



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Sixteen- Issue Nine

September 2025 Tum'qwe'unhiw
"The time when the leaves turn colour"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Cherished Old Hall Shawnigan Lake Community Hall

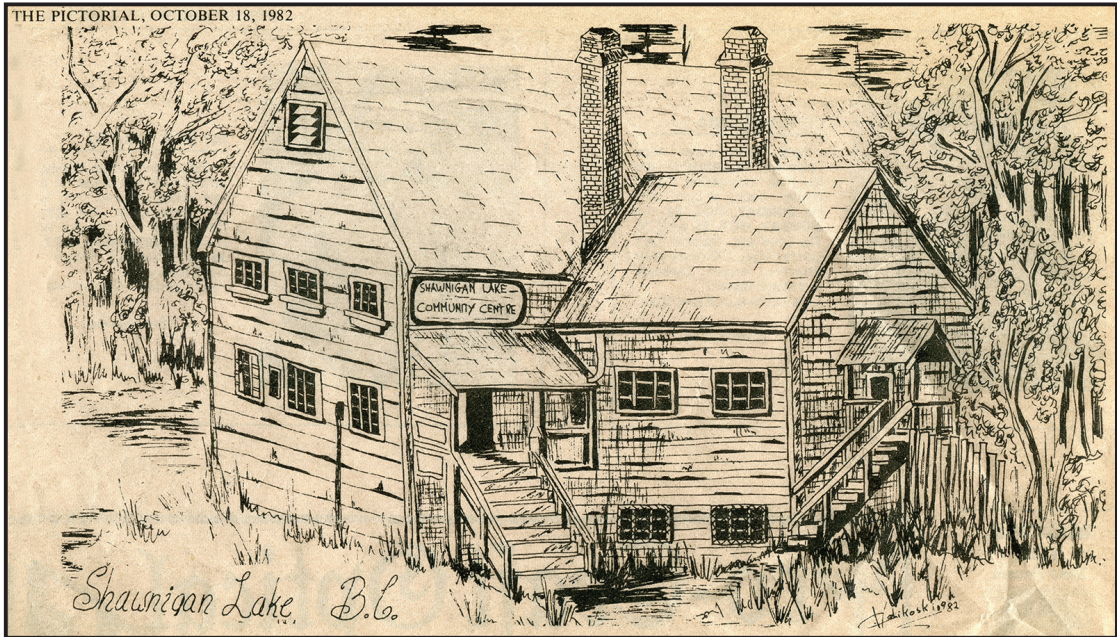
Kate Roberts

The first time upon entering the marvellous old hall in 1970 I never imagined that years later I would be required to stoke the furnace in the dark, eerie, cavernous basement starting in the year 1988! Over the years I have shared many happy memories with my family and friends surrounding the huge old hall. Our family never missed

a Shawnigan Lake Flower Show and when my children were young they would enter posies and animals constructed from vegetables. Our four children also performed in Christmas concerts when they attended Elsie Miles Elementary School. The evening always ended with a visit from Santa Claus who gave out candy canes. My husband, John, and I attended or acted in many of

the Shawnigan Players productions which started in 1977 with 'Under Milkwood' by Dylan Thomas. Our kids and I took dance lessons there, attended Brownie and Guide functions (in fact I was Tawnie Owl one year) and we were present at many community or private functions.

In 1988 I was hired as a teacher at Elsie Miles Elementary School up the hill from



the old Hall. Twice a week each teacher with key in hand would walk his or her class down a trail through the woods and up the steps to the doorway of the old hall. Once inside, the children would line up along the wall, shed their coats and sit down and put on their indoor shoes for gym class. The special helper for the day and I would open the nearby door

and proceed down the long narrow steps to the dingy, dark cellar below. After loading the furnace with a new log we would hasten upstairs to the awaiting children. I must admit I was not too keen on that part of the job but luckily I didn't have a fear of spiders as some of the other teachers did!

Note: The old hall was demolished in 2015.

National Legion Week at the Malahat Legion

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

National Legion Week is taking place from September 21st to 27th across Canada this year! During this week, Legions like the Malahat Legion will be highlighting the

amazing community work our Legion does and our mission to serve and support Veterans. We also welcome new members who want to volunteer their time to support our community service initiatives.

