

HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY SHAWNIGAN FOCUS!



The current team, tiny but tough, includes Dave Hutchinson and Lori Treloar as Editors; Kim Hennecker, the manager of ads and accounts; Taryn Treloar, the layout person; and Janet Neilsen who distributes the paper in the community.

If you enjoy reading the Focus you can support the Focus by sending articles, letters and photos to shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com or by placing an ad by emailing shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Introducing the Team #Trashtag Challenge for #ShawniganCleanUp2019



Collective efforts DO make a difference!

Just as thrift shops were inundated with people's unwanted clutter as a result of the Tidy Up "Kon-Mari" effect started by Marie Kondo, so we too can begin to see unwelcome litter as our opportunity to Tidy Up our community and load up our local disposal depot! Have you heard of the #Trashtag Challenge? The idea is to take a photo of an area that is damaged by trash, carefully collect and bag

up all of the mess, and celebrate your hard work on social media by sharing the "Before+After" photos using the hashtag #Trashtag. Locally, you can do the same and include the hashtag #Shawnigan-CleanUp2019 – and your work could be featured in our Event Gallery!

#ShawniganCleanUp2019 is Sunday, April 28th from 10am to 2pm, with a community-wide coordinated effort launched from the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre in the heart of our village. Volunteers will be dispatched to zones around the lake and along our high traffic areas, equipped with bags, gloves, and tongs and the means to gather and deal with all of the litter to be sorted and hauled away.

Refreshments plus related activities and info will be shared. Plan to enjoy the benefits of many hearts working together to take care of our environment!

This team effort is going forward through the South Cowichan Rotary Club in collaboration with Fisher Rd Recycling / DL Bins, P.A.N. Disposal, and Mainroad South Island Contracting - along with the community support of the Shawnigan Residents Association, Area B Director Sierra Acton, and the CVRD. Many thanks to our safety resource partners who will also be on hand! We will be involving interested groups, schools and businesses to sponsor and participate during the 4-hour event. More details will be available at www.southcowichanrotary.org so stay tuned!

Upcoming Events:

13 Ways to Kill Your Community:

- ★ April 4, 2019 7:00-8:30
- ★ Shawnigan Lake School Chapel - Free event

Shawnigan Lake Museum Fundraiser:

Vintage Sign workshop

- ★ April 6th at the Malahat Legion 6pm-10 pm
- ★ \$75 includes material to create a sign and a bowl of chili.
- ★ Facilitated by Lisa from Shawnigan Vintage Barn
- ★ Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary Annual Lemon and Lavender Vintage Tea:

- ★ Saturday, April 13th, 2019 11AM to 2PM
- ★ This free event is held in the Mill Bay Community Hall
- ★ 1035 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road, next to Kerry Park Arena.
- ★ There will be Baking, Crafts, Treasure table, Raffles, Artisan etc..
- ★ Tea (or coffee) is served with dainty sandwiches and treats for \$10.00. Tickets will be pre-sold 250-733-2102, as well as available at the door.

Epic Shawnigan Beach Estates Garage Sale:

- ★ May 4 2019 9am-2pm



South Cowichan Library

Tablet Workshop on Wednesday, April 3, 6-7pm. Learn how to use the tools you already have in your tablet to access digital resources from the library. Free, just bring your tablet.

French Conversation Group is on alternating Thursdays, April 4 & 18, 5:30-7pm. Come by and practice parler en francais with a native French speaker.

LEGO® Club meets on Wednesday, April 10, 3:30-5:30pm. This is a free, drop-in event best suited for children 6 to 12 years but anyone old enough to resist eating LEGO® is welcome. Second Wednesday of every month.

Family Storytime is Saturday, April 13, 11am to noon. Join us for stories, rhymes, songs, and crafts on the second Saturday of every month. For children aged 2 to 6 and their adults. Free.

Author Reading: Teresa Schapansky and Allan Waddy on Saturday, April 13, 1-3pm. Enjoy Cowichan Valley history? Come hear two authors from Lake Cowichan read from their books of unique, local-based stories.

