

SHAWNIGAN LAKE FLOODS: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Dave Hutchinson
Shawnigan Focus

The “Atmospheric River” of mid November caused the third greatest flood of Shawnigan Lake since accounts have been kept. No actual measures are available for the 1909 event but it is anecdotally reported to be the highest. Proper data exists for subsequent floods.

Shawnigan Lake Historical Floods				
Year	Date	Level in metres (CGVD-1928)	Level in metres (CGVD-2013)	Rank
1909	Nov	?	?	1
1935	Jan 25	118.90	119.10	2
2021	Nov 16	118.35	118.55	3
1972	Dec 25	118.20	118.40	4
2007	Dec 5	118.20	118.40	4
1979	Dec 18	118.10	118.30	5
2020	Feb 1	117.90	118.10	6

Confounding comparison between events is the recent change to a new elevation reference system. The CGVD28 vertical datum, was formally in use from 1935 to 2015. In 2013, the Canadian Geodetic Survey introduced CGVD2013, a more accurate reference, enabling compatibility with the Global Navigation Satellite System. To compare flood elevation levels there needs to be a conversion between CGVD28 and CGVD2013 which varies, depending on location.

115.4m (CGVD28). Compared with our recent flood at 118.35m this is a difference of 2.95m (almost 10ft).

During the last event the weather station at Discovery School recorded over 100mm of rain in a 24-hour period between November 14 and 15. Over four inches, this is close to an all-time record! In terms of actual damage though Shawnigan was relatively spared compared to the devastation in other parts of the Province. The lake level associated with major floods over the last 50 years has stayed well below 119m. The lower levels of many lakefront properties get flooded but catastrophic damage is minimal. Another metre or two could change that though.

Until 1964 there was no mechanism for controlling the lake level. That year Mill Bay Water Works built a rudimentary dam on Shawnigan Creek about 450m downstream of the lake with the intention to store water which would be released gradually in the summer months. This was to facilitate a continuous water supply for their downstream requirements. The current weir was completed in 2008. The CVRD oversees its operation which adheres to a “Rule-Curve” mandated by the Ministry of Environment. Again, the intent is to provide enough storage for downstream flow requirements during the dry months. Contrary to

from the Dhillsean strata development on Cullin Road. If something like that were to end up stuck on an angle in the creek entrance, the level could rise rapidly by a metre or two. In 2011 the CVRD established the “Shawnigan Creek Cleanout and Drainage Service” which is allocated up to \$18,000 per year. Rarely used, it appears ineffective with problems related to access, property ownership and riparian concerns.

The NHC report has increased the “Designated 200 Year Flood Level” significantly. This is the main factor which determines the “Flood Construction Level” (minimum elevation to allow buildings) which is now set at approximately 120m. This is 70cm higher than the level set by Ministry of Environment in 1979. Recently, when renewing my homeowner insurance, I was informed that “Overland Water Coverage” had been discontinued” and was no longer available. I suspect this may be a result of the new floodplain mappings contained in the NHC report.

As I write this on November 25, 2021, we have just begun the first of three new “Atmospheric River” events forecast for the next week. We used to call these the “Pineapple Express” as they transport tremendous amounts of water vapour in narrow bands from tropical areas of the Pacific Ocean to condense as precipitation over the lands of the Pacific Northwest. Although seasonally expected, they seem to be increasing in frequency and severity. In response, Environment and Climate Change Canada is working on a model to rank the predicted impact of these water events. Similar to wind events a one to five severity scale is proposed. Resulting damage from the most intense (AR4s and AR5s) will be measured in the billions of dollars. The mid November event was retroactively determined to be an AR5!

No single weather event is proof of climate change. However, there is no doubt that the planet has been warming at an alarming rate over the last few decades. There also seems to be general agreement that a warming atmosphere and warming oceans will increase the frequency of extreme weather events. In any case the future will be increasingly challenging.