Malahat Legion Community Service Highlights

Our funds are carefully managed to ensure they support worthy causes. Our Meat Draw funds, raised every Saturday afternoon, are vetted by the Province Gaming and Policy Enforcement Branch and disbursed to approved British Columbia societies.

Our Poppy funds are monitored by the Provincial Legion

branch to ensure they support Veterans and RCMP. Our Creative funds come from initiatives like table rentals for our Flea Market/Tailgate Sale and online auctions, which support national charities like Cops for Cancer and the BC Branch of Wounded Warriors.

Get Involved!

Curious about our community service initiatives? Join us at the Malahat Legion on Friday, September

26th, from 1 PM to 9 PM! Our kitchen will be open, and kids are welcome to come along. Plus, enjoy free bingo from 6 PM to 9 PM. We've got a jam-packed September schedule, including an epic Oktoberfest dinner featuring Chemainus' Copper Canyon Band. So be sure to check out our website for all the latest events: <https://malahatlegion.ca/> (just click on "Events"). Hope to see you there!

J

TABLE 1: FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENT BY YEAR

Year	Meat Draw	Poppy	Creative
2024	\$32,975	\$16,500	\$7,669
2023	\$26,025	\$21,500	\$7,305
2022	\$26,375	\$21,000	\$4,710
2021	\$7,700	\$11,000	\$4,589
2020	\$10,250	\$14,000	\$2,196
2019	\$20,599	\$7,000	\$680

South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

New Hours! Starting
Sept 22,
the South Cowichan
Library in the Mill Bay
Centre is open:

- 10-6 - Mon & Tue
 - 10-7 - Wed & Thu
 - 10-6 - Fri & Sat
 - 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.
 - Tech Help: Drop by Thu/Fri/Sat or call to make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.
 - Online Human Rights Book Club for Adults: the book for September is Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese. The book club meets online on Monday, September 22, 2:30-4pm. Call or drop by for help registering.
 - Intermediate Conversational Spanish group meets Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm, on Sep 2, 9, & 16. The group meets 5:45-6:45pm on Thursdays starting on Sep 25.
 - Conversational Scottish Gaelic is a
- fun way for people interested in learning Scottish Gaelic to practice together. The group meets on Tuesday, 6:30-8pm on Sep 2, 9, & 16. Check with us for a new day and time.
 - Intermediate Chess meets Wednesdays at 1pm. For experienced players looking for matches.
 - Tech Help: Drop in or make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.
 - Book a Librarian: do you need help researching? Would you like a 1-on-1 session on using the library catalogue or digital books and audiobooks? Want to work on your information literacy? Let's meet!
 - The library has stocked period products in the washroom for a couple years now. We accept donations of items or money to support this. Thank you!

Through Saturday, Sep 20, the South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday
10am - 5pm, Wednesday to Saturday

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — August 2025

Stats courtesy of [UVic Weather Network](#) and [Weather Underground](#)
Reported by Grant Treloar

	August Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2024	2023
Average High	23.6	27.5	25.3	27.2	24.2	26.9	24.3	27.0	24.5	27.2	24.6
Average Low	12.0	14.0	13.2	11.6	10.8	13.8	12.9	14.7	12.4	13.5	12.3
Extreme High	36.1	36.0	32.7	35.0	31.6	35.0	31.8	36.2	32.0	35.6	32.0
Extreme Low	3.3	10.0	7.7	7.1	4.9	9.6	6.8	10.7	7.0	9.4	6.6
Precipitation	27.9	52.1	67.1	43.7	59.9	31.6	58.0	32.0	44.9	39.9	57.5
Days w precip	6	3	9	3	9	4	9	3	9	3	9
Year Precip	682.8	681.8	866.8	557.3	728.8	507.8	660.3	466.0	651.4	553.2	726.8

2025 Rank since 1914: tied for 2nd warmest, 22nd wettest

Lake Readings	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24	Aug 31
Temperature	24°	24°	22°	23°	23°
Temperature 2024	25°	25°	24°	21°	22°
Surface Elevation	115.98m	115.95m	115.95m	115.94m	115.93m
Elevation 2024	116.07m	116.03m	116.00m	116.00m	116.00m

Comments

August 2025 was tied with 2017 for 2nd warmest ever August which happened in 2022. The top 4 warmest Augusts have been since 2020, with only 2024 slipping to 18th warmest.

Hottest day was on the the 15th, with temperatures approaching the mid 30s. Only on the 17th did the daytime reading not reach 20°.

