



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Seventeen- Issue Five

May 2026, Punhwe'num
"The time when the blue camas blooms."

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Shawnigan Clean-up Day a Great Success



Dinah Clark
Shawnigan Rotary
Eco-Club

Now it's time to Adopt-a-Spot, Year-Round

It was incredibly heart-warming to see so many community members, families, students and young Girl Guide members spend their beautiful sunny Saturday April 25, to pick litter – small and very large – all thrown or



dumped illegally around Shawnigan.

But "lo and behold", we see more litter appear on the roadside only days after. Should we let it go? NOPE! Let's work together to keep it going. Cowichan Valley citizens have clearly shown great passion to protect our beautiful, bountiful, much-loved valley.

The Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub has launched an Adopt-a-Spot program, and many participants chose to adopt an area to remove litter as often as they can, year-round.

Can you join us? Do you already pick litter regularly? If we work together, we can cover the whole of Shawnigan!

If you Adopt-a-spot by May 31, 2026 you can enter to win one of 2 Prize Packages:

#1: Fun for the Kids

Package with:

- Inflatable raft with paddles
- Boat safety kit
- 2 free, one scoop cones at West Coast Cones in Shawnigan Village

#2: Treat Yourself
Package with:

- \$50 gift certificate to R-Harn Thai Restaurant
- \$50 gift certificate to Dinters Nursery
- \$25 gift certificate to Shawnigan Gas plus jerry can
- 2 free, one scoop cones at West Coast Cones in Shawnigan Village

To enter to win one of the Prize packages, send us:

1. Your name
2. Your email



3. The area you have chosen to adopt
4. The Prize Package you want to win, by May 31, 2026 to: ShawniganCleanUpEvent@gmail.com

Many thanks to Fisher Rd. Recycling/DL Bins for their donation of a dumpster plus dumping fees. See our advertisement for the local businesses who donated draw prizes to our Event.

We are very grateful for their support. ShawniganCleanUpEvent@gmail.com

Many thanks to Fisher Rd. Recycling/DL Bins for their donation of a dumpster plus dumping fees. See our advertisement for the local businesses who donated draw prizes to our Event. We are very grateful for their support.

Legion Offers Free Membership This Year

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion—one of Canada's longest-standing community organizations—is celebrating a major milestone in 2026: its 100th anniversary. Founded on July 17, 1926, the Legion has grown into a nationwide network of more than 1,400 branches and 269,000 members (as of January 2025).

Many Canadians know the Legion for its annual Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11, which raise millions of dollars to support veterans and their families. But the organization's history and mission run much deeper.

The Legion's roots trace back to 1925, when representatives from at least 15 veterans' groups and regimental associations met in

Winnipeg to coordinate their efforts. That collaboration led to the creation of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, officially incorporated by Parliament in 1926. In 1960 the organization received the "Royal" designation and became The Royal Canadian Legion.

Over the decades the Legion has evolved to reflect Canada's broader service community. Membership, once limited to veterans of the First and Second World Wars, expanded to include those who served in later conflicts and peacekeeping missions, RCMP and police personnel, cadets, and eventually the general public. Today the Legion is both an advocate for veterans' welfare and a cornerstone of community life—hosting local events, charitable fundraisers, and programs that keep

remembrance and service at the centre of Canadian culture.

To mark its centennial, the Legion is offering free membership throughout 2026—a welcome invitation to anyone seeking a place to connect, volunteer, and give back. You do not need to be military, RCMP, or a first responder to join; many members, myself included after 20 years, are not.

The Malahat Legion will hold a centennial celebration on July 17th, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM—the anniversary of the national Legion's founding. Attendance is limited to members plus one guest; if you know a member, ask them to bring you along. Or just drop by any Friday or Saturday when we are open to sign up for free and join—we'd be glad to welcome you. Hope to see you there.



May 2026 at the Malahat Legion

Regular Hours

Fridays and Saturdays

- Bar 1:00-7:00 PM
- Kitchen 12:00-4:30 PM

Drop-in Events

Wednesdays

- Crib 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Fridays

- Euchre – 2:00-4:00 PM
- Mahjong – 1:00-3:30 PM

Saturdays

- Meat Draws - 3:00-5:00 PM
- One patron won \$440 at our free key game a couple of weeks ago and kindly donated

the money back to the Legion. The game was set back to \$20 and increases by \$20 each week nobody wins

*Our Special Events:

- For our Centennial year, the Legion offers free membership
- Friday, May 22nd – Lasagna Dinner followed by Mits Nakagawa's Music Bingo. Sign up on our website, malahatlegion.ca
- Sunday, May 31st – Check out our Pets at Pet Adoption Day 10 am to 1 PM.

More Legion events are available at [Upcoming Legion Events](#)

Shawnigan Focus

South Cowichan Library

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

Family Storytime happens at 10:30am on Fridays from May 8 to May 29. Look for us at the Mill Bay Centre playground!

