

Shawnigan Focus

South Cowichan Library

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

[www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan](https://www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan)

The South Cowichan Library in the Mill Bay Centre is open:

Mon & Tue 10-6

Wed & Thu 10-7

Fri & Sat 10-6

The Inspired by Reading Book Club, hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild, meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 5:15-6:45pm. The January 8 meeting will be about At a Loss for Words: Conversation in an Age of Rage by Carol Off.

Navigating LMIA and Closed Work Permits in Canada, an information session with Masoud Manzouri is being hosted by the Cowichan Intercultural Society on Thursday, Jan 22, 5-7pm.

Family Storytime is back! Fridays at 10:30am from Jan 30 to Mar 6.

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

LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination.

Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at [https://www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan](https://www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan)

Shawnigan Focus Team

Co-Editors:
Lori Treloar
Kim Hennecker

Advertising
and
Accounting:
Kim Hennecker

Layout:
Grant Treloar

1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
Shawnigan Lake BC
V8H 3B6

250-743-8675

shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Milfoil Control in Shawnigan

Dave Munday
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) has been working with commercial dive operators to develop a new approach to milfoil removal in Shawnigan Lake. SBS has been promoting milfoil removal during the fall months. Milfoil is a delicate plant, and fragments are created during removal operations. When the water temperatures are warmer, these fragments grow roots and become new milfoil plants, so removal efforts can actually cause the invasive weeds to spread to new areas of the lake.

The SBS approach to prevent spreading is to focus on removal efforts during colder water periods when fragments can't grow and spread to new areas of the lake. Our efforts this year were to develop a Venturi pumping system approach to removal. The diver takes a four-inch diameter intake, which delivers harvested milfoil into disposable (compostable) burlap bags. The diver can pull the milfoil along with roots. In theory they can move forward through the milfoil without losing visibility as occurs with other types of diver harvesting.

SBS has produced a technical paper describing the results of



this year's trials. You can access this paper on our website at:

[https://www.
shawniganbasinsociety.org/
projects.html](https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/projects.html)

What We Have Learned

SBS had the opportunity this year to measure dissolved oxygen levels at various locations in the lake. This survey was conducted in November, just after the milfoil removal trials. We worked with Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) environmental staff to measure oxygen levels surface to bottom at four locations in the lake. We also used the same water quality profiler to measure oxygen levels in areas of where milfoil was abundant. Oxygen levels were very low in deeper waters and were even reduced in shallow areas where milfoil was present. We concluded that it would be better to harvest the milfoil earlier in the season since



decomposing milfoil in the fall adds to the nutrient burden in the lake and reduces water oxygen content.

Next Year's Planned Program

We want to remove the milfoil before it starts to decay, which degrades the water quality in the lake. Using the Venturi pumping system, we can reduce the release of milfoil fragments, which in turn will reduce the spread of milfoil to new areas in the lake. We can also use a floating line to contain any fragments that aren't collected by the pump. We noted that the fragments initially float to the surface, making it easier to collect and remove them during diver operations. Next year we will focus on the period from August 1st to September 15th. This is the designated 'works window' when in-stream activities are least likely to impact fish and other aquatic life. This 'work window' also applies to lakes. During this period, milfoil will not have started to deteriorate, so we'll be removing the maximum amount of nutrients, which is great for water quality in the lake.

Before this work window, SBS wants to map milfoil in the lake using drones with mapping capabilities. We'd like to work with students in this process, and we plan on submitting a grant to help cover the costs of this mapping exercise. SBS has an active program working with local schools, so we'll be looking for interest in working on this mapping program. We appreciate the help of ImagineFocus Inc. – Randy Wright in the planning and execution of the diving program.

We're looking forward to our 2026 milfoil removal program!

A Life in the Country - Part 4

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

Bruce Hutchison, one of Canada's beloved newspapermen, found time to leave his Victoria home for some rest and relaxation at 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 fourth of a series of excerpts from this book.