Coollest night was on the 21st with temeratures hovering around 10°. There were 9 days when the temperature reached 30° or more.

The 3 rainy days pushed the mnthly total to slightly above the aberage. So far the yearly total for rainfall is running about 80% of normal — well below last year's total at this time of the year.

The lake levels are being controlled by the weir just north of the end of the lake. The lake level is running slightly below long term averages at the beginning of September, averaging about a 2cm drop each week. The level of the lake usually bottoms out in October when the fall rains return.

Daylight hours are quickly shortening by about 3½ minutes per day. Sunset on the 1st was 7:53pm; it loses an hour by the 30th to 6:54 pm.

Autumn begins on September 22nd

Shawnigan Focus Team

Co-Editors:
Lori Treloar
Kim Hennecker

Layout:
Grant Treloar

Advertising and
Accounting:
Kim Hennecker

1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
Shawnigan Lake BC
V8H 3B6
250-743-8675

Shawnigan-Showe'luqun
Focus
A Non-Profit Community Publication

Click for the latest edition

Shawnigan-Showe'luqun
Focus
A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Dream Came True... Meet me at the museum!

Click on the Edition Below to Download

2025 January February March April May June July August September October November December	2024 January February March April May June July August September October November December	2023 January February March April May June July August September October November December	2022 January February March April May June July August September October November December	2021 January February March April May June July August September October November December
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Check out the revised Focus Website!
Easier to navigate.....still a work in progress
ShawniganFocus.ca

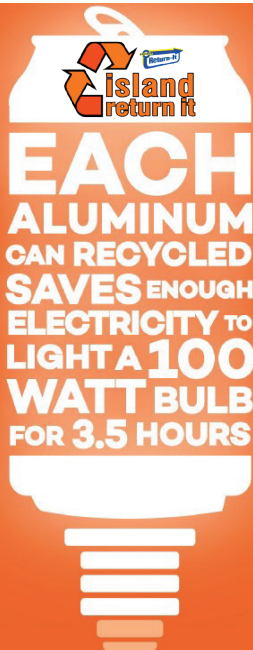
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the Focus!

Safer Roads Start With Me –

Protecting our community one street at a time - What if...

Sarah Davidge-Cardinal
South Cowichan
Community Policing

As we have been experiencing in our community as of late, increased acceleration of speeds in our busy life of chance. Is it really that busy that we need to drive so fast, around blind corners, on narrow roads which we share with our community members of bikes, walkers and four-legged family. When we look around at our beautiful surroundings, oceans, lakes, streams, mountains and trees.

What if... What if we just took a little more time to slow down and smell the roses, to appreciate the beauty around us, the people and all that makes our community a great place to live, work and play.

What if... we paused to let someone pullout safely on to the roadway... What if we

decided to come to a full stop at a four-way intersection for the safety of all around us.

What if we brought things back into balance and shared the road for the safety of all? When you get into your vehicle this morning, whether it be a car, truck, motorcycle or dirt bike, ask yourself what part I can do to bring safer roads to my rural community. What if I did... fill in the blanks, what difference would it make.

As I write this I'm reminded of our

missed incidents of vehicles traveling over the line, dirt bikes speeding in pairs on one wheel, speeding around the blind corners, and other vehicles having to move closer to the shoulder to avoid a collision, or the new dangerous sport of the fast and furious speeding and racing through our communities in their four wheel or two wheel weapons. Yes, you read that correctly weapon, life is valuable.

Dangerous driving or joy riding is costly to our whole community,

it leaves damages that are not repairable at our local body shop, fires, scars and worse, cause permanent injury or death.

What if we took a moment, to take a deep breath and another one, exhale. So, what if we all made a small shift towards safer roads for our whole community? Something to ponder over your morning coffee/tea/protein shake and leave the fast and furious to the movie screens.

September is Back to School Blitz time

for all of us... 30 KMH School Zones are back and so our communities will be bustling with school buses, cars, trucks and valuable little children our darlings on our roadways and highways. What if... we all did the Slow Down Shift.

VOLUNTEERS for Speed Watch are needed to support our Back to School Blitz and Safer Roads Program.