Parent-Child Mother Goose sessions are running every Thursday, 10:30-11:30am, now through June 11. Focussing on ages 0-2 and their adults. Drop-in welcome.

South Cowichan Seed Library is stocked with seeds for vegetables, herbs, and flowers, generously donated by West Coast Seeds and our community. It's time to start growing!

Tech Help: Drop in Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays or make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.

LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

Intermediate Conversational Spanish meets 5:30 to 6:30pm on Thursdays. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting.

Conversational Scottish Gaelic is a fun way for people interested in learning Scottish Gaelic to practice together. Join in at 4:30pm on Tuesdays.

Intermediate Chess meets Wednesdays at 1pm. For experienced players looking for matches.

Book a Librarian: available various days and times for a 1-on-1 session on using the library catalogue, downloading digital books and audiobooks, help researching, and more.

If you know someone local who is unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our volunteer **Home Delivery service**. They can get books, audiobooks, and DVDs delivered to their door monthly.

The library stocks **period products** in the washroom using donations of items or money to support this. Thank you!

www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at <https://www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan>

Shawnigan Focus Weather — April 2026



Stats courtesy of [UVic Weather Network](#) and [Weather Underground](#)

Reported by Grant Treloar



Weather Icon	April Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Beach Estates		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Average High	13.5	16.6	16.2	16.6	16.2	16.4	16.2	17.1	16.9	16.7	16.4
Average Low	3.8	4.6	4.2	2.7	1.9	4.6	4.1	4.9	4.1	4.2	3.6
Extreme High	30.0	25.0	25.0	26.1	24.6	25.0	24.1	26.2	25.0	25.6	24.7
Extreme Low	-5.6	-0.3	1.0	-2.0	-1.2	-1.3	0.5	-0.4	0.5	-1.0	0.2
Precipitation	71.9	46.9	40.0	36.0	31.5	47.7	32.2	38.3	28.1	42.2	33.0
Days w precip	16	7	8	7	10	8	11	5	8	7	9
Year Precip	541.1	629.6	549.4	507.1	444.6	475.3	418.1	404.9	388.6	504.2	450.2
Precip since Oct 1	1075.8	1352.9	1280.0	1201.0	1129.1	1134.5	1003.1	982.8	953.1	1167.8	1091.3

2026 Rank since 1914: 5th warmest, 35th driest

Lake Readings	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26
Temperature	8.5°	11°	10°	14°
Temperature 2025	10°	11°	12°	14°
Surface Elevation	116.49m	116.41m	116.44m	116.41m
Lake Elevation 202	116.71m	116.55m	116.44m	116.38m

Comments

April was warmer than normal, and much drier than average.

The warmest day was on April 20th with temps around 25°. The daytime temperature reached 20° or higher on 8 days. The coldest nights were on the 15th & 16th, under clear skies with temps bottoming out near -1° (the only two days with freezing temperatures).

Precipitation totals were very low with only 7-8 with any measureable rain. No rain fell after the 16th. The wettest day was on the 14th, with around 20mm. So far, the wet season (October - April) concluded about 10% above normal due to a wet fall.

The region is now in Stage 1 Restrictions: In Stage 1 sprinkling can occur 2 hours maximum, 2 days per week between the hours of 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. Hand-watering, micro drip irrigation subject to daily maximum for food or ornamental gardens is allowed.

The lake level is now controlled by the weir. It will go down slightly each week, according to the long term average. At the end of April it was about 6 cm below average. The lake water temperature is now warming quickly. Depending on whether there is a long stretch of sunny weather, the temperature sometimes reaches 20° by the beginning of June.

Daylight hours are increasing by 2½ - 3½ minutes daily. Sunset moves from 8:29 PM on May 1st to 9:08 PM on the 31st. It moves north by 11° during the month. The sunset location moves 16° north to 294°N by the end of the month.

Director's Report and Community Updates

Sierra Acton
Area Directo B - Shawnigan Lake

Wow — our community really shines, especially after the big Clean-Up Day! A huge thank you to the organizers and everyone who participated. Special thanks as well to those who help year-round, including the Shawnigan Eco Club and the unsung heroes I see walking the ditches and picking up litter on a regular basis — your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you!

CVRD Has a Newsletter! Great way to stay inform!!

It's worth signing up:

<https://www.planyourcowichan.ca/cvrd-newsletter-update>

Highlights this month include:

CVRD has paused work on the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw. Discussions are underway to repeal the Official Community Plan Bylaw — stay tuned.

South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment and Referendum Questio

2026 General Local Elections- Hot Topic in Community. If you are thinking of Running I'm happy to share my experience- Call me!

To see the above reports go to planyourcowichan.ca (can also sign up for notifications)

Governance and Community Advocacy

I know many of you are tired and frustrated with the number of "no's" we receive, or hearing "that's

not our jurisdiction," or being reminded that as an unincorporated community, we have limited control.