Wills and Estates on Thursday, April 18, 6-7:30pm. Local lawyer Elizabeth Robinow explains the basics of Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Representation Agreements, and how these documents are essential for end-of-life planning and estate planning. Learn what each of these documents does and why they can be important.

Author Reading: Nick Coghlan on Thursday, April 25, 6:30-8pm. Collapse of a Country: A Diplomat's memoir of South Sudan is an insider's account of the violent implosion and ongoing humanitarian tragedy of the world's youngest state, including a scramble to evacuate South-Sudanese Canadians.

Chess Club: This drop-in group for chess players is on Friday, March 29, 1-4pm. Meets on the last Friday of each month, new players welcome. Free.

The Library now has a Facebook page to help you keep up with events:

VI Regional Library South Cowichan

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Update on the contaminated soil dump in Shawnigan Lake

Shawnigan Residents Association

In 2017 the Shawnigan Residents Association was successful in their court case, yet the ministry has yet to address the issues regarding a conflict of interest between the Engineers and the Permit holders. Since that time, the Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) has taken on the task of reviewing the reports and meeting with the relevant parties to push for removal of the contaminated soil.

The SRG has met with the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MoE) on multiple occasions over the past several years. The SRG has pointed out problems with the contaminated soil landfill including problems with the clay liner, the polyethylene base liner, the polyethylene cover liner and the large volume of elemental sulfur present in the Port Moody soil brought on site. Gary Hamilton, a contaminated sites specialist hired by the SRA, reported during a

meeting with MoE that elemental sulfur is so problematical that there is no other landfill site in BC that would accept such soils. The SRG has also presented evidence that the site is leaking. During each meeting MoE staff assured the SRG that the Community concerns will be taken into consideration and that the SRG would be consulted prior to a decision being made.

The Named Parties that the MoE considers responsible for the contaminated soils landfill on Lot #23 are: Cobble Hill Holdings (CHH), South Island Aggregates (SIA), South Island Resource Management (SIRM), Allterra, Martin Block and Michael Kelly. The SRG was greatly surprised to learn that on September 20, 2018, the MoE sent a letter to the Named Parties outlining that provisional approval was given for an updated closure plan prepared by Sperling Hansen Associates (SHA), provided that a number of additional conditions were met. On January 4, 2019, representatives of the SRG met

with the MoE and the President of SHA to review the 'improved' final closure plan. It is the opinion of the SRG that this improved final closure plan has as many flaws in it as the previous closure plans. When the SRG highlighted the problems present in the plan, the response was that the contaminated soil is sealed in such a way that no additional water can enter and ultimately the soil will be so dry that no leachate will be generated; therefore the environment will be protected. Furthermore, it was disclosed that the MoE did not inform SHA that many tonnes of elemental sulfur are present in the landfill. This is of course material to the closure plan and it was disappointing to learn that the SHA plan did not consider it.

The Final Closure Plan prepared by SHA is now available for review on the MoE website. This Plan will enable the Named Parties to make some money by bringing in an additional 70,000 metric tonnes of industrial grade fill onto the site.



This despite the large quantity of fill on the adjacent Lot #21 (right next door). According to a July 16, 2015 Information Sheet prepared by the Ministry of Energy & Mines (MEM), that soil is intended for the reclamation of the quarry on Lot #23, but it will likely not be used in the Final Closure Plan.

In mid-April the SRG and the Shawnigan Residents Association are meeting with the MoE to discuss the proposed closure

plan. We are nearing a major decision by the Ministry and it is prudent that we invite our lawyers to also attend. Please contribute to support our ongoing legal efforts to have the contaminated soil removed.

E-transfer: shawniganresidentsassociation@gmail.com Or mail a check to: Shawnigan Residents Association

P.O. Box 443 Shawnigan Lake, BC V0R 2W0 Or through the SRA website: theSRA.ca

Shawnigan Basin Society

Kelly Musselwhite
Shawnigan Basin Society

Thank you Shawnigan Lake!

