



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Seventeen- Issue Seven

July 2026 Tum'qw'i'lus
"The hottest time of the year"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Summer Saturdays with the Shawnigan Basin Society

Marcy Fenske

Director

Shawnigan Basin Society

The SBS is Shawnigan Lake's community watershed stewardship society. We are holding an Open House every Saturday in July and August to connect with you! Each Saturday will focus on different watershed or water quality topic(s) with one or two of our Directors. Bios of our Directors are available on our website at shawniganbasinsociety.org.

Stop by between 10am - 2pm at Shawnigan Basin Society's Research and Education Centre at 102-1760 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road, located in the heart of the village. There is parking available front and back.

This is a welcoming opportunity to connect and learn with our qualified professionals and experienced volunteers. Learn about why we've chosen our current strategic priorities that guide our work. Ask specific questions and talk about issues that are important to you. Share

pertinent information that you may have.

Find out about the current state our watershed, forests, creeks and lake water quality. Learn about where we need to be and how we can get there. We've determined conservation goals necessary to restore watershed function/integrity and to protect riparian areas, ecological systems and vital areas currently functioning well that cannot be lost but are at risk. We're up to date on the latest watershed research and looking forward to talking with you.

We are engaged with government at the regional and provincial level as well as major land stakeholders. There is fragmented ownership, regulation and planning impacting our watershed and the future of our water security. The SBS works to bridge these gaps. We are all deeply rooted in this community as your fellow residents with passion, dedication and deep care to protect and secure the long-term health and safety of our watershed and the drinking water it

provides.

There are also endless opportunities for residents to be a part of this very important work, in fact, widespread community awareness and involvement is necessary. It truly takes a village and it will take many voices and actions with ours for the greatest impact and success.

If you have related professional experience or a resident who cares for the environment or a connected community member wanting to support this work, stop by! We look forward to seeing you this summer.

What's Shaking At SBS?

Your South Cowichan Watershed Stewardship Volunteers

- Monthly Activities at our volunteer centre located at #102 - 1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd. (Beside Integral Health & Wellness)
- General meetings -1st Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm (also available by Zoom)



Shawnigan Basin Society

- Shawnigan Watershed Tours - last Sunday of each month at 10am
- Summer Saturdays – SBS Directors hosting open houses. See our full article for details.

A Huge thank you to all who have donated to date! We are halfway to our goal.

Double Your Donation. Charitable donation receipts are available. Donate before midnight on July 31st to double your impact. We have sponsors willing to match the funds we raise from our supporters (up to \$10,000).

Etransfer to director@shawniganbasinsociety.org

Donate online: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/shawnigan-basin-society/>

50/50 RAFFLE tickets available in person or

online. Next draw date September 27, 2026

<https://shawniganbasinsociety.rafflenexus.com/>

Thanks to Island Return It South Cowichan for supporting SBS through their charity of the month program for June. Check out the wide variety of recycling services they provide <https://islandreturnit.com/south-cowichan/>

We invite you to become a member, sign up for our emailed newsletter, follow us on Facebook and/or join our fantastic group of volunteers in person.

Check out our website for more information on who we are and what we do.

<https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/>

Shawnigan Lake Museum – Established in 1983

Lori Treloar

Executive Director

Visitor numbers at the museum have grown, since re-opening, and we anticipate a very busy summer. There has been an incredible variety of visitors from afar, including groups from Germany, England, Australia and Malta.

We recently hosted a UBC practicum student for two weeks, who is going into teaching. We have also hired a local student, Luke, for our summer student position. Luke has been volunteering at the museum for a while

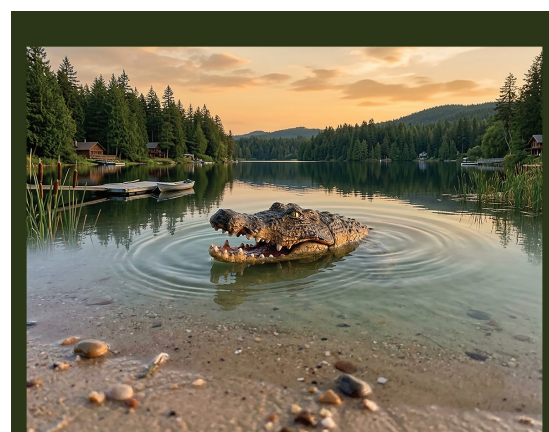
and will be heading to university in the fall to become a teacher.

We are very excited that solar panels have been installed on the roof of the museum with the help of some gas tax money. We anticipate that it will help with operational costs.

On July 3rd, at 7pm, and Saturday July 4th at 2:00, the Seeds and Salt Theatre Company will be at the museum for a vaudeville style production based on historical events on Vancouver Island. To book tickets email: info@millbaymalahathistory.com

In August, we are planning a fun event based on the movie Lake Placid. We know that many businesses and residents were part of the filming in Shawnigan. If you have any stories or props, that might add to the fun, please let us know...