Note: The NHC report is well worth reading and can be found at:

<https://www.cvrld.ca/DocumentCenter/View/97804/Shawnigan-Lake-Flood-Preparedness-Report>



Flood of 1935: Renfrew Road near Masons (Photo courtesy of the Shawnigan Lake Museum)

Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC) produced a 2020 report for the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) titled “Shawnigan Lake Flood Preparedness”. Containing a wealth of information about the Shawnigan watershed, they explain that mapping software provided by Natural Resources Canada was used to convert between the two vertical datums. For Shawnigan, it appears that the CGVD28 measures are 20cm below the CGVD2013 data. One curious thing in their report is that the 2007 flood event is mentioned elsewhere but not included in their table of historical floods.

To get an idea how much the level varies, recent data shows levels during the dry months as low as

frequent, misinformed opinion on social media, the weir is not mismanaged. From November to March the weir is fully lowered and cannot alleviate any flood.

One major threat that could be catastrophic for Shawnigan Lake properties is a blockage of the outflow creek during a flood event. Much floating debris including old docks and logs finds its way into the outlet. The old log boom, which did a decent job of preventing this, was removed in 2009 due to liability concerns. The CVRD has installed a plastic boom which is removed each spring and re-installed each fall. It is prone to failure and many objects make their way through. On several occasions large concrete docks have broken loose



Weir with gate fully lowered.

South Cowichan Library
Top Titles at the South Cowichan
Library in 2021

Fiction:

- ★ The Dirty South by John Connolly
- ★ NYPD Red 6 by James Patterson
- ★ Walk the Wire by David Baldacci
- ★ The Sentinel by Lee Child
- ★ Daylight by David Baldacci
- ★ Fair Warning by Michael Connelly
- ★ The Glass Hotel by Emily St. John Mandel
- ★ Twenty by James Grippando
- ★ The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
- ★ Win by Harlan Coben

Non-fiction:

- ★ A Promised Land by Barack Obama
- ★ The Coaching Habit: Say Less, Ask More & Change the Way You Lead Forever by Michael Bungay Stanier
- ★ The Interior Design Handbook: Furnish, Decorate, and Style Your Space by Frida Ramstedt
- ★ The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be by J. B. MacKinnon
- ★ Sunset Western Garden Book of Landscaping by JB MacKinnon
- ★ Lands of Lost Borders: A Journey on the Silk Road by Kate Harris
- ★ Talking to Strangers:

What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know by Malcolm Gladwell

- ★ The Complete Plant-Based Cookbook by America's Test Kitchen
- ★ Everyday Fresh: Meals in Minutes by Donna Hay
- ★ Artisan Home Baking by Julian Day

Children:

- ★ The Bookstore Cat by Cylin Busby and Charles Santoso
- ★ Princesses Versus Dinosaurs by Linda Bailey and Joy Ang
- ★ The Tower of Nero by Rick Riordan
- ★ The Battle of the Labyrinth: The Graphic Novel by Robert Venditti and Rick Riordan
- ★ Minecraft: Maps: An Explorer's Guide to Minecraft by Stephanie Milton
- ★ Lights on Wonder Rock by David Litchfield
- ★ The Mixed-Up Chameleon by Eric Carle
- ★ Son of Neptune: the Graphic Novel by Robert Venditti
- ★ Fancy Nancy: Oodles of Kittens by Jane O'Connor
- 10. I Lost My Tooth! by Mo Willems

Shawnigan Weather November 2021

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ Reported by Grant Treloar

	Nov	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
	Normal	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Average High	8.5	8.3	8.6	9.2	9.4	9.3	9.5	8.9	9.0
Average Low	2.6	3.6	2.8	2.9	2.2	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.5
Extreme High	20.0	14.3	17.5	14.8	19.7	13.0	19.2	13.5	18.5
Extreme Low	-15.6	0.2	-1.1	-0.7	-2.0	0.7	-0.2	0.0	-1.0
Precipitation	225.4	344.1	249.7	357.5	234.8	328.5	187.6	364.4	236.8
Days w precip	22	23	20	23	23	23	21	22	23
Year Precip	1056.2	1231.4	1287.1	1205.1	1208.4	1098.5	1077.0	1161.9	1266.6
Precip since Oc		485.1	401.2	517.7	364.5	500.1	301.7	496.8	358.2