The Shawnigan Basin Society would like to recognize the success of our Milfoil Information Sessions held Jan. 23, Feb. 20, and Mar. 20 and to thank everyone who participated. Attendance exceeded expectation and demonstrated an excellent cross-section of residents. Discussion was engaging, supportive, and solution oriented. The agenda was comprehensive, interest was abundant, and collaboration to be a part of the solution was readily offered!

Milfoil, and its introduction and proliferation in Shawnigan Lake, is just one example of a degrading watershed. Fragmentation of decision-making authorities from all levels of government is a leading cause of its deterioration - each jurisdiction brings a variety of regulations unique to the objectives of their respective sector.

In short, there is no single governmental agency considering or anticipating the long-term ecological consequences inherent in this fragmented model.

The Shawnigan Basin Society, however, has that capacity and addressing milfoil in our major water system - Shawnigan Lake - ought to be considered the first step toward adopting a holistic approach, specifically an ecosystems-based approach, to watershed management.

The continuance of the Shawnigan Basin Society's work is now dependent upon your support, which is no longer obtained directly through your tax dollars. Therefore, we are asking residents to consider a \$20 membership, a donation (with or without a tax receipt), or a sponsorship. Please contact Kelly Musselwhite, Executive Director, at director@shawniganbasinsociety.org or Shirley Astleford, our Fundraising Coordinator, at info@shawniganbasinsociety.org, for details. You may also wish to drop by our office at #4-1760 Shawnigan Lake/Mill Bay Rd during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30-2:30.

The Shawnigan Basin Society would also like to invite you to join our meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month. Please note: our AGM will be held on Tuesday May 7. All meetings commence at 7pm.

Sponsored by the Shawnigan Lake Community Association
Funded by the Province of BC

Easter Event

Sunday, April 21st

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm



Eggsellent Activities in the gym 12:30-2:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt starts at 1:00 pm

B.Y.O.B.

(Bring your own basket)

please bring a non perishable food item for the local food bank



Walk Talk

Robin Massey
Shawnigan Focus

Spring presents us with voluptuous rivers and rivers such as the Cowichan are bursting with energy this time of year!

There are so many places to catch sight of this river along its 47 kilometers within the traditional territory of the Cowichan (Quw'utsun) First Nation. It begins at Lake Cowichan and flows east to Cowichan Bay where (along with the Koksilah) it has created the splendid Cowichan estuary.

In 2003 the Cowichan River was designated a Canadian Heritage River due to its natural, cultural and recreational values – and rightly so!

Along the way is Skutz Falls, originally Skwets or Squitz which in Halkomelem translates to waterfall. The falls drop approximately 20 feet, which certainly lends reason as to why there are fish ladders constructed in an effort to help the fish spawn (primarily wild salmon and steelhead).

Parking at the Skutz Falls day-use-area, and taking a peep at the falls, we then



walked back to the trailhead that we had passed (on the left, before the bridge). Snapping a shot of the map-board for reference, and then passing over the little footbridge, we were on our way.

The terrain from this point is, by and large, steeply downhill.

In most weather (other than icy winter) it is considered safe for all levels. However, those with balance issues would greatly benefit from poles to enhance stability.

A lush forest path with Douglas Fir, Hemlock, and Garry Oak snakes along with the river.

After some lengthy downward trails there is a point on the left, with a plentiful rocky shore, which provides a place to stop and take in the river's splendor.

Continue on the trail for a few uphill climbs to the 66 Mile CNR Trestle. At about 3.5 km, this makes a great half way point back to the

falls. Or perhaps you may wish to extend your trip to the Glenora Trailhead Park (another 10.9 km one-way) or the Kinsol Trestle (another 22 km one-way).


At the 66 Mile Trestle the trail links onto the Trans-Canada Trail. Heed left and across for an amazing 35m view of the river. Follow along the converted old rail bed all the way back to the entrance road to Skutz Falls and then, over the

bridge, to the parking area.

Total loop length is about 7 km with a lot of terrain changes. You will be consistently in and out of the sun, near and far from the river.

The walk is most certainly doggie friendly but please do watch them near the raging river banks!