Contact us at: 250-929-7222 to join our active Speed Watch Team.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY
WE ♥ OUR CHILDREN

South Cowichan COMMUNITY POLICING Advisory Society Cowichan COMMUNITY POLICING & Engagement

DRIVE LIKE YOUR KIDS LIVE HERE

South Cowichan COMMUNITY POLICING Advisory Society Cowichan COMMUNITY POLICING & Engagement

We're Looking for Volunteers – Yes, YOU!

Are you fun, dedicated, and flexible? Do you love the community where you live, work, and play? If so, the South Cowichan Community Policing & Engagement Society (SCCPAS) wants to hear from you!

We are currently seeking volunteers for a variety of important and rewarding roles, including:

- Speed Watch/ Road Safety Initiatives
- Friendly Phone Callers
- Office Ambassadors
- Board Directors

If you're passionate about community safety, education, and awareness, and you want to make a real difference, come join our team! Volunteers are truly the heart of community policing, and

we'd love to have you onboard.

Call us today at 250-929-7222 or stop by our South Cowichan office to learn more.

Live in North Cowichan/ Duncan or Cowichan Bay?

No problem! Reach out at 250-597-7927 or visit one of our offices in North Cowichan/

Duncan, Cowichan Bay, or Chemainus.

Because safety doesn't just

happen — it takes all of us.

Let's do our part, together.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!!!

The VICTORIA AQUA SKI CLUB would like to extend great thanks for the support from sponsors of our ANNUAL NOVICE TOURNAMENT on Shawnigan Lake. Sponsorship from these businesses and families makes our tournament possible. Please help our club by supporting those businesses included below.

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VICTORIA AQUA SKI CLUB



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Some Limnology with Examples from Shawnigan Lake

Linda Gregory
Basin Society

Limnology is the study of biological, chemical and physical characteristics of bodies of fresh water. This is about lakes, notably Shawnigan Lake.

Lakes come in many different shapes and sizes, but in all cases, there are inputs and outputs of water. The main general inputs are streams and precipitation. The precipitation can fall on lakes and input streams and on the adjacent land and move through the soil to the lake (subsurface flow). Groundwater can also enter a lake. The main general outputs include evaporation and output streams. Pumping water out of the lake, for domestic purposes such as drinking water, is also an output. Inputs and outputs result in water movement. In 1984, a study on Shawnigan Lake by a BC government limnologist concluded that the residence time of the water was about one year.

There are seasonal changes in the lake

water. One example is the change in temperature with depth. In the fall, winds and rains in the Shawnigan area result in mixing of the lake such that the temperature is nearly uniform from top to bottom. As the air temperature increases in spring, the surface water temperature increases and stays on top of the cool water. The warm upper layer is called the epilimnion and the cool bottom layer is the hypolimnion. Between these two layer the water temperature gradually cools with depth and is referred to as the thermocline. In Shawnigan Lake, the thermocline starts at five to 12 meters at different parts of the lake. The differences in temperature affect the levels of oxygen and both affect the distribution of organisms and the chemistry of the lake water.

Water is not the only thing that moves into and within lakes. Nutrients, particularly phosphorus, but also nitrogen, primarily