The museum is a non-profit that relies on grants and community donations to operate. If you haven't visited the museum, take a chance - we will likely surprise you...



COMING!

to the

Shawnigan Lake Museum!

LAKE PLACID

Details soon!

Shawnigan Focus

South Cowichan Library

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

SUMMER READING CLUB starts on Thursday, July 2

Fri, Jul 10: Launch Party with Beverley McKeen keeping our energy up with live music, 2-3pm. Wear your dancing shoes!

Thu, Jul 16: Bats! Learn about the best-known flying mammal and how to help, 3-4pm.

Mon, Jul 20: Stuffie Sleepover drop-off and registration from 10am to 3pm.

Wed, Jul 29: Rhythm Rambling, practice keeping the rhythm and join in a musical parade, 2-2:45pm.

Health Benefits of Singing: learn about ways to sing more and reasons why. Monday, Jul 13,

1-2:30pm. Drop in.

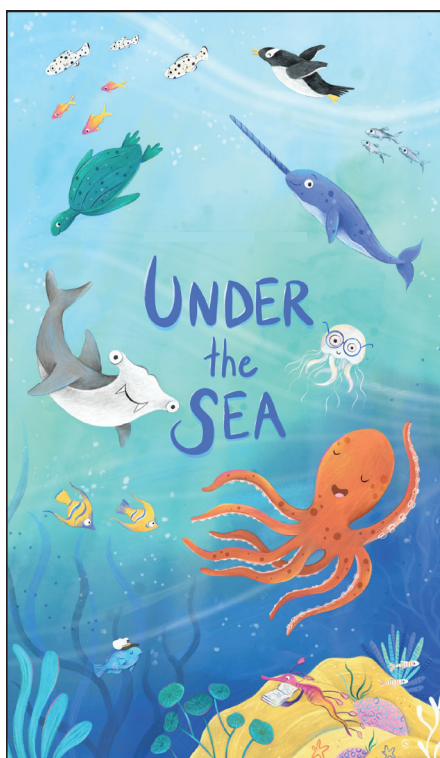
Making Connections through Music: explore opportunities for everyone to connect with others through playing music and singing. Saturday, Jul 18, 1-2:30pm. Drop in.

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.

Intermediate Chess meets Wednesdays at 1pm. For experienced players



Summer Reading Club South Cowichan Library

in the Mill Bay Centre

July 2 - August 20
Ages 0-12



250-743-5436
southcowichan@virl.bc.ca
virl.bc.ca/branches/south-cowichan

FREE! EVENTS! PRIZES!

looking for matches.

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.

There are **Summer Reading programs for teens and adults** too!

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay

Centre is open:

Mon & Tue 10-6
Wed & Thu 10-7
Fri & Sat 10-6

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

Making Waves

Kim Barnard
250-732-0531

Got something you're famous for? My middle name is Noelle, I collect all-things-Gingerbread, and I think of Christmas year-round. I still believe "Think Shawnigan" holds the magic plan for our continued charm.

Over the years, our lake has seen families and friends, holiday hordes, sporting competitions, and nature enthusiasts enjoy sharing

the best of summer memories. We're also famous for our schools and history. You may have heard about our stance to protect our watershed from contaminated soil dumping. Water unites us all, loud and proud. With unsinkable enthusiasm, I've served alongside others to make good ideas possible.

Pushing for the bouldering wall at the community centre, launching the annual clean up, adopting areas to

look after together, planting for pollinators, supporting youth activities, fundraising for the food bank and sharing scenic photography are all examples of lasting advocacy you can count on.

As founder, I'm bidding farewell to the Shawnigan Rotary EcoClub, and passing the oars to Heather Plumb and team to continue the great work! I'm helping at their Bottle Drive on Saturday, July 4th 10am-2pm at their Return-It sea can at the Swan parking. Dad "Depot Dave" and I can't pass up the fun sorting.

I pledge to heartily participate in Shawnigan life - and aim to meet you all!

This summer, I aim to visit every corner of our Electoral Area B. My sign travels with me, so watch for me walking/cycling in your neighbourhood. A big part of why I'm running for office is to radiate being a welcoming, approachable Area Director.

I am committed to building excellent rapport amongst neighbours and at the CVRD Board. July 1st Canada Day kicks off opportunities to celebrate together.



With every ski past, it's rockin'-dockin' at the Gov Wharf, so don't miss the fun!
"I'm Here for You!"
Shawnigan

Bruce Hutchison

Robert Amos
Author & Artist

Bruce Hutchison was a famous Canadian journalist who made a summer home for his family on the east side of Shawnigan Lake. In 1988 Hutchison published a book about his experience there, titled "A Life in the Country". His family has permitted us to reprint excerpts from this book.

A mile along the road, a wealthy resident beside the lake decided to provide space for a two-car garage. It was necessary to remove a cedar about six feet in diameter at shoulder height. Accordingly, an expert



logger was summoned. His chainsaw made the undercut in ten minutes. The falling cut, on the opposite side, took nearly an hour. A steel wedge was inserted, a maul drove it in about two inches. The cedar swayed, its torn wood screamed, its wings beat as if for flight. When it fell across the road the earth boomed like a drum. That expert had done his work well. There was plenty of room for the garage.

