effect limited the authority of the province to license certain activities that were contrary to zoning.

This suit holds significant potential for stopping any contaminated waste processing even if the Permit is deemed to be valid. This is a very important step in the fight. The CVRD is to be encouraged and applauded for this action and should be further urged to assign all resources necessary to ensure its success.

On the more local front, there are two continuing efforts individual efforts and one group effort. John Hayes, of poster and bumper sticker fame, has produced a new poster listing the toxic chemicals that the permit allows into the contaminated waste facility.

Look for an opportunity to get your poster soon. They are usually available at SRA fund raising events. Display it prominently!

Ron Witherspoon continues his plan to bring a class action suit, naming the provincial government. The class action is based on research showing that permitting a contaminated soil facility in a watershed used for drinking water will drastically lower property values in that watershed. The suit aims to recover lost property value from the Province.

The SRA continues fund raising activities to support is legal action to stop the Permit. After a very successful Bottle Drive at Mason's store (thousands of dollars raised), they are having a beer and burger night at the Black Swan on September 28 with ALL proceeds going to their legal action fund! Thanks, Black Swan Pub!

Links to documents and news stories at BrentattheFocus.blogspot.com




The High Note in Music Learning

Music for Young Children's group keyboard lessons include singing, rhythm, listening and movement activities that are hands on and tailored to a child's learning styles and needs. It's the ideal way to learn to play!

Register now for fall classes!
Catharina de Beer 250-929-3303
catsmusicstudio@gmail.com www.myc.com/Teacher/CDebeer





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

Classes for ages 2 to Adult
Mon Sept 9th

Shawnigan Lake Village | www.LTDANCESTUDIO.com | 250.661.1767
2744 Shawnigan Lake Rd ~ below Steeples Restaurant WATCH FOR OUR GROUPON

Service and Repair

lawn mowers, lawn tractors, outboards, trimmers, chainsaws, and other power equipment!
Pick-up and delivery available

Sager's Small Engine & Marine

250-743-3771
1666 Jersey Road, Shawnigan Lake
sagersmarine@shaw.ca

Lexington Spa

Hot Chocolate Foot Spa

2 HR PACKAGE - \$80.00 NO GST

RELAX & ENJOY YOUR . . .
PEDICURE (with warm chocolate paraffin),
MANICURE . . . AND A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE!

We provide a selection of OPI Polishes.

Enjoy this offer at Cindy's studio located at
4511 Goldstream Heights Drive, off Shawnigan Lake Road.
Comfortable, welcoming, new South Shawnigan Studio
Licensed • Insured • Bonded

Call Cindy - make your arrangements now!

CINDY BEAM
Certified Reflexologist (RAC)
& Nail Professional
Home visits available.

by appointment only :
250-514-1380
www.lexingtonspa.ca
lexingtonspa@shaw.ca

Heritage fair

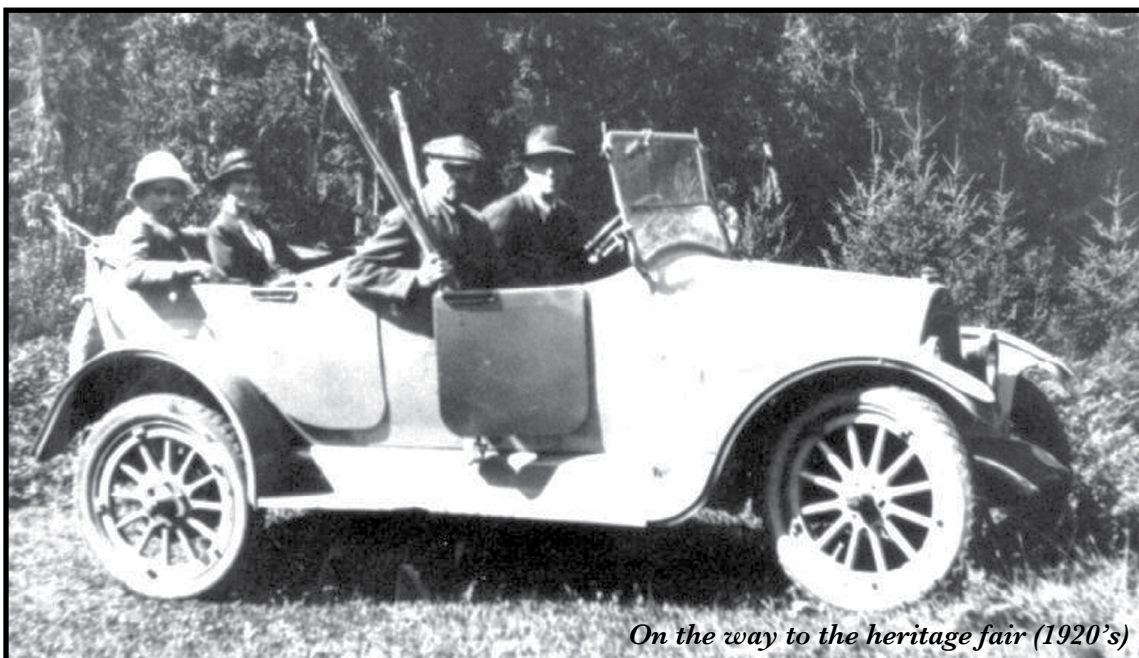
Saturday, September 21st 2-4:30 on the Centennial Park slab next to the Museum...

Enjoy all of our heritage activities in action:

★ carving ★ knitting ★ weaving ★ fly tying
★ spinning ★ lacemaking ★ quilting

Plenty of other hands-on activities (no cost) including:

Have your photo taken in historical costumes (we will email you your photo following the event), try your hand at washing clothes on a washboard, play old fashioned games...



On the way to the heritage fair (1920's)

HALLOWE'EN HOE-DOWN OCTOBER 16TH!

The skeletons will be line dancing...Yeee-Haaaw!

October 26th, 6-8 pm, at the Community Centre, there will be a Hallowe'en Hoedown with real country hopping highlighted by Shelley Vaags (Smiley), and live entertainment for the whole dang family!

Come as whoever you wannabe and enjoy the fun, food, dancing, prizes and treat bags!

NOW YOU ALL COME BACK AND CHECK OUT THE OCTOBER FOCUS FOR THE REST OF THE DETAILS!