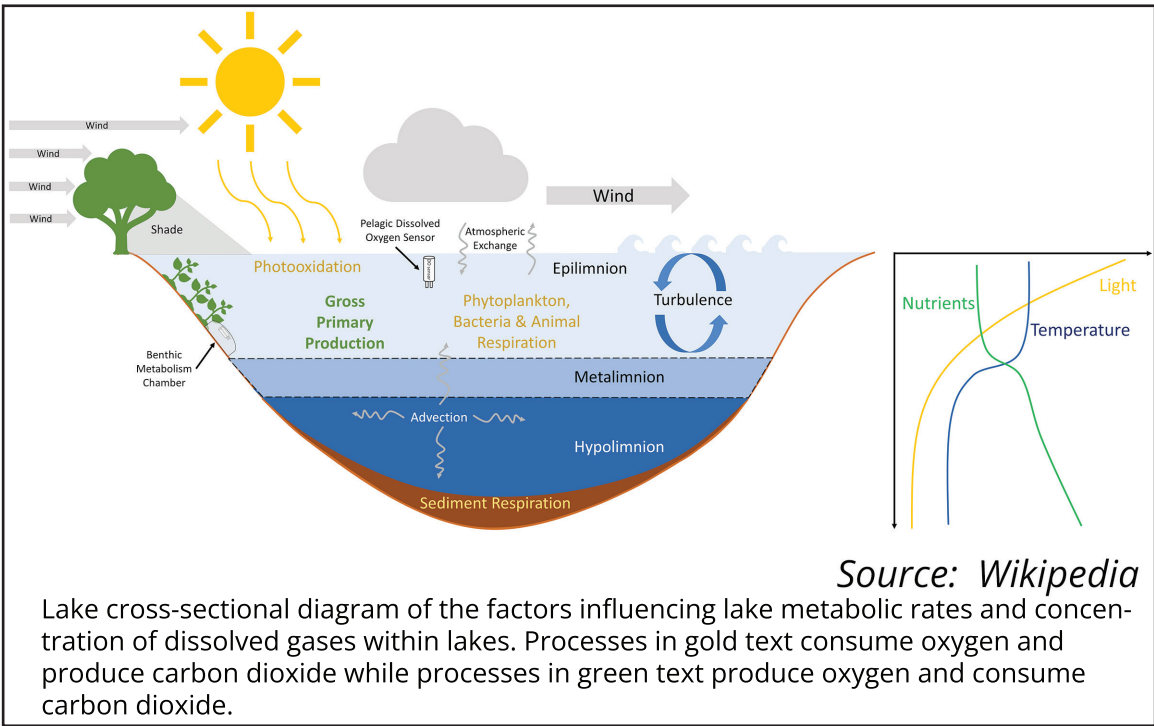
from dying organisms, fertilizers, septic fields and runoff from soil deposits increase productivity; the growth and abundance of organisms such as algae and Eurasian watermilfoil. The general levels of nutrients and productivity give rise to three terms (trophic levels): oligotrophic (low), mesotrophic (moderate) and eutrophic (high). Shawnigan Lake has been oligotrophic since studies began in the early 1980's, but this may be changing. SBS is assisting the CVRD

with continuous water quality monitoring of the lake and inflow/outflow streams and the most recent data collected are being analyzed. If there is an increase in nutrients and productivity, it is not good news for the health of the lake.

Another input to the lake is fecal coliforms. These are one of several indicators used to test drinking water supplies and recreational waters for possible fecal contamination from endotherms (sometimes referred to warm blooded animals -

birds and mammals, including humans). Some sources of fecal coliforms are runoff from agricultural land, (livestock and manure as fertilizer) and improperly maintained septic systems. Fecal material from waterfowl and mammals living in the watershed can also enter the lake.

The lake and associated streams and land are dynamic with numerous interactions, and understanding the consequences of changing inputs and outputs must consider the whole system.



Windows - Extended Security

Jeff Wright
Teky

All Windows users should know by now that Windows 10 is being retired on 14Oct2025. What this means is, although your computer

will continue to function past that date, you will get frequent warnings from Microsoft that it is unsupported, and therefore the computer should not be used for secure transactions (e.g.

online banking or online purchases).

I've said in the past that your options are to move to a new computer that supports Windows 11, or replace your Windows 10 with another operating system like Linux or ChromeOS Flex.

However, there is one more option: Microsoft is now offering some Windows 10 users an extension to its 14Oct2025 retirement date. It's called the Extended Security Updates (ESU) program, and it extends support for your Windows 10 environment for one year. So if you haven't already

upgraded to Windows 11, and you're still not ready to upgrade, and you meet the basic criteria, you can sign up for the ESU program using a (free) Microsoft account.

If you meet all the criteria, you can register for the ESU program for free, but if some of the requirements go outside your comfort level, you can still pay Microsoft US\$30 to get it for one year.

Any which way, you'll need to log into Windows using a Microsoft account and make sure all Windows updates have been installed. The next time you check for

Windows Updates, it may offer you the ESU enrollment.

If you click on the offer, you should see options to register for one year:

- free if you are using OneDrive
- "pay" 1000 Microsoft Reward Points
- pay US\$30 through the Microsoft Store

I've used passive language above because I couldn't get the ESU offer to appear for me. In my opinion, the best approach to all this pressure is to simply upgrade to Windows 11, or move over to another operating system.



Frances Oldham Kelsey - Coming Home



Frances Kelsey with President Kennedy

(From our archives from 2015)

**Sally Davies
& Lori Treloar**
Shawnigan Focus

NOTE: The ashes of Frances Oldham Kelsey were interred at Cobble Hill, at St. John's Anglican Church where her parents rest, and not far from where she was born.