On the stump we counted the wide growth rings of summer, the narrow rings of winter. Wet and dry years were fixed by this climatic record. The tree was more than seven centuries old, though we could not tell exactly because some rings at the outer edge were too fine for the naked eye.

King John must have been signing a certain document at Runnymede when a seed sprouted in a forest unknown to any white man. When Columbus discovered a new continent, the cedar was growing fast. But growth had slowed down by the time of Waterloo, and in our time had almost ceased.

Through all those centuries—a momentary span in geological history but long in human experience - the tree had been the harp of spring winds, the pipe organ of winter gales. It had sucked from the earth water and chemicals beyond reckoning.

With this nourishment it had formed heartwood, a moist cambium layer, a network of reddish bark and plumes of green needles. It had absorbed carbon, discharged oxygen into the air and helped to sustain animal life on

a then-unpolluted planet. Thus, cell by cell it kept expanding its bulk when no man had yet seen it.

The Indians (sic) always avoided a region where evil spirits lurked, and white men did not reach here before the middle of the nineteenth century. So, the tree was left alone to bear the crushing load of winter snow and survive killing summer drought. Anchored and nourished by a fine filament of roots, it defied the law of gravity.

When competitors languished and died in its shade, the cedar ate their mouldering bodies and converted them into living substance. It unknowingly depicted a process that began with the retreat of the glaciers some ten thousand years ago.

Slowly the southern forest crept northward long before humans had built



their first town and devised their first alphabet. When the march of immigrants reached here, only yesterday, across the Bering landbridge, most of them shunned this eerie jungle, living instead on the seashore or travelling southward to warmer climates. Even today's inhabitants can find the forest daunting.

Shawnigan and the CVRD: Inside Regional Governance

Michael Battler
Shawnigan Lake

Part 4 of a Series Ahead of the October Regional Election

Part 4: How Decisions Get Made, From Committee Meetings to Board Votes

Understanding the steps behind regional decision-making — and how Bylaw No. 4710 moved through them

Why did this bylaw take on a direction that many residents feel no one asked for?

That question has come up repeatedly in Shawnigan Lake and across the Cowichan Valley Regional District as the proposed zoning changes under Bylaw No. 4710 have moved through the system. What began as a technical update has, for some, raised broader concerns about scope, intent, and how decisions evolve once they enter the regional process.

To understand how that happens, it helps to look at how decisions are actually made, from early discussions through to final votes.

From Idea to Agenda

Most decisions do not begin at the Board table.

In the CVRD, they often start with long-range planning work such as updates to zoning bylaws or Official Community Plans, or through direction from the Board itself. Bylaw No. 4710 is part of a broader effort to update and consolidate zoning across electoral areas, with materials and engagement tracked through the public project page.¹

Staff reports outline the purpose, options, and potential impacts. In the case of Bylaw No. 4710, publicly available materials appear to focus primarily on land use, policy alignment, and new or expanded regulations, with no clearly identified detail on broader economic impacts such as property values, taxation, or local business activity.^{1,2}

These reports are not decisions. They shape how a proposal is understood before it moves forward.

Committee Review Where Direction Takes Shape

Before reaching the Board, most items move through committees, and Bylaw No. 4710 followed this path.

CVRD agendas and meeting records show that zoning bylaw updates were reviewed through committee discussions prior to formal Board consideration.² This is a standard step in the regional process and gives Directors

an opportunity to ask questions, test assumptions, and request revisions before anything proceeds to a vote.

This is often where direction begins to take shape.

In practice, committee discussions often rely heavily on staff reports prepared to guide decision-making. While Directors ask questions and may request changes, the options and analysis presented in these reports frequently shape the direction of discussion, as reflected in meeting records where recommendations often form the basis for motions.²

For residents, this stage can be difficult to follow. Meetings are technical, outcomes are not final, and discussions do not always receive the same level of attention as Board votes or public hearings. Yet this is often where the structure of a bylaw is refined.

In the case of Bylaw No. 4710, many of the concerns now being raised around definitions, scope, and how rules apply to everyday property use appear to have developed during these earlier stages of the process. For some residents, this has also raised a broader concern that some of the most significant decisions may be shaped by a relatively small group before the wider public becomes fully engaged.

Board Meetings and Readings

At the Board level, decisions move into a formal process.

For bylaws, this includes multiple readings, typically three, before adoption. These are legal requirements under the Local Government Act.³ They are steps that must be followed for the bylaw to be legally valid, rather than repeated discussion of the same material.

Between readings, bylaws can still be amended. This is why residents may see changes over time even after a bylaw has been introduced.

For zoning bylaws, a public hearing is usually required before final adoption, providing a formal opportunity for community input.

Public Hearings Where Concerns Surface

Public hearings are where community concerns become most visible.