(as of November 28) Rank since 1914: 41st warmest, 7th wettest

Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28
9	9	7	7
+34cm	+37cm	+33cm	-22 cm
116.86	117.23	117.56	117.35

Lake Temperature
Lake level change
Surface Elevation

November was a little warmer than normal, but the big story was the rain. All but 4 days had some rain, and the month (up to the 28th) was much wetter than normal. By the 30th the continuing rain should bring the totals into the top 5 ever since 1914.

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Dear Santa,

I hope you have been keeping well. The last year has been a roller coaster for many communities and the same is true here in Shawnigan. With the return of the sunshine this summer, we were able to get back outside and gather with our friends and family. Government Wharf Park was packed every day and our new trail was being used by everyone, even my mom with a walker. The new parking lot was a boon for young families that are now able to enjoy Mason's beach without crossing the roads with their floaties. All our community parks and trails were used this year more than ever.

Santa, I'm wondering if you can put in a good word for us (the Community) with one of your friends in Ottawa? The community has put in for a number of Federal grants and we could sure use more seating areas in our parks, more real washrooms and an expanded beach. These improvements would be fabulous, since most of the children in Shawnigan live away the lake and enjoy our waterfront parks so much.

A grant for a new playground at Elsie Miles would also really help the pre-school and Community Centre. While you're at it, please mention the Museum too; they could really use another \$500,000 for their expansion. My son also wanted me to ask you for a drum set. I know this is turning into a long wish list, so if it's too much, forget the drum set (my neighbours will appreciate that).

Thanks Santa and Happy Holidays Shawnigan Lake!

Stay safe, take care of each other and enjoy your time with friends and family this holiday season. As always, I'm available, your Area Director Sierra.

Sierra Acton

CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake

Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca

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Shawnigan Basin Society



Brettany Flowers
Shawnigan Basin Society

We are amazed by the generosity of residents and businesses this year. Despite incredibly difficult circumstances, hundreds of individuals have contributed to ensure volunteers at the Shawnigan Basin Society can continue protecting the Shawnigan Lake Watershed.

We are a few dollars short of our fundraising target for 2021 and a few weeks away from the year-end. If every person who reads this article contributes \$20.21, we will meet our 2021 goal, which means that, in 2022, we will be able to do more to protect the Shawnigan Lake Watershed, work hard to conserve the lake's drinking water and push even further in the fight against climate change.

Would you kindly consider

giving today if you are able to do so?

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

If you make your gift before the end of the year, you'll be eligible for a charitable tax credit on your 2021 tax return.

2021 Activities

- ★ "Shawnigan's Natural Edge" + Rail Trail Discussion
- ★ Forest to Foreshore Gourmet Dinner/ Silent Auction @ Cherry Point Estate Wines
- ★ BC Rivers Day Walk-A-Bout @ Shawnigan Creek
- ★ Elder Knowledge Share – Medicinal Plants with Della Rice Sylvester
- ★ Flea Market @ Malahat Legion
- ★ The Natural Edge with

Watersheds Canada

- ★ Invasive Species Awareness – Yellow Flag Iris, Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, Clean-Drain-Dry
- ★ Citizen Science – Bat Project Operational with Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association
- ★ Shawnigan Village Rail Trail Report
- ★ Paddle-A-Thon with St. John's Academy
- ★ Earth Day - Old Growth Awareness and Grand Fir Seedling Sale
- ★ Biochar Presentation with Shelagh Bell-Irving and Diane Fairy @ St. John's Academy
- ★ Soil Deposit Operations Monitoring and Awareness
- ★ Koksilah Ancient Forest Reserve Tour
- ★ Blue Green Algae Awareness
- ★ Youth Volunteer Recognition Certificate Awards
- ★ Protect Nature Challenge
- ★ Charity Registration
- ★ Special Thank You 2020 Tie Off with Unsworth Vineyards

Aikido Dojo

Dear community,

Last month, in the spirit of remembrance, I introduced you to aikido, a Japanese martial art that was offered to humanity after the second world war, as an antidote to the insanity of global conflict.