The South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment highlighted these frustrations. There was little that was new — the concerns are familiar and have been voiced for years. While the report was presented to the Board for information, I firmly believe the conversation can't end there.

I continue to emphasize the need for clarity:

When does incorporation make sense?

Is it based on tax base? Population? We simply need to know what the threshold is so we can plan and prepare. Please check out the EcoPlan report and share your feedback with me — your input matters.

More on the referendum question, next month.

Summer Updates

Summer is a busy time! Thank you in advance for your patience with visitors and lake users.

SL Regatta:

Mother's Day weekend will be especially busy. Please be aware of the racecourse. A gentle reminder — we as a community have decided to respectfully share the lake for all users,. Please help these kids remember a warm welcoming community!

Traffic & Parks:

Expect more boats, trailers, and activity around the lake and in our parks. If you notice any Parks needing attention, please call CVRD Parks Toll-Free: 1-800-665-3955.

Hu/Short Term Rentals:

Short-term rentals are a hot topic right now, and I'm hopeful the CVRD will be able to act quickly once the Board sets a clear direction. You can be sure I will be advocating for a balanced approach, one that supports both our community's needs and our local businesses. Shawnigan Lake is the heart and soul of our community. We take pride in the fact that so many people create lasting memories here, and we want to continue welcoming visitors who contribute positively to our community spirit and economy.

Thank you again, Shawnigan, for being such a strong and caring community.

Enjoy the start of a vibrant summer!

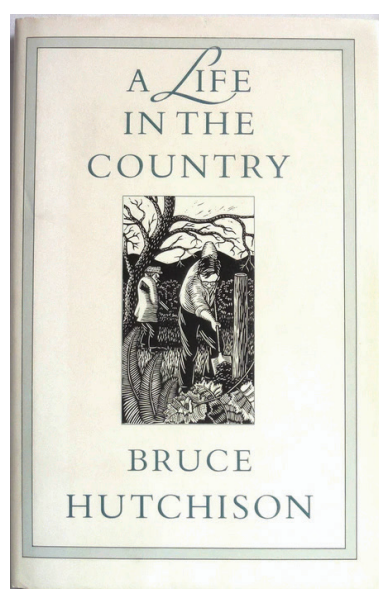
The Free and the Earthbound

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

For several generations, Bruce Hutchison was one of Canada's beloved newspapermen and "the dean of Canadian political commentators". When he found time to leave his Victoria home for some rest and relaxation, made his way to Shawnigan Lake where he transformed a wilderness shack into a family cabin full of memories.

In 1988 - at the age of 87 years - Hutchison published "A Life in the Country", a bittersweet look at the joys and tribulations of "the country life that urban dwellers envy and fortunately escape."

This excerpt is from the "Spring" section of the book.



ONE DAY, puttering around our wilderness cabin, we watched spring ripen to maturity as a flock of Canada geese moved north. Though they flew high, we could hear their honking, even the whisper of their wings, and read the native script legible to all Canadians, filled with gladness and wild regret.

We craned our necks to follow the flight. An old man fishing from a rowboat painfully straightened his back, shaded his eyes and gazed at the noblest of birds. Two youngsters stood up in their canoe and almost overturned it. The shouting kids on the wharf fell silent until the flock disappeared behind Mount Malahat.

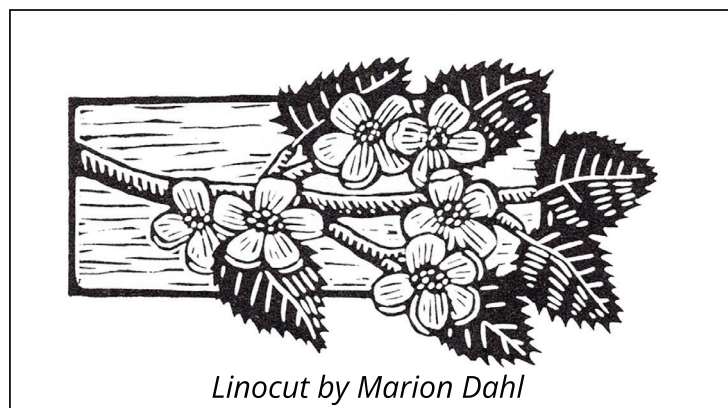
All Canadians look up to follow the geese wedges against the sky and feel an urgent longing in their hearts. The young are touched by a wild surmise. The old discern the swift and bitter passage of their lives. For the geese there is a certain destination and a journey that never fails, while we are bound to the earth.

The fetters binding camp denizens like Dot and me are especially tight at this season. A woodland

cabin may be the most dependable retreat from a world well lost, but it demands much service and constant repair. Defying the laws of gravity, this edifice is supported by some inner principle unfamiliar to architects. Like all durable works, it is built on the foundation of a dream. Held together by invisible hoops of affection as strong as steel, it survives not only the physical climate but the mental weather of a demented age.