Lieutenant Colonel Frank Trevor Oldham and his new wife, Katherine, settled in the area, around 1911, on thirty acres along the Old Victoria Road, Shawnigan Lake (in the vicinity of Plumtree Road). They are listed as residents of Shawnigan in many of the early directories.

The motivation to move here was a need to find a place where they could live cheaply on Oldham's pension. Frank had recently retired from the British Army after service in China and more than twenty years in India. Once here, they cleared just enough land to build their house, Balgonie, plant a garden, and keep a cow.

Other than his absence for service in the Great War (WWI), Oldham lived on this property until late in his life. Frank and Katherine raised four children, and were very involved in the community. Over the years, Frank was Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Boy Scout Association at Mill Bay, President of the Shawnigan Farmer's Institute on more than one occasion, President

of the Malahat Branch of the Canadian Legion and was very involved in veteran's affairs. He was a strong supporter of the Red Cross and instrumental in forming a local unit in 1939.

In addition, The Spring Flower Show at Shawnigan Lake, which for many years was under the auspices of the Farmers' Institute, was largely arranged by a committee under Oldham's Chairmanship. Both Oldham's were very involved with the local Anglican Community. It is hard to imagine that Frank Oldham had any spare time, but he is credited with introducing the game of badminton to Shawnigan in the old SLAA hall. He had played the game in India. He was also renowned for his garden produce, which always collected prizes at the Cobble Hill Fair.

Frank's eldest daughter, Frances Oldham, was born in 1914 and grew up at her family home. Here, she spent her childhood exploring nature and collecting local specimens such as insects and bird eggs. Frances, (Frankie) started her education in Shawnigan Lake.

Frances Kelsey herself gives a fascinating account in her "Autobiographical Reflections" of what was quite obviously a bucolic and blissful childhood. She paints a vivid picture of the forces and events that would shape the extraordinary person she was to become. In her

own words:

"I think I was used to being in a class with men because the first school I started out in, Leinster Preparatory School, a small private school in Shawnigan Lake, was theoretically an all boys... there was no grade structure.

You worked to the level of your ability and the ability of the teachers. I learned a lot of Latin and some algebra and geometry, but the school was a little weak on things like history, French, and English. The school was in existence for about three years until the Depression, I think, foundered it.

After a year of private coaching by Marjorie Gillette, I went off to Victoria to finish up eighth grade and high school. I did get some very important and useful lessons in Cobble Hill while I was still at home. I had painting lessons in a class run by Connie Bonner. We largely painted flowers and birds. I took piano lessons from school, and for several terms I was the only girl. So I started off in the atmosphere of boys, particularly since I had a brother who was two years older."

Frances graduated at 16 and credits her early schooling as a large part of her career success. Frances went on to become an eminent Doctor and scientist. In 1960, the US Food and Drug Association (FDA) hired Kelsey as a medical reviewer.

As her first assignment, Kelsey was given the task of reviewing an application for what was supposed to be a safe and effective drug. Thalidomide, used at the time to treat nausea,

particularly in pregnant women, was already being prescribed in Europe, South American and Canada.

However, Kelsey felt that Richardson-Merill, the German pharmaceutical company, had failed to submit sufficient data involving the safety of their product. Kelsey's research of the drug resulted in the FDA's refusal to approve the drug company's application. Her suspicions proved correct when the drug was discovered to be the cause of the births of an estimated 10,000 deformed children in 46 countries.

Kelsey soon became recognized in the United States as a national hero. In 1962, her name appeared in The Washington Post under the headline "Heroine" of the FDA Keeps Bad Drug Off of Market." In the same year, she was given the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service by President John F. Kennedy.

In 2010, the FDA honoured Kelsey for the 45 years that she spent working for the association, during which time she remained an active force in the globalization of proper clinical practices. Frances Oldham Kelsey's battle against pharmaceutical drug companies had far-

reaching impacts on the international community.

Her headstrong refusal to approve thalidomide set an important example for governments all over the world. After the Thalidomide tragedy, many countries, including Canada, began to enforce stronger drug laws.

The Shawnigan native is a remarkable woman who (on top of raising a family) devoted her life to protecting many people around the world from unnecessary harm. Her achievements are cemented in the annals of the international scientific community and her stubborn determination in the face of strong pressure from pharmaceutical companies left the U.S. as the only country that did not succumb to approving the drug thalidomide.