In reality, smaller scale conflict resides within us and surrounds us daily, but its presence does not necessarily have to be a hindrance to the positive growth in a relationship. The study of aikido offers tools for managing and resolving conflict in a peaceful, constructive way.

In our practice, we learn how to lead, as well as to follow. Both are essential to a beneficial and creative group dynamic, whether that group constitutes a spousal unit, or a boardroom. There is no competition in aikido. In fact, we must work together for the techniques to blossom. We learn how to throw, and we learn how to fall. We must be respectful of our own and one another's limitations. We need to display a sensitivity to each other's capacities and desires. In other words, we need to harmonize.

Harmony doesn't mean getting along with people at any cost just to avoid confrontation. Harmony as used in aikido does not involve compromising at all. Rather, aikido's harmony brings different, even opposing elements together and works as a first step towards reconciliation, towards building a deeper, more productive, and reciprocal relationship.

What we ultimately try to accomplish is to create a spirit and sense of being that is relaxed, confident, present, adaptable, and resilient. However, the path towards the perfection of self and community is full of pitfalls, which is why we invite you to help us show the way.

Our dojo welcomes practitioners from all walks of life, from all ages (14+), from all genders. We all practice together because we can all learn from each other. If this sounds intriguing to you, please contact us for more information at selskens@shaw.ca.

St. John's Academy Interact Club

It is with good tidings that the members of the St. John's Academy Interact Club venture into the coming season of winter. Following a somewhat rough beginning, with multiple shifts within the executive roles, we have found our footing with three projects. These initial projects, two of which are charity drives, remain mostly within the school's internal community. However, we are also working on an outreach team to communicate with other schools and community groups. This group of students will present the benefits and rewards of having an Interact Club to schools which do not, as well as communicating with schools that do, in order to discuss the potential for collaborative projects between groups.

Speaking of such collaborations, St. John's Academy itself has seen a growing number of student leaders amongst its own ranks. The Interact Club cannot speak on behalf of other groups, but we remain optimistic and opportunistic, already having supported the House Leadership Team in their Halloween event at the school.

In celebration of the winter season, the Interact Club will be selling student-made holiday cards in order to raise money for in-school projects, and we will also be having clothing and toy drives (new and used items accepted) to gather supplies for the Salvation Army. These donation drives are running until December 6th and will be open to the public, with the drop-off area at the front desk at the school's office.

Stay tuned for more community events in the future!

Join Shawnigan Focus team. Contact shawnigan-focuseditor@gmail.com

Return to In-Person - Together Again

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
NOON to 3PM



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Let’s talk about real vaccine oppression...

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, Elder’s Chef and Writer

By the time the original settlers of British Columbia arrived in Victoria, they had access to early vaccine technology. They themselves, would have probably been “varioloated”, a primitive form of vaccination, against smallpox. But when one man on a boat from San Francisco accidentally brought smallpox to Victoria in 1862, no one thought to share the technology with the first nations.

There were a few waves of smallpox that ran through the first nations communities of Vancouver Island and the mainland. Most of which took place after the entire US Army was varioloated, in 1775.

But what I want to highlight is this...in those waves of smallpox, 90% of hwulmuw people died. That’s nine out of every ten people, dead within a generation, 1820-1868. Smallpox isn’t a quiet disease - it spreads quickly with an RO of 4, and people

get covered in incredibly painful sores. Hwunitum history is full of stories where settlers knew about the disease, some even praised it as God’s hand clearing the land for them. It’s all quite brutal really.