Before we set a temperamental hand pump close to the lake and a discarded oil drum on stilts for a tank behind the cabin, pails continued to be our waterworks. But when some twenty minutes at the long handle of our new pump lifted forty gallons to the oil drum, we felt almost too civilized.

Even when a branch road had been built years later, it was not allowed past our boundary. To the present day the cabin is reached by a quarter-mile walk. But now we are civilized enough to transport supplies on the ultimate perfection of the wheel - a light, efficient, aluminum wheelbarrow. Our whole organization,



Linocut by Marion Dahl

such as it is, depends on this simple and superb machine. By making a road unnecessary, it guards our seclusion, that rarest and most expensive product on today's market.

By late middle age we could no longer escape the general craze for improvements of all sorts. The cabin was totally rebuilt, but it failed to increase our happiness, only the comfort of our guests. Like a theatre audience, they did not see the months of springtime preparation and labour before the summer opening. Then, behind the producers' backs, they would criticize the play, the service, the food and drink. Or so we suspected as we distributed complimentary tickets and made ready for our modest seasonal repertoire. These, of course, were unworthy suspicions when even solitude sometimes bored us and we were eager for company.

Lacking it, camp people found plenty of time to think. The city had a superior apparatus of thought with its university, libraries, specialists of every kind and that highest source of wisdom, the television set. Although they offered grand, abstract ideas, as young folk our minds were on practical, immediate things, not culture or humanity's dubious prospects.

Island return it

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

1350 Fisher Rd.
islandreturnit.com

"The only way to have a friend is to be one."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

BOOK YOUR TIRE SWAP NOW!

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE

250-743-2122

Maintenance Offer **Book an appointment now.**

shawnigangarage.com

'A safe car is a safe drive!'

Springtime Brings
Summer Tire Time

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

2-Stroke Bar & Chain Oil Available Now!

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

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

Shawnigan Focus

Make It So!

Kim Barnard
250-732-0531

The people have spoken. Online and in person, through signs and petitions, and in many, many emails and letters. Our local government has lost its way. How important and necessary it is, that we are coming together united in our response to make this draft process better!

A great place for us to start this conversation is to dust off the current Zoning Bylaw 985 for CVRD Area B Shawnigan Lake. Also, take note of how enforcement happens through the “complaint driven” system. Clearly, much revision work needs to be done.

Make the rules simply make sense! We are by

nature non-conforming - as in we have creative ways of living (and thriving) that don't neatly line up with regulations. Furthermore, trying to consolidate 9 rural electoral areas' worth of zoning bylaws is a mistake. It would be easier to appoint 9 local bylaw officers as experts of their areas, tasked with an approach to educate first, before escalating penalties.

I'm all about co-creating a realistic set of Land Use “Do's and Don'ts” that aren't going to pit neighbour against neighbour. I'm also especially interested in making sure we work together street by street to know and look after each other in much-needed emergency preparedness.

I hope we can talk. I'm interested to learn about your experiences with the CVRD and where you



see a path forward.

You can count on me to participate, communicate, and advocate for our community as I have been doing in a volunteer capacity for the past several years - and especially in public service to earn your trust as our next director. All of us will be voting to choose a skilled, sensibly-grounded and well-informed leader to help guide us through uncertain times ahead.

Let's chat further!

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

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

April 2026 Report
Department Members Attended
40 Incidents in April

- Wednesday, Apr 1 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 1 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 1 - MVI on S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Thursday, Apr 2 - 1st Responder off Ravenhill Rd
- Thursday, Apr 2 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday Apr 2 - Alarms Activated on Wilmot Ave
- Friday, Apr 3 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- Saturday, Apr 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Apr 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Apr 6 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Apr 7 - Alarms Activated on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 8 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 8 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 8 - 1st Responder off Malta Rd
- Thursday, Apr 9 - Structure Fire on Poplar Ln
- Thursday, Apr 9 - 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- Thursday, Apr 9 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Friday, Apr 10 - 1st Responder off Hartl Rd
- Saturday, Apr 11 - MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Apr 13 - Alarms Activated on Raymond Rd
- Tuesday, Apr 14 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- Thursday, Apr 16 - 1st Responder off Sooke Lake Rd
- Thursday, Apr 16 - Burning Complaint on Glen Eagles Road
- Friday, Apr 17 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Apr 17 - 1st Responder off Bob O'Link Rd
- Saturday, Apr 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday Apr 18 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Apr 19 - Structure Fire on Brandon Rd
- Sunday, Apr 19 - Burning Complaint on Ceylon Rd
- Sunday, Apr 19 - 1st Responder off Burnham Rd
- Sunday, Apr 19 - 1st Responder off Baldy Mtn Rd
- Sunday, Apr 19 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- Monday, Apr 20 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Apr 21 - MVI on Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Apr 21 - 1st Responder off Ravenhill Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Apr 25 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Sunday, Apr 26 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Apr 26 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd

Shawnigan Lake Set to Host 65th Annual Regatta, May 8-10

Jennifer Parfitt
Shawnigan Lake School

As Head of Rowing, I feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a welcoming and community-minded area. Over the past year, during many early mornings on the lake, I've been reminded time and again of just how special this place is. Heading out at 6 a.m., with the lake calm and the sky just beginning to shift with the sunrise, there's a quiet beauty here that never ceases to amaze me.