Check out The Om Tree Facebook Page for our photos and hike schedule.




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My thoughts

Glenn White
Shawnigan Resident

I recently read an article in the Times Colonist about a fellow who walked from Victoria to Lake Cowichan on local trails, including the Trans Canada Trail (a converted rail bed). He pointed out all of the wonderful scenery along the way and the local B and B's he stayed at in Shawnigan Lake as well as in Duncan.

He shared his enthusiasm for this area and the wonderful people he met along the way and how he enjoyed the ease of making connections into Shawnigan Village and Duncan. This is one example of the potential for Tourism in our region. Can you imagine a trail going from Victoria to Courtenay with great opportunities along the way to sight-see, to stay at local B and B's, to hike our amazing parks trail systems and to visit our wineries, farm markets and coffee shops?

It is a wonderful vision and it just has to be acted on by various levels of government -

federal, provincial and, most importantly, local government. They need to push for more local benefits of foot and bike travel on the inactive rail beds. It is time to finally put an end to the virtually defunct E and N railway bed and convert it into a great trail network which would open up this area to many eco-friendly tourists that would benefit all of our communities. It would encourage a healthy lifestyle and encourage an appreciation of nature and our lovely countryside. Not everyone is going to do the whole trail but with the trail available in local communities, and its connection to our local parks system trails, the opportunities are endless. The economic benefits of visitors would help our B and B's, as well as local markets and restaurants, and provide support for our local economy in general.

We live in an area that is full of wonderful vistas, attractions, lakes, rivers, historical trestles and forests. We should be inviting people to visit it in a low impact way that supports a healthy lifestyle and encourages people to get out and enjoy it.

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind” -Dr. Seuss

A hive mentality

Thomas Lupton
Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)

Looking up the other day after the snow had mercifully receded, I glanced into the barren wasteland that used to be my backyard and braced myself for my annual death-match with the dandelions that consume the entire patch of turf I call my lawn. Not willing to head down the road of going nuclear (or in this case, using round-up), I began researching “ways to kill dandelions in Shawnigan.” A quick glance down the list of hits told me that to kill dandelions is to kill bee communities and that I shouldn’t do it. It was something of a relief to me because I am excellent at growing dandelions and I can leverage my talents to save bee communities, and by extension, save our community. A suburban hero, to say the least!

One of the other hits on the list was the title of a book called “13 Ways to Kill your Community.” It turns out the author, Doug Griffiths, is coming to Shawnigan on April 4 to discuss his book, but he won’t be speaking about bees. Instead, he is going to outline the various things that communities can do to

sabotage their development and decrease the quality of life for those who reside within. He goes into depth about how not attracting business harms communities, about how ignoring seniors and youth is detrimental, and about how having poor water quality, among other things, kills communities.

Those who have lived in Shawnigan for a while will recognize the problems associated with all of those things, with the fight over water simply being the most dramatic in a laundry list of issues that we face. But it was another point he makes in the book that resonates most with me: Becoming complacent. Or, put another way, apathy. Anyone who has worked in any organization that relies on collaboration knows just how dangerous and damaging apathy can be.

The good news is that no one can accuse us of being an apathetic community. Indeed, in terms of a motivated population, we punch well above our weight. However, I do wonder about the other initiatives Mr. Griffiths will be speaking upon.

How can we revitalize our village core and make it more liveable for our se-

niors and youth, and make Shawnigan more of a home than a bedroom community or a summer destination, if we don’t have the power to actually make the decisions for our community?

Those who have read this column over the past several months will know that I am banging on the ‘exploring incorporation’ drum here, but I do want to highlight that the operative word in that phrase is ‘explore.’ We should explore any and all opportunities as a community, of which incorporation is just one, to make sure apathy never creeps into our midst, for as long as we remain committed to our community and to revitalizing the area, then we will thrive in every sense of the word.

Is incorporation the way to ensure this? Maybe, maybe not. We will only know once it has been fully explored. In the meantime, I’ll be growing a mean dandelion field in my backyard.