But there is one more story that I hear from knowledge keepers all over the coast. At the start of the 1862 epidemic a ship full of first nations people that were sick with smallpox was brought up the coast. They would deliver a random sick first nations person to many different villages on their way up the coast. Many tribes have stories of sick first nations people, who spoke strange languages, being dropped off by white men in their boats. I’ve heard these stories from many different tribes, and it explains better how the disease spread throughout the province so much quicker in 1862.

So, maybe, when you look at smallpox and consider that people were rubbing scabs from smallpox patients into their own wounds to prevent a disease, you might think

that a jab is a bit easier. Even if you don’t, at least you’ll realize what hwulmuw people mean when they say British Columbia is on stolen lands and that we faced direct genocide.

In my eyes, the denial of a vaccine that could save millions of lives, is oppression. Whereas, giving one out freely is not.

“One or two Indians die nearly every day; but what is an Indian’s life worth? Not so much as a pet dog’s, to judge from the cruel apathy and stolid indifference with which they were allowed to rot under the very eyes—not to mention the olfactories—of those whose sacred duty it was to have comforted them in their hour of misery and wretchedness. This indifference did not escape the observation of the public and will be long remembered. The northerners, as tribes, are now nearly exterminated.” - “The Small Pox,” Colonist, 7 July 1862, p. 3.

Hwulmuw - First Nations Person

Hwunitum - Non First Nations Person

THE SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Invites you to THE ANNUAL SANTA RUN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND 6PM - 9PM

SANTA VISITS THE BEACH ESTATES STARTING AT CEYLON ROAD, MAKING HIS WAY TO LINDEN LANE.

ON THE EAST SIDE, SANTA STARTS IN THE VILLAGE, DOWN TO WALLBANK ROAD, SOUTH TO GALLAND ROAD, THEN NORTH TO THE BURNUM PARK AREA.

AT THE SOUTH END, SANTA WILL START AT SHAWNIGAN STATION THEN OVER TO THE SALT SHACK IN COUGAR RIDGE.

Merry Christmas From the Shawnigan Focus Team

Christmas Image by EJ Hughes

St. John’s Academy Spotlight

Visit our website for additional information: www.stjohnsacademy.ca/shawniganlake

BINGO!

At St. John’s Academy there are many ways in which we learn. The grade 6 students played Bingo with their game leader to practice numbers in the context of exchanging general information about themselves and their family (name, age, nationality, languages spoken, place of residence).



SJA grade 6 students using the game of BINGO to learn.

FACES of St. John’s Academy

We are grateful to the parents that attended our Families and Community Enrichment Society (FACES) meeting this past month. Together, we had fruitful discussions on how we can continue to engage with the community. A suggestion included decorating our dining hall for the upcoming holiday period and for our winter Arts celebration scheduled for the last week of term.

The FACES meeting is held monthly, and community members are welcome to attend. Please reach out to ask when our next meeting is scheduled.

Matt Jonah
Director of Admissions
matt.jonah@stjohnsacademy.ca



SJA grade 11 science students, as part of the biodiversity unit, used dissection techniques and the microscope to explore the structures of various mushrooms.



HELP ... Together Let’s Slow Traffic at St. John’s Academy School

It isn’t uncommon for those travelling around the lake to speed making it unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and students crossing the road.

The students at St. John’s Academy are asking for your help to slow down the traffic in front of their school? They have noticed that cars are speeding through the 30 km/h zone at unsafe speeds. The grades 4 and 5 are doing a project that involves contacting the RCMP and local government for advice on how this problem can be solved.

How can you help?

- 1. Share the link to this petition with your friends. Go to www.change.org. In the menu select search. The name of the petition is Help St. John’s Academy.
- 2. Sign the petition. By signing the petition you are helping motivate the students to work on initiatives to slow down traffic. This will help with student safety as they cross the road in front of the school.



Malahat Legion

We would like to thank everyone who helped with our November Poppy Drive. From the afternoon of poppy envelope stuffing, to helping distribute the poppies and to all the businesses and schools in the Lower Cowichan Valley for your support. We would also thank everyone who attended the ceremony at the Cobble Hill Cenotaph. All monies raised from donations will provide assistance for Veterans and their families.