Remembered is the benevolence of the late Dr. Charlie Duck, a veteran anaesthetist in Victoria's main hospital. He owned a place beside the lake some miles from us, and he loved the animal residents nearby. His affection for a band of raccoons was so steadfast that, once a week or more often in cold winters, he drove up from town with supplies of bread, biscuits and meat. Tramping through the snow, he fed his pensioners and their young. They were greedy, but he loved them.

The weather, unfortunately, was not as steadfast as men like Duck. In January we never knew what might greet us in the woods.

When snow has fallen, the alder and maple leaves, the sword ferns, bracken and wildflower stalks lay crushed flat. After a rainy spell, the ground oozed and squished underfoot, rivulets flowed into the black pool of the

swamp, and we heard the gurgle of moving water as if it bubbled and boiled in a pot, stone cold. On a day of storm, Coleridge's Ancient Mariner, gripped by the Antarctic ice, could accurately describe this forest. High above us, the wind and the battered tree tops cracked and growled and roared and howled like noises in a swoon. When the gale quickened we could almost hear from the enchanted kingdom of Kubla Khan a woman wailing for her demon lover. And yet, near the ground, the air was motionless.

A spider's web, hung on a bush last autumn, still carried its tiny load of glistening dew.

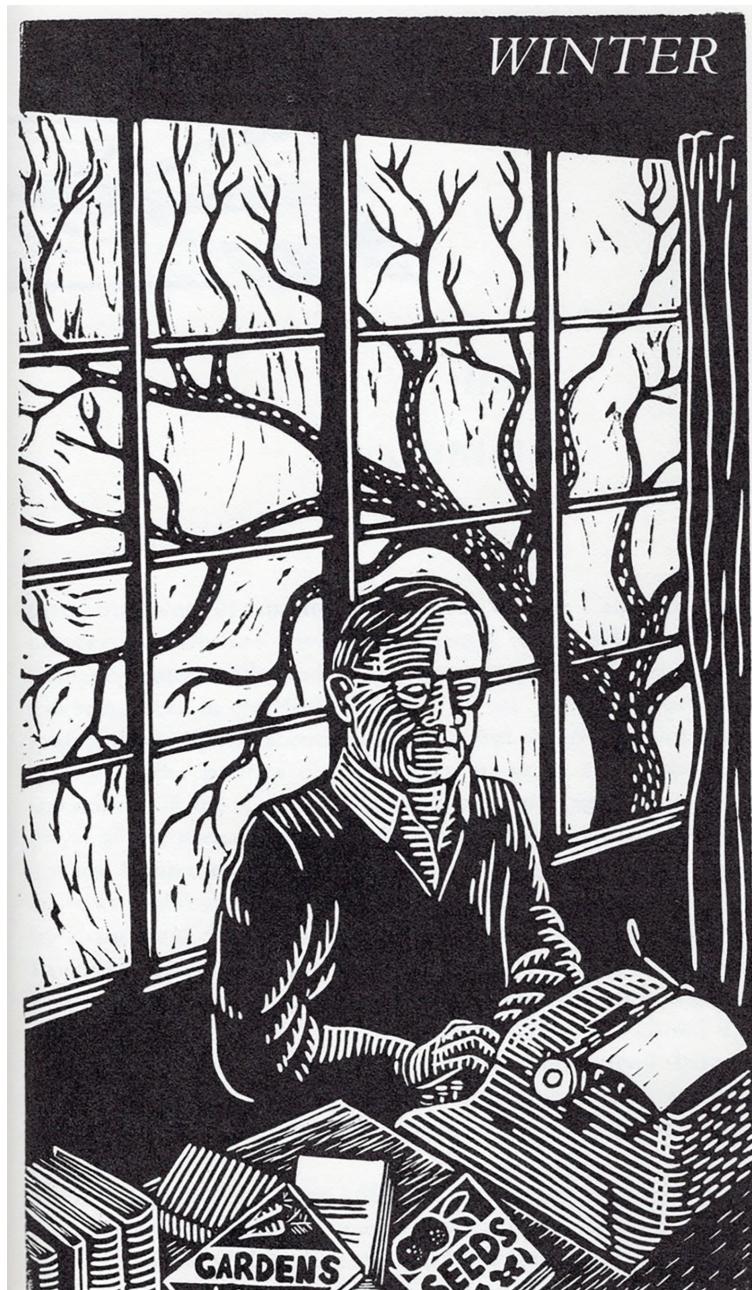
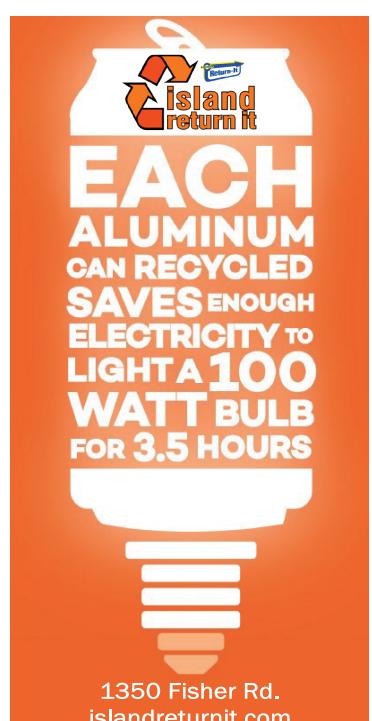
Always there were some fallen trees. Since no ears had caught the thud of their fall, had it really made any sound? On the old enigma dividing philosophers and scientists we did not long brood. Nor did we stay long in the forest that hated and repelled all invaders. From its dark cavern and lurking ghosts, we retreated to the clear margin of the lake.