In Shawnigan Lake and across the CVRD, discussions around Bylaw No. 4710 have brought forward a range of perspectives. While many public comments have focused on concerns about how far some proposed regulations extend, the stated objective of the project is to update, consolidate, and clarify zoning regulations.^{1,4}

This is where friction becomes clear.

During the public engagement process, residents questioned why some uses are being more tightly defined than before, whether certain provisions overlap with existing regulations such as the BC Building Code, and whether some rules extend beyond land use into how property is used day to day.^{2,4}

Public hearings do not create these concerns. They bring them into the open and place them on the public record. Following significant public feedback on the draft bylaw, the CVRD announced additional opportunities for community engagement before proceeding further with the project.⁵

Public input at this stage can influence outcomes, but typically in specific ways. It may lead to refinements, clarification of language, or adjustments to how provisions are applied. In some cases, it can also result in broader changes or delay adoption to allow for further review.

The greatest impact often comes when input connects clearly to how the bylaw works in practice, particularly where it highlights unintended consequences or conflicts with existing regulations. In past CVRD planning processes, public feedback has contributed to refinements in draft bylaws and policies, including changes to definitions, permitted uses, and how provisions are applied, as reflected in engagement summaries and Board materials.^{1,7}

Earlier engagement in the process can also shape direction before key elements are established. Once a bylaw reaches later stages, the ability to make significant changes can become more limited, making early input especially important.

For residents, this is where participation can make a difference. Following the process, reviewing materials, and providing clear, practical feedback helps ensure that how a bylaw is written reflects how it will actually be experienced. Project information and opportunities for public input are available through the CVRD's public engagement platform.

Residents can also submit written comments through Legislative Services before Board or committee meetings. These submissions become part of the public record and, when received by the applicable deadline, are included in the meeting materials provided to Directors.^{1,7,8}

Once the hearing is closed, the Board must base its decision on what has been presented. New information cannot be introduced at that

point, which is why timing and early engagement can matter.

Voting and Weighted Representation

When it comes time to decide, the Board votes.

In the CVRD, not all votes carry the same weight. For many decisions, particularly those involving regional services and budgets, voting is weighted. This means each Director's vote reflects the population they represent, a structure grounded in provincial legislation and the region's governance framework.³

In practical terms, this means Electoral Area B holds a relatively small share of the total vote compared to larger municipalities. In many cases, its voting strength is roughly equivalent to about one out of every fifteen votes. For example, on region-wide decisions such as the annual budget, voting is weighted by population. This means Area B's vote carries more weight than it would under a simple one Director, one vote system, but it still represents a smaller share of the overall vote than larger municipalities.³

There are also limits built into the system. Directors only vote on services their area participates in, and some decisions are still made on a one Director, one vote basis.

This approach is intended to balance representation by population with participation by service. At the same time, it can shape outcomes in ways that are not always immediately visible.

Why It Feels Slow and Sometimes Disconnected

A common frustration is not just the time it takes, but the sense that direction has already been set before the final decision.

From the outside, the process can appear repetitive. Internally, each step builds on the last. Committee review, multiple readings, public input, and final voting all play a role in shaping the outcome.

In a regional district, there is an added layer of complexity.

The Board represents multiple municipalities and electoral areas, each with different priorities. What feels like a local issue in Shawnigan Lake may be considered within a broader regional context.

This can create both delay and a sense of disconnect.

Unincorporated and Incorporated —

A Structural Difference

This is where the distinction between municipal and electoral area governance becomes more noticeable.

A municipality can act more directly on local matters within its own boundaries. In contrast, electoral areas rely on the regional system, where decisions move through committees and the Board.

The trade-off is clear. Regional decision-making provides broader oversight and representation across the CVRD, but often results in a longer and more complex path to a final decision.

Understanding the process does not mean everyone will agree with the outcome. It does, however, make it easier to see where decisions are made, where public input can have the greatest influence, and who is ultimately accountable.

Why It Matters

Seeing how decisions move through the regional system helps explain not just the outcome, but how a bylaw can evolve along the way.

In the case of Bylaw No. 4710, the concerns being raised are not only about the content, but about how that content took shape through the process itself.

For residents, knowing where direction is set, where input matters most, and how votes are counted provides a clearer picture of how decisions come together.

And in an election year, that understanding connects directly to how you cast your vote.

Next in Part 5: Where Your Tax Dollars Go, Understanding Budgets and Services.

Sources

¹ CVRD Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Project <https://www.planyourcowichan.ca/zoning-bylaw-project>

² Cowichan Valley Regional District – Agendas and Minutes <https://cvrld.ca/AgendaCenter>

³ Local Government Act (British Columbia) <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/15001>

⁴ The Discourse – What's in the Cowichan Valley Regional District's draft comprehensive zoning bylaw? <https://thedisourse.ca/cowichan-valley/whats-in-the-cvrld-comprehensive-zoning-bylaw>

⁵ Cowichan Valley Regional District – Community Engagement Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw <https://cvrld.ca/community-engagement-regarding-the-draft-cvrld-comprehensive-zoning-bylaw/>

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

Malahat Legion Celebrates Centennial Year

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion—one of Canada’s longest-standing community organizations—is celebrating a remarkable 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 approximately 269,000 members.