We had our Veterans takeout dinner on Thursday November 25th. This was

prepared by the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute for our Veterans. Special thanks to everyone for their help.

Due to Covid-19, and now the floods, the CMS Food Bank will need to make up more Christmas hampers this year. You can help by bringing non-perishable items to the Legion on Saturdays during our bottle drive until December 18th. They will not be able to give out toys again this year, so gift cards or cash donations will enable the families to buy their own. They can be placed in our drop box.

We are also raising money to replace items that were stolen during the break-in on Remembrance Day. Please check our website for the pictures of the two men and if you recognize them, please contact the RCMP.

Our meat draws continue on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. December 11th is our Ham & Turkey draw. If there is still a limit on meat, Thrifty gift cards will be given out. YSAG will be hosting their Christmas bake sale from 2 to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome

to attend. Covid Rules still apply.

Upcoming events:

- ★ December 15th – last day of crib – restarts January 5th at 1:00 pm
- ★ December 18th – last Meat draw until the New Year
- ★ Legion will be closed December 24, 25th, 31st and January 1st.
- ★ January 7th – Legion Re-opens
- ★ January 8th – First Meat Draw of the New Year.



Young Seniors Action Group

Y.S.A.G. Quilters have very busy making 23 quilts for Quilts of Valour and presented them to Cowichan Valley Veterans. On November 15th, Lynn Carrol and members of YSAG presented Virginia Bauder with her Quilt.

YSAGS quilting group have presented more lap quilts to Veterans Broadmead Care Lodge. They are now working on local community charity quilts to donate.

YSAGS Folk Art group has started creating works of art. If anyone want to view photos of activities they can go to our blog: <http://blog.ysag.ca>. On December 11th we will be holding our Christmas bake sale from 2 to 4:00 pm.

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SHAWNIGAN LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department members attended 21 incidents to November 25th

- ★ Saturday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 6 - 1st Responder off Sherburn Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 9 – Alarms Activated on Wyld Wood Ave
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 9 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Nov 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Friday, Nov 12 - 1st Responder off Meadowview Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 13 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 13 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 15 – Assistance on Sooke Lake Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 15 – Hydro Lines on Hipwood Rd
- ★ Monday, Nov 15 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 16 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 16 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Tuesday, Nov 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 17 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 17 – Burning Complaint on Timber Ridge Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Nov 17 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Nov 20 – Alarms Activated on Timber Ridge Rd

Thank-you to our community for working together and staying safe!



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Email sacton@cvr.bc.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Meetings TBA. Held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: check www.thesra.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- ★ **Shawnigan Basin Society**
Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open: 10:30 to 3:30 - Thursday to Sunday (Masks required)
Contact: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com ~ www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **Cowichan South Arts Guild**
contact: hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com / Facebook: [cowichansouthartsguildgroup](https://www.facebook.com/cowichansouthartsguildgroup)
- ★ **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria_gsolley@shaw.ca
- ★ **South Cowichan Healthcare Aux.** every second Tuesday from 1 -2pm. at Mill Bay Community League Hall. southcowichanhealthcareaux@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)

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Congrats to Michelle Pace!
November's answer was the buddy bench at Discovery Elementary School.

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Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Apollo Murders by
Chris Hadfield

Published by Random House
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Chris Hadfield, Inc.

Is there anything Chris
Hadfield can't do, and do
superbly?

Renowned as a fighter test
pilot, a Canadian astronaut
and the Commander of the
International Space Station,
he is extremely well-qualified
to write a book on space.
And who will ever forget
his touching music video
beamed from the ISS, the
iconic "Space Oddity"? Da-
vid Bowie would have been
proud.

What is so interesting is
that Hadfield has become a
very good mystery writer, as
well. This novel, set during

the Cold War between the
U.S. and Russia, is about the
fictitious Apollo 18, sent to
the moon, racing to intercept
the Russian cosmonauts.