Her legacy and story are now known to the world, but a very special part of her history will have resonance for the communities that shaped the extraordinary person she was to become. In addition to numerous honours in the U.S., the local high school was appropriately named Frances Kelsey, to honour of this remarkable former resident and she received the Order of Canada, on August 6, 2015, the day before she died.

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Meet
me at the
museum!



September Hours
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Shawnigan Lake Museum Update

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

After a very long closure for the expansion, the museum officially re-opened on July 26th with a lovely gathering of community. It was a very busy month, averaging about 150 visitors per week! We are very excited by the enthusiasm and the positive comments on the new space.

We are now focussing on creating programs and events for the community – school programming; a speaker series; seniors' soup days; board game events; a historical book club and more. Let us know if you have suggestions for programming that you would like to see.

There are many opportunities for people to get involved – as a volunteer with a regular shift; as a

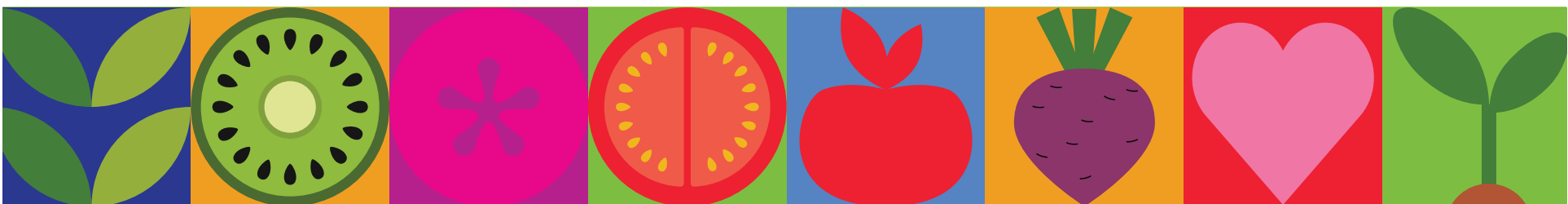


speaker on a topic of interest for the community; as a helper on soup days; as the person at the reception desk and as helpers for events and/or programming.

The gift shop has also been very popular. If you are looking for a gift, we have a great selection and we will

add new products as we find them.

The museum will be closed September 1-6 for a short staff and volunteer break, and will re-open on Tuesday, September 9th. We hope that you will visit...and we are certain that you will be surprised!



Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Meals on Wheels plays a vital role in supporting seniors, allowing them to remain in the comfort of their own homes while receiving nourishing, delicious meals.

Volunteer drivers are needed to expand this program in Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake or Mill Bay. Contact us to learn how to get involved!

Deliver Meals & Connection

- Schedule: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
- You chose which days you want to drive
- Mileage reimbursement available

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250-748-8506



**COWICHAN
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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.

August 2025 Report

Department Members Attended 35 Incidents in August

- Friday, Aug 1 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Aug 2 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Aug 2 – Burning Complaint on Culrain Rd
- Sunday, Aug 3 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Aug 3 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, Aug 3 – Burning Complaint on Moncur Rd
- Thursday, Aug 7 – 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- Saturday, Aug 9 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Aug 10 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Aug 11 – 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- Monday, Aug 11 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Monday, Aug 11 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Aug 11 – Burning Complaint on Meadowview Rd
- Tuesday, Aug 12 – Assistance on Worthington Rd
- Tuesday, Aug 12 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Aug 13 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Aug 13 – 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Friday, Aug 15 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Aug 15 – 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Saturday, Aug 16 – Hydro Lines on Empress Rd
- Saturday, Aug 16 – Burning Complaint on Laverock Rd
- Saturday, Aug 16 –
- Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Aug 17 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Aug 19 – Hydro Lines on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Wednesday, Aug 20 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Aug 20 – Burning Complaint on Glen Eagles Rd
- Thursday, Aug 21 – Burning Complaint on Tharratt Rd
- Saturday, Aug 23 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Saturday, Aug 23 – 1st Responder off Treit Rd
- Sunday, Aug 24 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Aug 24 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Aug 25 – Burning Complaint on Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Aug 26 – 1st Responder off Hartl Rd
- Wednesday, Aug 27 – 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- Thursday, Aug 28 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd

Bruce Hutchison

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

For several generations, Bruce Hutchison was one of Canada’s beloved newspapermen and “the dean of Canadian political commentators”. When he found time to leave his Victoria home for some rest and relaxation, made his way to Shawnigan Lake where he transformed a wilderness shack into a family cabin full of memories. In 1988 - at the age of 87 years - Hutchison published A Life in the Country, a bittersweet look at the joys and tribulations of “the country life that urban dwellers envy and fortunately escape.” This is the second of a series of excerpts from this book.