To mark this historic occasion, the Malahat Legion in Shawnigan Lake will host a Centennial Celebration on Friday, July 17, 2026, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM—the exact anniversary of the Legion’s founding. Members of Parliament and other invited guests will help kick off the festivities beginning at 3:00 PM.

Following the formal program, guests can enjoy complimentary BBQ hamburgers, salads, and a special anniversary cake starting at 4:30 PM. The celebration continues into the evening with music provided by Legion member Brad Pollard, who will be spinning

MALAHAT LEGION BRANCH 134
Celebrates

100 Years!
JULY 17TH

Anniversary Ceremony
3:00 PM - Presentations
4:30 PM - Free BBQ & Cake

Legion **100**
1926 - 2026

Music DJ - Brad Pollard
7-9 PM

favourite dance tunes from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes!

Attendance is limited to Legion members and one guest each. If you know a member, ask them to bring you along. Not yet a member? Stop by the Legion on a Friday or Saturday and sign up—membership is free, and we’d be

pleased to welcome you.

Registration for the Centennial Celebration is now open at <https://malahatlegion.ca/malahat-legion-centenary-celebration/>.

We look forward to celebrating 100 years of service, remembrance, and community with you.

Raspberry Tea and Quilt Display

Sylvan United Church, cordially invite you all to join us for our annual “Raspberry Tea” on July 18th, from 2-4 pm.

For years we have offered this event and would also like to invite you to view and enjoy the wonderful quilts on display that are made by local quilters and listen to music by the Sylvan musicians.

Come and meet with family and friends to enjoy a lovely cuppa tea or glass of refreshing lemonade with a slice of cream-topped Raspberry cake after viewing the quilts.

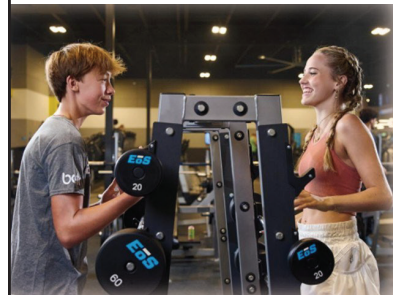
We will also have a bake sale with an assortment of raspberry muffins, tarts, and other delicious baked goods.

The tea costs \$20 p/p, \$10 for children under 14, families of four \$35.

Sylvan United Church:
985 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road in Mill Bay.

SUMMER TEEN MEMBERSHIPS!

Is your teen looking for improved strength and fitness this summer? We offer monthly teen memberships for \$49.95/month + GST.



Membership packages include: access to cardio equipment, selectorized and plate loaded strength equipment, functional training equipment and free weights; group fitness classes (Yoga, Zumba, Cycle Fit and more!); Infrared Sauna, and Towel Service!

*For those under 19 yrs of age a parent/guardian must co-sign in person at time of sale.

VALLEY
HEALTH and FITNESS

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

Thank you to all of our advertisers and contributors for supporting this local publication!

We couldn't do it without your help...



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



Maintenance Offer Book an appointment now

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE

250-743-2122

shawnigan garage.com

'A safe car is a safe drive!'



2-Stroke Bar & Chain Oil Available Now!

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

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

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



Shawnigan Focus

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.

June 2026 Report - Department Members
Attended 32 Incidents in June

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, Jun 4 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd • Friday, Jun 5 – Alarms Activated on Glen Eagles Rd • Saturday, Jun 6 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd • Saturday, Jun 6 – Assistance on W Shawnigan Lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 6- Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 6 - 1st Responder near Burnt Bridge • Saturday, Jun 6 – Alarms Activated on Sherburn Rd • Saturday, Jun 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 6 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd • Sunday, Jun 7 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd • Tuesday, Jun 9 – Hydro Lines on Campbell Rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, Jun 9 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd • Thursday, Jun 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd • Friday, Jun 12 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 13 - 1st Responder off Meadowview Rd • Saturday, Jun 13 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 13 – Burning Complaint on Miner Rd • Sunday, Jun 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd • Monday, Jun 15 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd • Monday, Jun 15 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd • Thursday Jun 18 – Alarms Activated on W | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shawnigan Lake Rd • Thursday, Jun 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd • Thursday, Jun 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd • Friday, Jun 19 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd • Friday, Jun 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd • Saturday, Jun 20 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd • Saturday, Jun 20 – Burning Complaint on Millicent Ave • Monday, Jun 22 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd • Tuesday, Jun 23 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd • Tuesday, Jun 23 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd • Wednesday, Jun 24 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd • Wednesday, Jun 24 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd • Wednesday, Jun 24 – HazMat on Renfrew Rd |
|---|--|--|

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2026



Stage 3 Water Restrictions Effective July 3, 2026

COWICHAN VALLEY, BC – Effective Friday, July 3, 2026, all Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) water systems are moving to Stage 3 water restrictions in an effort to conserve water in anticipation of continuing drought conditions, even though currently we are experiencing cooler temperatures and possible precipitation. Shellwood and Dogwood water systems are moving to Stage 4 water restrictions.