The characters are appeal-
ing, whether heroic or traitor-
ous, and the story is a true
thriller, full of bravery and
espionage. The space details,
are, of course, authentic,
although one could argue
that they are described in a
little too much detail at the
beginning of the book.

However, after a few chap-
ters, the reader settles into
the descriptions, experienc-
ing the G-force of take-off,
floating in zero gravity and
enjoying the details of eating
and sleeping in space.

The tensions build and
soon we are experiencing
a fight in space, with an
improbable rescue and an
additional passenger.

The descriptions of the
moon landing are beautiful,
and we recognize that these
are authentic first-person
stories which make them
even more powerful.

There is romance, peace-
brokering and everything
an international adventure
could offer. There is even a
heart-thumping, crazy fight
during the Apollo landing
with the Good Guys manag-
ing to win.

This would make a won-
derful Christmas book for
anyone on your list. In fact,
one copy is going to my
husband and one to my son.
And, yes, I was careful not to
break the spine or eat any-
thing while reading it.

Recommended for the
mystery readers and science
buffs on your list.

Rating: 4.8/5 stars

Some other book recommen-
dations for holiday giving,
bearing in mind the Covid
epidemic and a devastat-
ing flood from which the
province is still recovering.
Hence, I am looking mainly
at escapist reading to soothe
the stressed-out mind.

★ Apples Never Fall by
Liane Moriarty- Another
mesmerizing family
drama from this best-
selling author that is
full of recognizable
characters, with foibles
and traits that echo
in most families. This
is also a tense thriller.
Recommended for Book
Club members.

★ The World According
to Dogs-An Owner's
Manual by Adrian
Raeside. Vancouver
Island's favourite
cartoonist scores a hit

with this light-hearted
and amusing book.
Recommended for dog
lovers of all ages.

And I'd like to recom-
mend as gifts these final two,
both of which have been
reviewed in this column
before:

★ Taste, My Life Through
Food by Stanley Tucci.
Recommended for lovers
of food, travel, wine and
all things Stanley.

★ The E. J. Hughes Book
of Boats by Robert
Amos - a stunning
book featuring the boat
paintings of Shawnigan
Lake's best-known artist.
Recommended for just
about anyone. Available
in the Shawnigan Lake
Museum, along with
other interesting local
books.

Area B Parks Commission

Dan Nugent
On behalf of the Area B
Parks Commission

Sometimes dreams can
become reality. My dream is
to see a vast multi-use trail
system in the Shawnigan
Lake area. Slowly chipping
away, we have added trails
and new parks to our beauti-
ful community. Dream with
me. See a trail from Mt.
Baldy Park to Old Mill Park

and from there connecting
to Shawnigan Wharf Park
which leads onto the new
trail to Renfrew Rd. and
Mason's Beach Park.

But don't stop there... Can
you see a trail to the west out
to Shawnigan Beach Estates,
even connecting to Co-
wichan Valley Trail and the
Kinsol Trestle? Now look to
the east and visualize a trail
heading to Mill Bay.

Now head North. A trail
that goes all the way to
Cobble Hill Mt. Rec. Area.
Wow!

What's so great about all
these trails? A disability-
friendly trail network pro-
vides us with safe areas for
jogging; a place to ride our
bikes; power walking; tak-
ing children for a walk in
strollers, all in a peaceful,
safe environment. Focusing

our attention on the beauty
that surrounds us instead of
fearing for our safety on nar-
row roadways. Imagine our
trails as a mecca for cyclists
touring the island, stopping
in for food and refreshments
along the way. Economic
benefits certainly come with
eco-tourism.

As I mentioned, we are
slowly building a trail sys-
tem. The most exciting and

integral part of making it
work is the Rail Trail por-
tion from Wharf Park to Old
Mill. This is a great way to
create momentum for a re-
gional trail system! Support
this critical initiative. Make
our community even better
for our future generations
to enjoy. Let's join together
and show support for this
new portion of the area trail
system. Yes, dreams can
come true!

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