It's a setting that inspires our athletes and I am really grateful I have the opportunity to support youth in their athletic endeavours in such an exceptional place.

From May 8-10, our amazing lake will host hundreds of youth athletes who have trained tirelessly for the opportunity to compete. They will be giving their all, pushing themselves and each other in the true spirit of sport.



We are grateful for the continued support of the community in making this event possible. As always, we kindly ask anyone planning to be on the water over the weekend to be mindful of their wake. The racing shells are very narrow and light making it very easy to capsize or even worse snap in half if in between the trough of two waves.

Racing will take place primarily in the area around West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park and Mason's Beach. We will not be rowing in the channel to Memory Island or the far/south end of the lake during the regatta.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. We hope you'll take a moment to watch the racing and share in the excitement of this special weekend. Best places to watch the start would be from Masons Beach or the government docks and the finish at West Shawnigan Lake Park. Thank you Shawnigan Community!

ONE MEMBERSHIP... YOU GET IT ALL!



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

VALLEY HEALTH and FITNESS

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

Sylvan United Church Spring Fling

Sylvan United Church will be holding their Spring Fling on Saturday, May 9th at their property next door to Frances Kelsey School. Gates open at 9am until 1pm! This is your opportunity to pick up plants of all sorts, baking, gently used clothing and some great 'new to you' buys! Also available will be a concession for a late breakfast snack or early lunch! Enjoy our spring gardens or check out our sanctuary, home to many local musical concerts! Information and schedules of events is posted on site! For more information go to sylvanunited.ca

The Opportunity for Effective Forest Zoning Bylaws

John Robertson
Director

The Cowichan Valley Regional District Official Community Plan (OCP) has recently been revised and adopted on November 26, 2025 and sets down a 20 year vision for development in the region. The new OCP provides an opportunity to influence zoning bylaws that speak to the overarching goals and policies that the regional government has identified in the document. The recent release of a draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw (CZB) is an example of the importance of the need for clear alignment between higher level planning tools and the operational documents like the CZB and Development Permit Areas (DPA).

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) would like to identify the opportunity to address water quality and conservation issues outlined in the OCP through careful and targeted drafting of zoning bylaws. It is the goal of the SBS to protect

and conserve natural assets on 30% of the watershed area by 2030 by developing and implementing a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in partnership with the CVRD, Provincial Government and First Nations. Since 80% of Area B is zoned Renewable Resource - Forestry, it is imperative that zoning bylaws for forest lands promote and encourage retention of mature forest ecosystems with natural assets that maintain or restore watershed function.

Currently, regional governments with a large portion of private forest lands, are removed from administrative oversight if those lands are managed under the Private Managed Forest Lands Act and zoning bylaws cannot impede forest management activities by the owners. As a consequence the CVRD defers to a simplistic F1 zoning that recognizes traditional resource extraction as the key use for the land with

allowance to cut timber, source gravel and carry out mining operations. These land use designations provide no recognition of the conservation oriented goals and policies of the OCP, such as those addressing changing climate and the protection and restoration of natural assets. There must be forest zoning options defined for alternative ecosystem based management practices that broaden the spectrum of land uses beyond simple resource extraction.

There are examples of alternative zoning designations that address conservation in the Shawnigan watershed. The Malahat Forest Estates, located in the south end of the watershed, is zoned to accommodate ecoforestry, conservation and wood products processing and manufacturing among residential uses and small business options. However, this is a one off Comprehensive Development Zone to address the "special"



circumstances of the original development proposal for the area.

The SBS encourages the CVRD to create specific zoning bylaws that provide regulatory support to alternative forest management objectives. Opportunities to create community land stewardship models such as Community Forest Trusts, encourage forest practices that

retain and restore mature forest structure with a diversity of species, and identify forest properties for conservation must be provided by a range of zoning bylaws. By distancing CVRD bylaws from the old short rotation clearcut paradigm of years past, the CVRD can encourage proactive land use decisions that support the goals and policies of the OCP.

Wild Side – Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Shawnigan Focus

The Bald Eagle is not really bald – its head is covered in snowy white feathers, as is its tail. The name is derived from an older meaning of white-headed. In our part of the world, the Bald Eagle lives year 'round. As avid fisher birds, these members of the raptor family are happy residents of the Shawnigan community. Often, you can spot them perching on the tallest tree overlooking the lake, as they wait for dinner to swim past.