In Stage 3:

- Watering of lawns and all use of sprinklers and conventional irrigation is prohibited.
- Outdoor water use is limited to micro/drip irrigation or hand watering of food and ornamental gardens.
- Watering must be done before 9am or after 7pm; watering in the morning or evening reduces water lost to evaporation.

Visit the Cowichan Adapts website to learn more about water conservation, what is allowed during water restrictions, including a Water Restrictions Map where you can type in your address to find the current stage of restrictions on each water system in the region: <https://cowichanadapts.ca/watering>

For more information, please contact:
Lisa Moilanen, Manager, Communications & Engagement
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Communications@cprd.bc.ca 250.746.2571



KEEP BEARS AND PEOPLE SAFE

SECURELY STORE WASTE BETWEEN COLLECTION DAYS



No Milfoil

Shemama Bell-Irving
Shawnigan Lake

Last year I started the lake cleaning campaign using socks filled with sand and charcoal I made from fir cones and bark from my property.

I filled 450 donated lonely dryer socks and gave them away from my wetland log boom across from Memory island and from the road at 1784 East Shawnigan Lake Road.

A year later here is what I have observed in my waterfront.

- No milfoil.
- Yellow water Irises are smaller.
- Water is crystal clear like it was when I was a little girl.
- Fish nesting on my beach and lots of fish under my wetlands which the blue heron hunts daily.
- My muskrat family moved on this winter so my floating wetlands are bouncing back from their nibbling and harvesting.

Now I want to hear what the socks have done for your water. What have you noticed?

Email: laketrust@shaw.ca and tell me your story and I will share it in the August Focus.

Socks are still out on the log boom and roadside for anyone to take.

Let's be the solution to the pollution.
Thanks

Shawnigan Focus Weather — June 2026



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

Reported by Grant Treloar

	June Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Beach Estates		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Average High	20.2	24.9	23.7	24	22.5	24.6	22.8	24.6	24.4	24.5	23.4
Average Low	10.0	11.0	10.6	8.2	8.2	10.9	10.5	11.2	11.8	10.3	10.3
Extreme High	40.5	34.5	34.1	33.2	31.4	34.6	32.7	34.4	33.2	34.2	32.9
Extreme Low	0.0	6.6	6.6	4.0	4.2	6.6	5.8	6.6	7.7	6.0	6.1
Precipitation	40.0	35.8	23.7	26.8	23.1	24.6	14.4	25.2	12.6	28.1	18.5
Days w precip	11	6	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	5
Year Precip	631.7	686.5	629.7	545.0	513.6	518.5	476.2	442.8	434.0	548.2	513.4

2026 Rank since 1914: 5th warmest, 48th wettest

Lake Readings	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Temperature	18°	20°	21°	21°
Temperature 2025	24°	20°	19°	20°
Surface Elevation	116.24m	116.26m	116.23m	116.19m
Elevation 2025	116.22m	116.18m	116.18m	116.16m



Comments

June was warmer than normal for the second month in a row.

The warmest day was on June 14th with temps around 34°. The daytime temperature reached 25° or higher on 16 days, and 30° or more on 7 days. The coldest nights were on the 11th, under clear skies with temps bottoming out near 6°.

Precipitation totals were below normal with only 5 days with any measureable rain. There was a 2 week dry spell from June 10th - 24th.

Daylight hours will slowly now decrease in July. Sunset loses around half an hour from 9:20 PM on July 1st to 8:53 PM on the 31st. It moves north by just 2° during this coming month.

The sunset location moves 8° south to 299°N by the end of the month.

A Request

Hello everybody,

My Name is Bruce Sand, and I am a 28-year Canadian military veteran with three military Operational tours of duty. I have been diagnosed with end-stage renal disease, and I am desperately in need a life-saving kidney donation.



Canada, to help find a matching donor for me. So, I am sending everybody this message in the hope that you or someone you know is able and willing to consider doing the incredible kindness of saving my life.

To learn more about kidney donation yourself and my journey, please check out

- www.RenewalCanada.org/
- [BC Transplant](#)

All inquiries to Renewal are strictly confidential and they work hard to ensure that making this incredible donation comes at zero financial

cost to the donor. They can also put you in touch with others who have donated a kidney and are willing to share their experience.

Please share this message to as many people as you can. You never know if there is someone out there who will respond to this urgent need.

If you wish to talk to me directly please text me anytime at 250 686 2524 and we can discuss transplants and donation further.

Thank you,
Bruce Sand

Bruce Sand was born, and grew up in Bulawayo, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. He was educated at in that city and joined the Regular Rhodesian Army as a trooper in the 1st Battalion Rhodesian Light infantry in 1971.

In 1973 after a year of Officer Cadet training, Bruce was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers (RhE) right at the onset of the major part of the Zimbabwe Independence Conflict from 1972 until the cessation of hostilities and Independence in 1980.