I’ve been told, that at the time of this article going to press, 225 people have registered to attend this event.

There is no cost to attend, so, if you haven’t already please RSVP to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/13-ways-to-kill-your-community-tickets-57135825793>



Rail trail underway along the E&N Railway

Book Review

Marcy Green
Shawnigan Focus

The Gown

Jennifer Robson
Published by William Morrow
Copyright 2019 by Jennifer Robson

Throughout history the beautiful handiwork of women has come down to us in many forms, including tapestry, quilting and embroidery. Usually this work is done by anonymous hands. We rarely learn the names of the women who have laboured together with such great skill and patience to produce these works of art. This is the story of the women embroiderers who embellished the wedding gown of the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947.

Norman Hartnell was the British designer selected to design the gown and Jennifer Robson uses his workshop as the setting for this novel. Two of the main characters, Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, while fictitious, are based on interviews done with one of the last surviving Hartnell seamstresses, Betty Foster.

The setting is post-war England, where rationing and food shortages prevail. The times are grim with the population recovering from the many losses of life and the bombing of much of London during the Blitz. The Royal Wedding brings a much needed lift. As Churchill said during a newscast, “Millions will welcome this joyous event as a flash of colour in the long road we have to travel.”

The story travels back and forth through time as Ann’s Canadian grand-daughter, Heather Mackenzie, finds a box of flowers embroidered on fabric in her late grandmother’s possessions. She realizes she knows little of Ann’s life before

she immigrated, and so travels to England to piece together the little she knows.

As the wartime stories unfold, we learn that one of the women is a holocaust survivor and the other a woman orphaned by the war. They find much-needed work using their hands, creating beautiful clothes for upper class women living a life of relative luxury. This is in strong contrast to their own impoverished and bitterly hard lives.

Over time they rise in the workshop to become lead hands in the embellishment of the gowns and take enormous pride in learning that they will be making the motifs on the wedding dress and veil. The fact that they must work in secrecy lends a dramatic tone to the story as reporters and unscrupulous people try to bribe them in hopes of obtaining a sketch or description.

When the grand-daughter comes on the scene she learns that her grandmother’s dearest friend is now a world-renowned fabric artist, albeit one who is very private. As they meet, Miriam is able to fill in the gaps, although she keeps the deepest secret to herself, protecting both grandmother and her grand-daughter.

While I found the story fascinating, especially the historical details, I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the details of making couture and about the actual techniques of working with fabric. Having a few brief appearances from the Royal Family made it fun to read, too.

Recommended for those who appreciate stories of resiliency and courage, not to mention friendship and loyalty.

Rating: 4.6/5 stars

New experiences, renewed appreciation and fresh starts

Sierra Acton
Area B Director

Love it!

As most of you know, around mid March, Nick Colin’s memorial bus stop was hit by a car and demolished. Luckily no one was hurt. The CVRD does not have jurisdiction over Nick’s stop because it is Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s land and BC Transit is responsible for bus stops in unincorporated areas. However this community never ceases to amaze me - people rallied together swiftly, organized and, before you knew it, the memorial had been replaced. Reading all the comments on Facebook has been so heartwarming. I hope that this memorial is not lost on the drivers in this community and acts as a reminder for all of us to slow down.

Share it!

By the time you read this, it is likely that ThinkShawnigan’s event with guest speaker Doug Griffith will have taken place. His book and presentation 13 ways to Kill Your Community was a great kick off to our Village Planning slated for this Spring.

A Design Charrette will address the kind of village we want to create in both the near and distant future. The plan will help visualize our goals and specifically lay out the where, what and how, thereby bringing the private and public sectors together. This will ideally facilitate the services, development and lifestyle we want in the village area. The Charrette becomes a guide to get the infrastructure grants, housing development and businesses we want for our village core.

Protect it!

Removal of the contaminated soil dump continues to be a top priority as this is the biggest threat to our watershed and future of our community.

The upcoming meetings with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) may be the most important meetings to date. After these meetings the Minister of Environment will be making his decision.