Robert Amos

Sometimes autumn will come late in the forest, straining on summer’s traces. Hot days may continue all through September. But three months after the June solstice the sun’s declining meridian is marked by the most casual eye. The play of slanting sunlight on the gnarled firs, the webbed bark of the cedars and silken boles of the arbutus, behind them gulfs of shadow daubed here and there by the yellow of maple leaves just before they fall, paint a picture seen only in autumn.

A whimsical lake changes its mood and deepens its colours from gunmetal to jade to sapphire. Its haze, in ghostly dance at sunrise, will soon burn off. Then

the water is so calm that it reflects like a polished mirror the shoreline, the individual trees, the cabins, boats and sky—a double world, half of it turned upside-down.

In a different mood, the surface is ruffled, but smooth patches remain, streaked with the pink of dawn, until the north wind blows, churning up whitecaps and reminding us of storms to come. For the time being the wind drops towards evening. Moon and stars float and multiply on the gentle wavelets of still autumn nights.

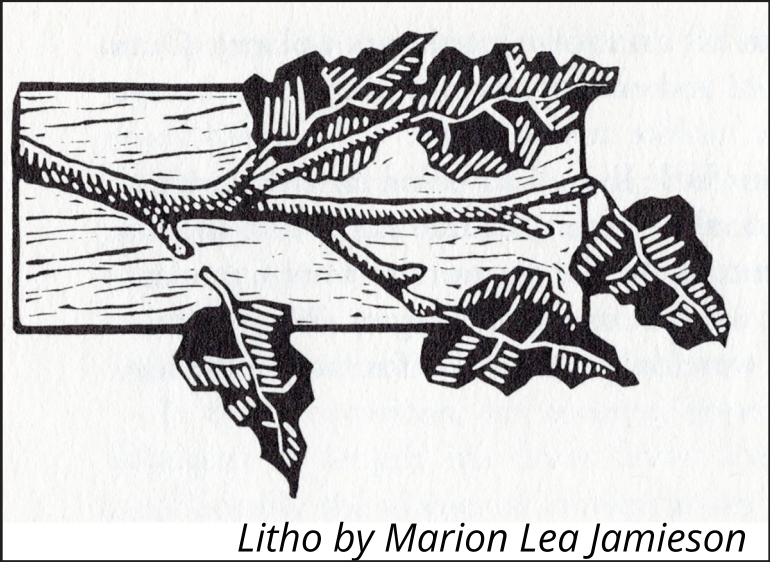
Already the birds feel the seasonal shift. Above the water, swallows devour flying insects. A lone osprey wheels, dives and emerges with a fish in its talons. But the mallard ducks look restless, swooping up and down the lake at random as they prepare for escape to the south. Some of the Canada geese will live here all winter unless the lake freezes solid—a rare occurrence. The first chickadees, juncos and cobalt-blue Steller’s jays have arrived from northern

regions. Even a varied thrush has come out of the mountains, long before its usual time, perhaps foreseeing an early cold snap.

Without intelligence (as humans know it) the forest, too, prepares for winter.

Beneath the giants, crimson hips dangle from the wild rose bushes, purple berries from the salal and Oregon grape. Since we last visited them months ago, the infant jack pines in the field have almost doubled their height. From the ground we cannot see the growth of the big firs, cedars, hemlocks and balsams. At their age it is slow, hardly measurable. In the tranquil dusk they stand motionless, the year’s work apparently finished. But while the sap is falling, the roots will not cease to spread. The western forest knows no repose, only brief intervals of silence. But in the east, beside Walden Pond, Henry Thoreau heard the silence broken by a musical hum “as distant as a hive in May,” and he liked to imagine that it was the sound of trees muttering their secret thoughts.

Bruce Hutchison A Life in the Country Douglas and McIntyre 1988 page 78-79



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- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
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- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cprd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information: 250-743-8675
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.
Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: ysagssl@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
250-643-4621
- **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
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