In 1982 Bruce emigrated to Canada and joined the Canadian Military Engineers. He saw a wide variety of military command and staff positions including Operational Service in Former Yugoslavia September 1996 -1997, East Timor September 1999 - April 2000 and Haiti September 2006 – May 2007.

Bruce retired from the Regular Canadian Forces in 2008 but extended his service as a fulltime reservist until 31 May 2010 for a total of 40

years of military service. He finally retired in that same year after a preliminary diagnosis of potential renal failure In 2012 a confirmed diagnosis of major incurable kidney disease started a long journey for him into the treatment of slowing this kidney failure through medication and lifestyle adjustments. Bruce is now very close to either dialysis or a transplant to continue sustain what is left of his life

Bruce remarried in 2017 and lives with his spouse Evelyn a retired elementary teacher, in their home in Shawnigan Lake British Columbia.

Between them they have six children and 3 grandchildren all living within 100 km of Shawnigan Lake. Extended family members live across Canada and around the Globe.

Celebrating 15 Years

On the front page of the 1st edition of the Shawnigan Focus in April 2011 we chose to feature the work of two gifted gentlemen who represent Shawnigan's strong past.

E.J. Hughes, a prolific painter, muralist, and Canadian war artist, was passionate about the B.C. landscape. His legacy is a remarkable body of work, painted in his unique style, depicting the rugged beauty of B.C. Mr. Hughes moved to Shawnigan Lake soon after WWII and painted some of his most successful pieces in his studio overlooking

ing Strathcona Bay. In 1966, Mr. Hughes generously donated a drawing of the iconic "Old Baldy Mountain" for the cover of the community history of Shawnigan Lake, Green Branches and Falen Leaves.

Mr. Hughes left Shawnigan Lake after residing here for more than twenty years. However, his love of the community is evident in the many paintings of Shawnigan Lake that he produced and the fact that he and his family finally came home. He is buried beside his parents and his wife in the Shawnigan Cemetery.

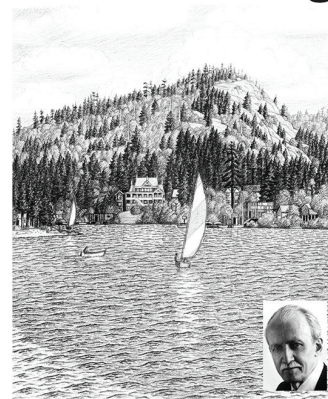
Bruce Hutchison, a well-known political reporter, journalist and newspaperman wrote the preface for Green Branches and Fallen Leaves. We have included the preface on the front page as it clearly supports our very first headline. Mr. Hutchison's passion for Shawnigan Lake resonates in many of the articles and books that he published throughout his illustrious career. Although he had vacationed at Shawnigan as a boy, his roots settled firmly when he and his wife inherited waterfront property, through her family, early in their marriage.

The preface, written in 1966, is as timely now as it was then. He speaks of the "joint estate that has been jealously guarded". At the same time, he speaks of the future with his hope that "...others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity." Mr. Hutchison's words are a gentle reminder that we must be prepared to take action to protect what makes Shawnigan special.

"We know the past; we are cognizant of the present, but everything happens in the future." Garth Harvey
The Shawnigan Focus is an important tool for



Shawnigan: Strong Past, Strong Future



"Old Baldy Mountain, Shawnigan Lake." E. J. Hughes, 1966.

Voice of the Past

Bruce Hutchison 1966

In the solemn and somewhat comical debate on Canada's culture, one important exhibit, it seems to me, is usually neglected. I mean the summer cottage. It may be no great architectural achievement, it is more likely to be a log-sided hovel, but it contains the best instincts of the Canadian folk — their memories of olden times, their love of the wilderness, their stubborn sense of freedom. And nowhere in Canada, I would guess, has the indigenous cult of summer living reached a higher point than

on the shores of Shawnigan Lake.

Concerning this region I can speak with a rather long experience. In 1908, when I spent my first holiday here, most of the shore, except at the north end, was uninhabited. From the cluster of houses around the railway station and Koenig's Hotel beside it, a journey down the lake on a clumsy launch or, better still, on the lumber mill's puffing, grimy steamboat, was a wild adventure for a small boy, a voyage into an unknown continent.

Or if we walked along the tracks to the Strathcona Hotel — a regal establishment which no boy dared enter — and climbed Mount Malahat, the deer regarded us without the

continued on next column

On the front page of Shawnigan Focus, Volume 1 Issue 1, we have chosen to feature the work of two gifted gentlemen who represent Shawnigan's strong past.