Currently I’m working closely with the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) and the Shawnigan Research Group (SRG) as we prepare to meet with the MoE. Please consider contributing to the SRA legal fund, so we can have legal attend these meetings.

Malahat Legion

G. J. Solley
Malahat Legion

Community working together

The Malahat Legion has many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts for the Legion, but a few go over and above to help others in the community. Jutta Auchincloss is one of them.

Jutta is a retired caregiver who volunteers for several care facilities around the Cowichan Valley. Most residents-in-care do not have family living close by – some have no family at all. About 8 years ago Jutta decided that the residents in the Acacia Lodge, in Shawnigan Lake, needed to have regular outings and she had an idea. She got permission from the Malahat Legion to host a monthly lunch and other Legion members volunteered to help.

A lunch, with the choice of two kinds

of homemade soup and sandwiches, finished off with homemade squares, cookies or cake is offered. Most lunches are attended by 18–25 residents.

Not only do they get to experience the outing for lunch, but get to attend special events such as Valentine’s Day, Canada Day, Legion Week and Christmas, complete with gifts delivered by Santa. If Jutta knows that a resident has a birthday coming up, she makes sure they have cake and a small gift. Special thanks go to the Acacia care workers for shuttling them back and forth since their van broke down.

Thank you **Jutta** for all you do here at the Legion and for others in our Community!

Up-coming events include:

- ★ Saturday, April 6th at 7:00 pm, the Malahat Legion is hosting the Shawnigan Lake MUSEUM’s

Vintage Sign Workshop fundraiser. Please check their website or Facebook page for more information.

- ★ On Mondays, starting on April 8th at 7:00 pm, we are starting a drop-in Euchre Night. The first 2 Mondays there will be lessons available for beginners.
- ★ Saturday, April 13th, is our annual Easter Ham and Turkey Draw. Come out and support our local charities.
- ★ Sunday, April 14th is our Pins & Award Ceremony.
- ★ Good Friday, April 19th, we will be open with the Jammers starting at 7:00 pm

Please remember that you do not have to be a member of the Legion to participate – you just have to sign in. However, if you want to become a member please see the bartender on duty.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Department members attended
17 incidents in MARCH



- ★ Friday, Mar 1 – Burning Complaint on Woodcroft Rd
- ★ Wednesday, Mar 6 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 7 - 1st Responder off Ingot Rd
- ★ Friday, Mar 8 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 9 - MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 9 – MVI on Kapoor Main
Monday, Mar 10 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 – MVI on Renfrew Rd
- ★ Thursday, Mar 14 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 17 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- ★ Sunday, Mar 17 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Burning Complaint on Silver Mine Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Structure Fire on Northgate Rd
- ★ Saturday, Mar 23 – Assistance at North End of Lake
- ★ Thursday, Mar 28 – Burning Complaint on Memory Island