Here, the sky was dappled by clouds of

a kind scarce in other seasons - fat, pink-edged and turning to pale green and violet at their rims. Or the long streaks of mares' tails foretold more storms.

Would the cabin survive them? Would the overhanging trees fall on the frail roof? There was no insurance against such risks, but we did what we could to protect our summer hide-out. Blown aside in places, the tin sheath must be screwed tight to the verandah posts, blocked gutters cleared of pine needles, perhaps a small leak repaired and occasionally the nests of mice or squirrels removed from a cozy mattress.

Then, until spring, we left the cabin and the forest to the weather, to the solitude and to our memories.



linocut image by Marion Lea

You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script.

Oprah Winfrey



Ice Melter
Landscaper's Choice
\$30/50 lbs bag
tax incl

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



AUTOPRO

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



PREPARE FOR ICE & SNOW!

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE

250-743-2122

Maintenance Offer Book an appointment now.

shawnigangarage.com

'A safe car is a safe drive!'

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



January 2026 at the Malahat Legion

The Malahat Legion is pleased to announce that our 2025 Poppy Campaign has been the most successful one yet! In this issue, we've included an advertisement thanking the many community-minded businesses in Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake, and Cowichan Bay who displayed our poppy donation boxes on their counters. We are also deeply grateful to everyone who gave so generously in support of our Veterans.

Funds raised through the Poppy Campaign are held in a dedicated Poppy Trust Fund. You can be assured that the money

collected directly benefits Veterans and their families, helping ensure they receive the care and support they deserve.

Looking ahead, we are kicking off the new year with a lively evening featuring a six-piece country and western band at our monthly dinner event. For details, visit our website at <https://malahatlegion.ca>. You don't need to be a member to attend—though members always receive a great discount!

If you're a regular at our Saturday Meat Draws, please note there will be no draw on January 3. To make up for it, we'll

host a special double Meat Draw the following Saturday—with 30 draws instead of the usual 15. While you're here, be sure to check out our Key Lock game:

- If your name is drawn, you pick a key.
- If it opens the lock, you win the pot.
- If not, the pot increases by \$20 for the next draw.

All you need to do is show up—the pot is already up to \$120 and climbing! Download our event calendar or visit the "Events" heading on our website for more details on our activities.