E.J. Hughes, a prolific painter, muralist, and Canadian war artist, was passionate about the B.C. landscape. His legacy is a remarkable body of work, painted in his unique style, depicting the rugged beauty of B.C. Mr. Hughes moved to Shawnigan Lake soon after WWII and painted some of his most successful pieces in his studio overlooking Strathcona Bay. In 1966, Mr. Hughes generously donated a drawing of the

iconic "Old Baldy Mountain" for the cover of the community history of Shawnigan Lake, Green Branches and Fallen Leaves. Mr. Hutchison's passion for Shawnigan Lake resonates in many of the articles and books that he published throughout his illustrious career. Although he had vacationed at Shawnigan as a boy, his roots settled firmly when he and his wife inherited waterfront property, through her family, early in their marriage. The preface, written in 1966, is as timely now as it was then. He speaks of the "joint estate that has been jealously guarded". At the same time, he speaks of the future with his hope that "...others, after him, will always preserve this humble kingdom of sanity." Mr. Hutchison's words

least alarm and the grouse swarmed in their hundreds, as tame as barnyard chickens. (We managed to kill one with a catapult, out of season, but the game warden, catching us with our illegal prize, overlooked the crime and trust that it is voided by the statute of limitations after almost sixty years.)

Already the social life of Shawnigan was elevated, dazzling and luxurious, as a boy saw it, timidly, from the edges. Every Saturday afternoon, before the Malahat Highway was built and the primitive automobiles appeared, a long E. & N. train brought crowds of week-enders, dressed in masculine white flannel and ruffling feminine silk. They danced all night at the two hotels, recovered on Sunday and returned to Victoria, leaving behind a welcome silence. But it was always the permanent cottagers who gave the lake its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

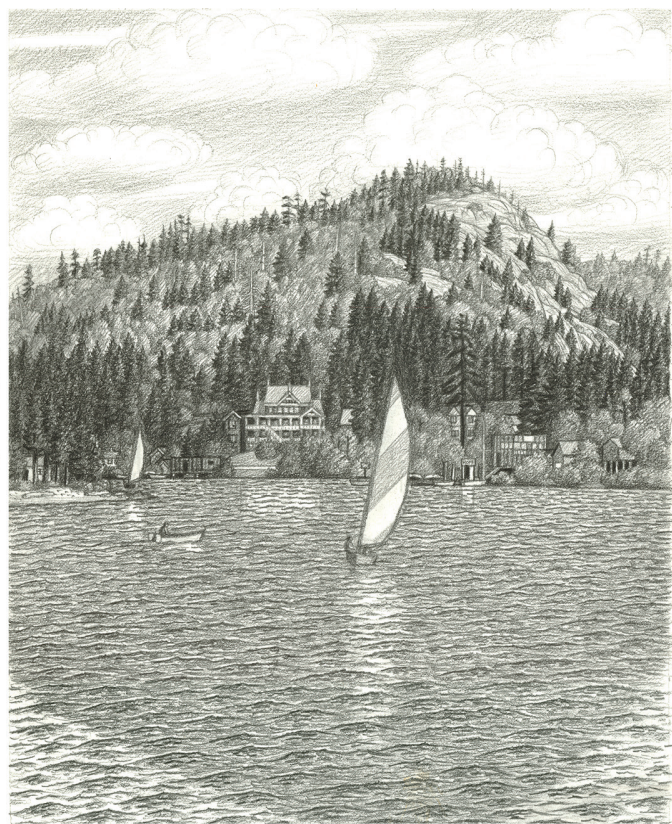
In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.

In witness thereof, observe the existing Shawnigan community. The people hereabouts have not despoiled the lake and its character, which must have been robust from the beginning since it endures, unchanged by modern roads, electricity and speed boats, to this day.



"Old Baldy Mountain, Shawnigan Lake."

E. J. Hughes, 1966.

Shawnigan Focus Team

Co-Editors: Advertising and Layout: **Lori Treloar** Accounting: **Grant Treloar**
Kim Hennecker **Kim Hennecker**

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

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

the Shawnigan community: it will keep us mindful of the past and update us in the present. Most importantly, the newspaper

will provide a forum to build a strong community voice so that we are ready to make educated decisions about our future.

Mason's Store

YOUR LOCAL STORE

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

THANK-YOU SHAWNIGAN LAKE
FOR SHARING OUR 70TH YEAR CELEBRATION!!

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

VICTORIA AQUA SKI CLUB

ANNUAL NOVICE TOURNAMENT

SHAWNIGAN LAKE, AUGUST 7TH, 8TH & 9TH

3 EVENTS
Trick * Jump * Slalom

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

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

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

SATURDAY NIGHT - 6PM
POT LUCK DINNER

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

CONCESSION * SILENT AUCTION * CLOTHING SALES

victoriaaquaskiclub@gmail.com

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**
Legislative.Services@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: 778-936-0112
- **South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary**
Contact: info@southcha.ca



✓ Kim B for Area B

Authorized by Kim Barnard, Financial Agent 250-732-0531

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

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

No Winner!

No one correctly identified June's photo of the "Adopt a Highway" sign at Cairn park across from the Fire Hall

Cheap Ad Rates!!

Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Shawnigan Lake's Local Vape Store
Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 7pm
www.OhmZoneVapes.ca
1-1752 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.

MATTHUW RONALD-JONES
Personal Real Estate Corporation

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

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