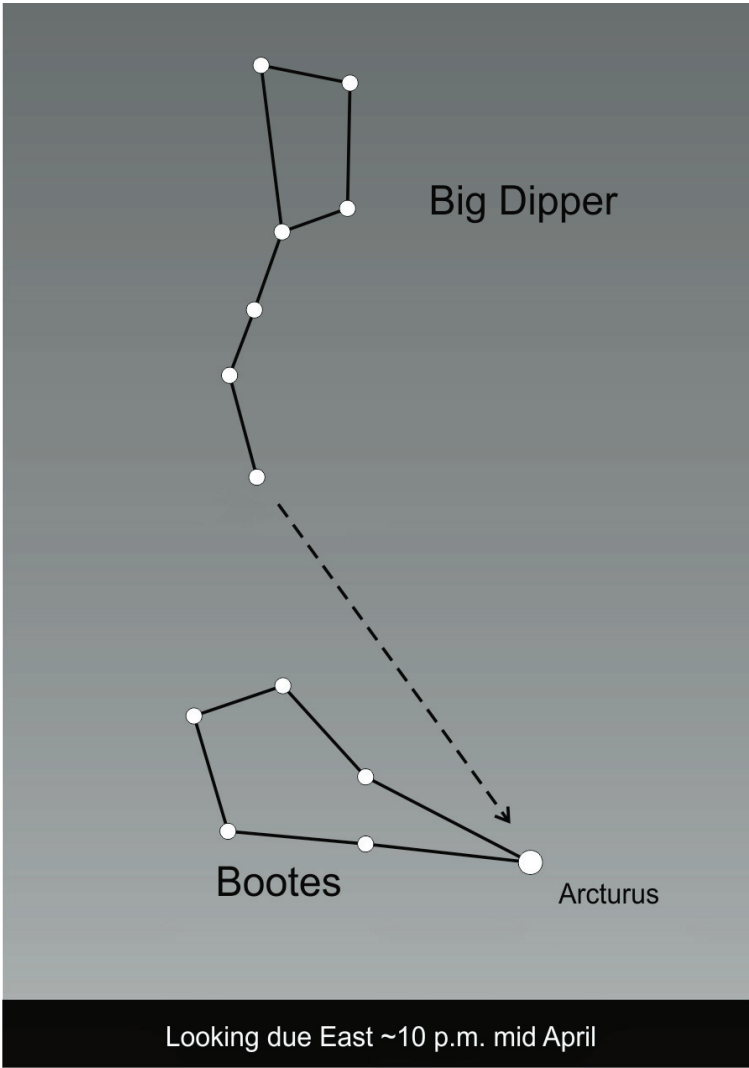
Shawnigan Stargazer

Colin Frostad
Shawnigan Focus

April: Bootes the Herdsman and Arcturus

The arrival of spring is marked by Canadian stargazers by the return of a brilliant yellow star to the night sky; Arcturus is the brightest star of the constellation Bootes. They are both easy to locate due to their proximity to the Big Dipper. To locate Arcturus, find the Big Dipper by looking east and high up towards the zenith. Trace an arc that continues down through the handle of the Big Dipper down toward the Eastern horizon. Arcturus is, by far, the brightest star along this path and is noticeably yellow in appearance. In the evening sky, Bootes is lying on its side and makes a large polygon; I think it looks like a large kite (see star chart). Arcturus, also known as Job’s Star, is 37.7 light years from Earth, making it the closest giant star to our planet. The name Arcturus is derived from Greek “arktourros” meaning “guardian of the bear”, which is clever given its proximity to the Big Dipper (Ursa Major, “the Great Bear”).

Planets and Moon: Mars is tracking through the constellation Taurus throughout the month of April. Watch as it travels by Pleiades and then by Aldebaran (see Feb 2018 stargazer for Taurus chart). Jupiter and Saturn straddle the constellation of Sagittarius in the morning sky to the Southeast. New Moon is April 5th, Full Moon is April 19th.



Shawnigan Weather March 2019 - Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network

	March Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Average High	10.4	11.8	10.1	12	11.2	13.6	11.3	11.3	10.3
Average Low	1.7	-0.3	1.0	0.0	1.8	0.5	1.9	-0.8	0.9
Extreme High	22.2	22.8	16.6	23.5	17.8	25.4	19.5	23.0	17.5
Extreme Low	-11.7	-6.1	-1.7	-6.0	-1.5	-5.6	-1.1	-6.0	-2.0
Precipitation	119.2	16.1	52.2	13.9	43.8	12.9	46.5	14.4	47.4
Days w precip	19	6	14	6	14	6	14	6	13
Year Precip	469.2	338.7	417.2	315.0	392.1	299.4	373.3	342.8	437.2
Precip since Oct 1	1003.9	935.2	999.9	856.1	953.2	879.0	884.1	909.5	990.2
Rank since 1914: 46 th coldest, driest ever									
Lake Temperature: Mar 3 rd : 0.5° Mar 11 th : 1° Mar 18 th : 4° Mar 24 th : 6° Mar 31 st : 8°									
Lake Level Change: Mar 3 rd : -4 cm Mar 10 th : -5cm Mar 17 th : +6cm Mar 25 th : +24cm Mar 31 st : +10cm									
Surface Elevation: 116.16m 116.22m 116.46m 116.56m									

March certainly came in like a lion, with below freezing temperatures until the 14th. There was snow on the ground until the middle of the month, then spring arrived with a vengeance, with temperatures in the mid-twenties! March also was the driest ever since 1914!