There are many stories of a Bald Eagle swooping down and catching a meal from the water with its large talons – and sometimes, directly from a fisherman's boat. These birds have a superior sense of vision that allows them to see significantly farther than a human.

The babies are called eaglets and life is tough for them.

Only about 50% survive. Ea-glets start out grey and fluffy and by 12 weeks old, when they are ready to leave the nest, they have turned brown.

Their signature white head does not occur until they are about four years old. The average lifespan of

a Bald Eagle is anywhere from 25-40 years in the wild and longer in captivity.

The Bald Eagle is Canada's largest bird of prey and the US National bird (and animal) symbol. It is the only eagle exclusive to North America.

Bald Eagles make their homes in forested areas near large bodies of water, ensuring good fishing and large trees for nesting. Eagles are at the top of the food chain and have no natural enemies.

They primarily eat fish but, if hungry, they will eat rabbits, squirrels, birds and even young deer. They are not above scavenging for carrion or stealing the kills of other animals.

I have been lucky enough to see a bald eagle taking a bath in the lake. The bird stood in the water and splashed the water over its body, ducked its head under the water and had a grand old time. When he was done he perched on an old snag to dry off, for at least a half an hour, shaking the water from his feathers and grooming himself. Another time, I thought that I was witnessing an eagle in distress, as it seemed to be floundering in the water. To my surprise he was swimming, using a stroke



Photo by Bob Starkey

very much like 'butterfly'. Eventually he came to a log boom and pulled himself out of the water onto the logs with lunch in his clutches. It was amazing!

Bald Eagles generally mate for life. Together, they build an enormous nest built of sticks, called an eyrie (or aerie), the largest nest in the bird world. There have been Bald Eagle nests that weighed as much as one ton. They share incubation of their eggs (up to three per year). The sexes are identical in plumage and the female is about 25% larger.

Did you know?

When a bald eagle loses a feather on one wing, it will lose a feather on the other in order to keep its balance!

Several words can be used to describe a group of eagles: 'convocation'; 'jubilee'; 'soar' and 'tower' of eagles.

Mill Bay Flower & Garden Show

Show & Go!

Saturday, June 06, 2026

Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue

Adults \$2 / Children free

Join Us from 9 AM to 2 PM

Show!

Exhibit Your Prized Flowers or Veggies

Dozens of classes to enter – open to all

Five whimsical flower-arranging challenges

Prizes in all categories

Do you have a budding gardener in the family?

Special classes for young gardeners

Go!

Help Support Local Charities

Silent Auction: Dozens of delightful treasures to bid on

Shop, Dine and Learn at Our Garden Market

Give your garden a boost with fresh plants and garden accessories.

Enjoy the incomparable Strawberry Tea

Talk to Master Gardeners

Admire the Exhibits

Vote for the People's Choice Award

Mill Bay Garden Club

Download Exhibitors Guide:

www.millbaygardenclub.com/show

Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

April was busy at the museum. The very talented writer, producer and director of the new EJ Hughes movie, *The Painted Life of EJ Hughes*, came to the museum to talk about her new film on Hughes. She gave talks to two lucky audiences before screening the film. She also arranged for the museum to screen the documentary five more times.

It was a gift to be able to celebrate Hughes in the museum. Hughes would likely have

been thrilled to have all this fuss about him in Shawnigan Lake, where he lived early in his career. He was literally 'discovered' here. We hope to have the opportunity to show it again later this year.

The documentary can be streamed from the *Knowledge Network*.

Sylvia Swift, a local artist, is currently showing her lovely paintings at the museum in a show called 'Stories of Birds'. Sylvia has been sharing stories of birds that visit her yard. You can hear her bird stories on Saturday, May 8th at 11:00, 1:00 and 3:00.

The museum recently participated in National Film Day, showing two great Canadian Films – *Grey Fox* and *Bye, Bye Blues* – in the museum's retro theatre. It was a great opportunity to watch these Canadian gems. Hope to see you there next year – popcorn included.

We recently had a visit



Seniors' Group Visit



from 30 members of the Victoria Seniors Social Club. It was a great time for our volunteers and the seniors. Let us know if you have a group that wants to arrange a visit. To all teachers in the area – we offer school group visits as well.

Looking for an easy way to support the Shawnigan Lake Museum?!

Next time you take your beverage containers to the South Cowichan Bottle Depot on Fisher Road, just say at the counter how much of your return that you would like to donate



towards the Museum...

That money is directly deposited into the Museum's Bank Account.

Thank you in advance for your support!

The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10-3:30.

Contact: 250-743-8675 or museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com

Opinion

Eric Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

In the U.S., under the "rule" of D. Trump, many senior level teaching institutions have been negatively impacted in the manner and extent that academics now approach their student base.