Working Together for Safer Communities

Sarah Davidge-Cardin SCCPAS

Here at South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCPAS) we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2026. 2025 was about rebuilding and reframing our priorities to you our communities.

We would like to start the year off by thanking our long term dedicated volunteers, our retired volunteers, those who have moved away to new lands and future career

opportunities. Thank you for your dedication to serve community we appreciate the time you donated to community policing initiatives.

We want to extend a special thank you to our liaison partners Shawnigan Lake RCMP, Mill Bay/ Shawnigan Lake Fire Departments, ICBC, Emcon Highway Services and local

businesses like Panago Pizza and Country Grocers who sponsor and support our community policing programs and so many others.

Welcome to our new volunteers in various roles: Our 2 new Directors, 2 new office assistants, 5 new Speed Watch volunteers, 2 new Block Watch Leads.

Block Watch has taken on a new language, where the host of the Block Watch were once called Captain\

Co-Captains a decision was made by the Block Watch Society

BC Board of Directors to change the name to Lead and Co-Lead, this does not change anything else in the Block Watch program; neighbours supporting neighbours to bring safety and awareness. Throughout this year we will be hosting BlockWatch Lead\ Co-Lead meetings both in person and online webinars.

(continued on page 5)

The Shawnigan Lake Fire Department thanks the generous residents of Shawnigan Lake for their continued awesome support to the local CMS Food Bank.

Financial donations totalled almost \$4800 this year, along with an incredible amount of non-perishable food items!

The CMS Food Bank is very grateful.

Thank you to all of our advertisers and contributors for supporting this local publication! We couldn't do it without your help...

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

Phone: (250)743-2096 Non-emergency: (250) 812-8030

shawniganfire@shaw.ca

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

December 2025 Report

Department Members Attended 51 Incidents in December

- Thursday, Dec 4 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd Lines on W Shawnigan & Renfrew Rds
- Thursday, Dec 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 19 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 19 - Assistance on Furlonge Rd
- Saturday, Dec 20 - MVI on Carlton Rd
- Sunday, Dec 21 - 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Dec 21 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Sunday, Dec 21 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Monday, Dec 23 - 1st Responder off Terrace Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 24 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 24 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 24 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Treit Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Dec 26 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Dec 13 - 1st Responder off Filgate Rd
- Saturday, Dec 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Dec 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Dec 14 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Monday, Dec 15 - Hydro Lines on Gregory Rd
- Monday, Dec 15 - Hydro Lines on Gregory & Renfrew Rds
- Monday, Dec 15 - Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Monday, Dec 15 - HazMat on Sarita Rd
- Tuesday, Dec 16 - Hydro Lines on Recreation Rd
- Tuesday, Dec 16 - Chimney Fire on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Dec 17 - Hydro Lines on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Dec 18 - Alarms Activated on Worthington Rd
- Thursday, Dec 18 - Hydro

Shawnigan Focus



Shawnigan Weather - December 2025 & Annual Report

Stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network and Weather Underground
Reported by Grant Treloar



	December Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Beach Estates		Museum		Shawnigan Average		Comments
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	
Average High°	5.6	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.6	7.7	8.2	7.4	7.9	7.4	7.8	December 2025 was the 3rd warmest since 1914, with 6 days of freezing temperatures (5 last year). This month was much wetter than average. No snow this month, although some mixed precip on December 24.
Average Low°	0.5	3.5	2.6	2.8	1.3	3.2	2.3	3.3	2.3	3.2	2.1	
Extreme High°	16.0	14.3	10.7	13.8	11.0	14.6	12.0	15.0	11.0	14.4	11.2	
Extreme Low°	-15.0	-1.4	-0.7	-2.6	-2.1	-1.9	-0.9	-1.2	-1.3	-1.8	-1.3	
Precipitation(mm)	194.6	406.0	303.2	356.3	293.7	389.9	245.3	306.6	222.8	364.7	266.3	
Days w precip	20	25	24	26	24	23	25	24	24	25	24	2025 was warmer than normal by 1°.
Year Precip(mm)	1250.8	1538.8	1682.2	1327.0	1471.0	1227.3	1312.9	1044.7	1271.0	1284.5	1434.3	There were 19 days (24 in 2024) when the temperature rose to 30° or above, and 49 days with freezing temperatures (34 in 2024). There was 38cm of snow (nearly all in February).
Prec since Oct 1	534.7	789.1	730.6	717.2	681.8	666.7	585.0	560.5	563.4	683.4	640.2	