~ Compiled by Grant Treloar

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
Office hours by appointment. Email sacton@cverd.bc.ca For more info check Facebook at Sierra Acton Area B
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
Contact: Bruce at jenniebruce1@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.
- ★ **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**
1st Tuesday of the month in Watershed office: Unit 4-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Office hours: Tues & Thurs 11-1 Wed 6-8. Contact: luvlife@shaw.ca
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: blog.ysag.ca - email: ysagssl@gmail.com
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Open Friday to Sunday - 10:30-4. Contact: shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca www.shawniganlakemuseum.com
- ★ **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222 - www.southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- ★ **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

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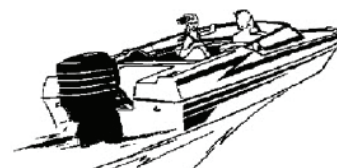


One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House.
Reply to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

NO WINNER FOR MARCH

No one submitted an answer for March which showed a recently constructed culvert that is part of the new CVRD Trail between Elsie Miles Park and Shawnigan Wharf Park. Described as a "multi-use pathway featuring a compacted gravel surface suitable for all ages and abilities", some are questioning the scale and expense.

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What would the Shawnigan community be like without volunteers?

Lori Treloar
Shawnigan Focus Editor

Hmmm...the Shawnigan Focus that you are reading would not exist.

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society (the museum) would not exist...no museum, no repository of the history of Shawnigan, no Family Day event, no Heritage Fair, no school programming and no access to the rich history of the community.

The Easter event, the Canada Day event, the Hallowe'en event and the Christmas Light up would not exist...these are all provided by the volunteers of the Shawnigan Lake Community Association.

We would not have fire protection or first responders. The Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department not only responds to fires but these volunteers are the first responders for medical emergencies as well.

The Shawnigan Lake Residents Association would not exist...this volunteer organization rallied for the Save Shawnigan Water campaign, and that fight is ongoing...

The Shawnigan Research Group would not exist... this volunteer group continues the fight for justice, on behalf of the community, against the government to remove the contaminated soil from the former SIA site.

The Shawnigan Basin Society, which focuses on the health and protection of the Shawnigan Watershed, would not exist...

No Brownies, Cubs, Girl Guides or Scouts for the youth of the area...nor sports programs - all facilitated by volunteers.

No community input for Parks (Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission); the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre (Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission) or for development - the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC).

No representation for Shawnigan at the CVRD Board level without the

commitment of an Area B Director – someone who is willing to take on this thankless and undercompensated job.

When you live in a place like Shawnigan Lake, it is volunteers who create community. It has always been thus for Shawnigan. The volunteers of the Women's Institute and the Farmer's Institute started taking care of our community needs over 100 years ago. These volunteers created the Cobble Hill Fair, the long-standing Shawnigan Flower Show, the first library in Shawnigan and much more. When you live in a place like Saanich or Victoria, or any other incorporated area, you don't think too much about who is creating community – it is just there, and to a certain degree it is taken for granted.

Many individuals have devoted decades of service to our community...Brownie Gibson, Garth and Gladys Harvey and Marian Davies come to mind as volunteers who have received awards and accolades for their commitment to the Shawnigan

community.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that happiness is not a goal – it is a by-product, and one of the most important requirements for happiness is that, in some way, you are useful. Research supports the notion that having purpose and meaning in life increases our overall well-being and life satisfaction. We don't volunteer to make ourselves look good or feel good, but that is what happens when we do. We are healthier and our communities are healthier.

Many of the same people in communities sit on multiple committees to produce events and keep the community vibrant. How do we challenge more adults and young people in our community to volunteer? And, what will happen in the future of our community without a strong volunteer base? Something to ponder. Thankfully, there is a great variety of volunteer opportunities for people to choose from in the Shawnigan community.

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give" Ben Carson



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