Faculty is said to experience burnout or moral distress (according to The Canadian Press) accordingly.

The very concept, that faculty ought to be mindful of the manner in which to approach teaching, is cause for extreme concern. The U.S. is on the cusp of interfering politically into college and university curriculum presentation, (from that same publication.) "Since returning to office..... Trump has secured multi-million dollar settlements with several high-profile universities in exchange for...research funding".

The article points tellingly of how far politics have reached to quell academic freedom. In the case of a Texan philosophy teacher/professor who has been told that he could not continue to teach Plato, the very father of Western civilization, because (and I shake my head) he dealt with the topics of gender and sexuality.

Political maneuvering has insinuated itself thus onto campuses across the U.S. and is cause for extreme dismay. The U.S., the long held leader of freedom of expression and democracy is imposing its fascist agenda on the institutions that should be considered inviolate to corruption from political masters. As a result, senior academics are looking to teach in Canada where they can escape such oversight.

That this matter is even on the radar of institutions of higher learning, will only have an adverse chilling effect, and invariably discourage free speech in the U.S.

"A Shawnigan Clean Up Day Success!" Thank you to the community members, students and families who came out to restore the beauty of Shawnigan - and to our local businesses for their support.

"You Are Our Heroes!"

Shawnigan Lake Post Office

Thank You
to our Event Partners and Sponsors!

Shawnigan Lake Rotary EcoClub



For Event Photos and MORE of what we do -

Visit our Website! www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

Understanding the CVRD

Michael Battler
Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan and the CVRD: Inside Regional Governance

Part 2 of a Series Ahead of the October Regional Election

Bylaw No. 4710 (Zoning): Clarity, Proportionality, and What It Means in Practice

In the Cowichan Valley Regional District, proposed Bylaw No. 4710 is a comprehensive update to land use regulations across Electoral Areas, including Shawnigan Lake. The stated intent is to modernize zoning, improve consistency, and align regulations with long-term planning objectives.¹

At a high level, that direction makes sense. Regional districts are expected to manage growth, respond to housing needs, and incorporate environmental considerations within the framework of the Local Government Act.²

But the real question isn't just what the bylaw is intended to do, it's how far it goes, and whether that becomes policy overreach. That leads to a more practical concern, where does land use regulation end and where does control over how people live begin?

What Is Policy Overreach

In the Cowichan Valley Regional District's proposed Bylaw No. 4710, policy overreach may occur where regulation extends beyond managing land use and begins to influence how buildings are used internally, or how people live on their property. Zoning has traditionally focused on where and what can be built. When it begins to influence how spaces are used in practice, the nature of the regulation changes.

In a review of the bylaw,

53 items were identified as examples that show structural and technical patterns, grouped into five areas. Definitions extending beyond land use, subjective or interpretive language, overlap with other regulations, enforcement-related concerns, and direct land-use limitations. Taken together, these findings point to a clear shift, the bylaw moves beyond regulating land use and into regulating how buildings and properties are used in practice.

Not being suggested, is that every provision in the bylaw is problematic, or that the issues identified represent a complete inventory of all potential concerns. Rather, it uses these 53 items as a defined set of examples to illustrate recurring patterns in how the bylaw appears to regulate land, buildings, and everyday use of property, including how definitions shape the application of those regulations, beyond what is typically expected and reasonably necessary for land use regulations.

Clarity, When Wording Becomes the Rule

Clarity is where that shift first shows up. In a bylaw, wording is not just descriptive, it is regulatory. In the proposed Bylaw 4710, some definitions are broad enough to capture multiple activities, while others are implied rather than clearly defined. Certain terms overlap, and some rely on layered cross-references or inconsistent wording across sections. In several cases, subjective terms such as "compatible" or "appropriate" are used, requiring interpretation rather than providing clear direction.

That carries through to how the bylaw functions on the ground. Accessory uses are not always clearly separated from principal

uses. Temporary and permanent uses are not consistently distinguished. In some cases, what is not explicitly permitted becomes restricted by omission. Clarity, in this sense, is not just about readability, it is about whether a property owner can reasonably predict how the rules will be applied.

Proportionality, How Much Regulation Is Enough

Proportionality becomes the next question. Some provisions align with core zoning functions, defining uses, setbacks, and basic land use structure. But a significant portion extends beyond that, introducing broader controls, additional approval pathways, and increased regulatory layering. This shows up in rules applied uniformly across different property types, with limited distinction between low-risk and higher-impact uses, and in added requirements for secondary or incidental activities.

There are also areas where provisions overlap with existing regulations, creating duplication rather than clarity. Individually, these changes may seem minor. Taken together, they create a cumulative effect, increasing complexity, reducing flexibility, and expanding how zoning is applied through the bylaw.

Community Fit and Where Concern Emerges

Community fit is where this becomes most visible. Regional zoning is designed to create consistency, but Shawnigan Lake, like many rural areas, operates with a mix of property sizes, uses, and practical flexibility that does not always align with standardized zoning categories. When a single framework is applied across diverse

communities, that flexibility narrows.

Activities that were once informal may now require formal approval. Multi-use properties may face added constraints. Day-to-day decisions can shift from the property owner to the regulatory process. For many residents, this is where the impact becomes tangible, not in the wording of the bylaw, but in how it changes what is possible.

That is also where the concern tends to come from. Most people do not read bylaws line by line, they experience them. They ask simple questions like why is this being regulated, what has changed, and what problem is this solving?

The review suggests that in some areas, the connection between regulation and a clearly defined issue is not always clear. In others, enforcement provisions appear broader than the problems they are intended to address. Some rules function less as direct prohibitions and more as constraints, where uses remain technically allowed but become harder to achieve in practice. The result is not just a disagreement with individual rules, but a broader concern about how far the regulation extends, and whether it is clearly tied to need.

Looking Ahead

None of this exists in isolation. Regional districts like the Cowichan Valley Regional District are managing growth, environmental expectations, and provincial direction, often at the same time. That can lead to more comprehensive regulatory approaches.

The challenge is balance, clear definitions, proportionate rules, and a framework that reflects how communities actually function in practice, and its impact on the reasonable use of property.

The Proposed Bylaw

No. 4710 is not just a document. It sets the baseline for what can be built, how land can be used, and how people live on their property.

If adopted, it will become the framework that guides future land use decisions and enforcement.

Understanding it is not about reading every detail. It is about understanding how the bylaw applies zoning, how far that application extends, and whether it reflects the community it is meant to serve.

If you want to learn more or explore specific bylaws and projects like the zoning bylaw update, residents are encouraged to review materials directly on the CVRD website and attend the CVRD open houses, to be a part of the process. Behind the scenes, Legislative Services supports this process by coordinating agendas, publishing materials, and maintaining official records so that bylaw discussions and decisions are accessible to the public.³

And in an election year, it's worth taking a closer look at how decisions are made, and how that connects to your vote.

Sources & Disclosure

1. Cowichan Valley Regional District, Zoning Bylaw No. 4710 Project Materials <https://www.planyourcowichan.ca/zoning-bylaw-project>
2. Local Government Act (British Columbia), Part 14 – Planning and Land Use Authority https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96323_14
3. Cowichan Valley Regional District Legislative Services <https://cprd.ca/110/Legislative-Services>
4. Zoning Bylaw Project (Bylaw No. 4710) <https://www.planyourcowichan.ca/zoning-bylaw-project>

This article was prepared using publicly available information and research, with editorial assistance from AI.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
<https://www.cprd.ca/list.aspx#> (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cprd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information: 250-743-8675
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.
Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: ysagsexec2024@gmail.com (web): blog.ysag.ca
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Events: (web) malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events
Contact: (web) malahatlegion.ca/contact-us
(250) 743-4621
- **Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
Contact: hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com
(web): cowichansouthartsguild.com
- **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- **Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**
Meeting Info & Contact: ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca
- **Malahat Lions Club**
Contact: 250-743-0569
- **South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary**
Contact: info@southcha.ca



Mason's Store
YOUR LOCAL STORE

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
(Mom always said ... 'maybe the most important day of the year!')

PHONE: 250 743 2144 FAX: 250 743 7883
SERVING SHAWNIGAN LAKE FOR 70 YEARS

MATTHUW RONALD-JONES
Personal Real Estate Corporation



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



Thinking of an Upgrade?

- Renovation
- New Build
- Addition

Licensed Residential Builders

VICTORIA HOME BUILDERS LTD.
(formerly Dyrda Brothers)
CALL FOR DETAILS
250-589-2817
DyrdaBros.com



Classified

FOR SALE MISC

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

GENERAL INTEREST

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

RENTALS

CHILDCARE

AUTOMOTIVE

LOST - FOUND

HOME SERVICES

PROPERTY SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

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



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

Congratulations!
DOUG HUX correctly identified April's photo of the ramp leading to the Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department boathouse.




Shawnigan
Barber Shop *Fin & Denise*

Experienced Barbers

MEN'S, WOMEN'S & YOUTHS' HAIRCUTS
OPEN Monday thru Saturday • Walk-Ins Welcome
At the 4-Way Stop in Shawnigan Village • Next to the Pharmacy

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW -
250-743-7033 • ONLINE @ shawniganbarbershop.ca




Shawnigan Cemetery

EST 1965

"A Community Resting Place"
Information 250 929 6100

Maintained by
MALAHAT LIONS




Shawnigan Lake's Local Vape Store

CLOSED SUNDAYS IN MAY
VISIT US AT:
www.OhmZoneVapes.ca
1-1752 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.