2025 Rank since 1914: 3rd warmest, 8th wettest

Lake Readings	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
Temperature	7°	7°	7°	6°
Temperature 2024	6°	6°	5°	6°
Surface Elevation	116.36	116.93	117.49	117.12
Elevation 2024	116.41m	116.42m	117.12m	117.17

	Shawnigan Average	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Beach Estates		Museum		Shawnigan Average		Comments
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	
Avg Temp°	9.9	11.1	10.8	10.1	9.8	11.0	10.9	11.5	11.0	10.9	10.6	
Extreme High°	37.2	36.0	35.6	35.0	34.3	35.0	35.7	36.2	35.2	35.6	35.2	
Extreme Low°	-21.1	-9.2	-8.4	-11.7	-12.9	-9.9	-12.8	-9.8	11.2	-10.2	-5.7	
Days w precip	174	165	183	162	190	162	190	149	172	160	184	
Precip (mm)	1250.8	1538.8	1682.2	1327.0	1471.0	1227.3	1312.9	1044.7	1271.0	1284.5	1434.3	

2025 Rank since 1914: 2nd warmest, 37th wettest

Lake temperature: warmest: 25°(last year 26°) coldest: 1° (last year 2°)

Lake level: highest: 117.49m (last year 117.17) lowest:115.80m (last year 115.87m)

Who Will Be Shawnigan Lake's Next Area Director?

Sierra Acton Area Director

As we welcome a new year, I want to share some personal news with the Shawnigan Lake community. After much reflection, I have decided that I will not be running again this fall as the CVRD Area Director for Area B. Province-wide municipal elections will be held on October 17, 2026.

Serving this community has been a true honour, though it has not come without its challenges. As the elected official for Shawnigan Lake, the role extends far beyond what is often visible to the public. Representing Area B at the CVRD board table means advocating for our community while working collaboratively with representatives from

other regions—each with their own priorities and keeping in mind their votes directly effect what happens at Shawnigan. Because of this I have been building a strong succession plan with Alternate Director Amber Champ. As the Alternate for the past 5 years she has proven to have the skills and board relationships to be our a strong advocate for Area B.

The ability to build and maintain strong relationships across the board is one of the most critical—and least visible—parts of the job. Once trust and consensus are damaged, they are extremely difficult to rebuild. Equally important is the courage to say no to proposals that do not align with community values and long-term goals.

The CVRD receives a very large portion of the property taxes from Area B all issues are important but not always relatable to the average family and resisting that pressure requires conviction, resilience, and a willingness to withstand pushback from special-interest groups. The trail along the lake is a clear example of how standing firm, even when it is difficult, can lead to outcomes that truly serve the community. I am confident that Alternate Amber Champ has the ability to represent Area B with integrity, clarity, and strength.

Caring for a community takes many forms, and leadership is only one chapter in that work. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have

served, proud of what we have accomplished together, and hopeful for the future of Area B.

Wishing you all a peaceful, joyful, and creative New Year!

Public consultations for the 2026 Draft Budget will be held Thursday, January 8 –

Electoral Areas A, B and C

**Kerry Park Lounge,
1035 Shawnigan/Mill Bay Rd
from 4:00pm to 7:00pm:**

There is also a recording of the draft budget for people to listening to.

<https://cdrv.ca/government-administration/finance/budgets/2025-budget-virtual-public-meetings/>



(SCCPAS continued from page 4)

As community safety is an area that many have expressed concerns about, we would like to help more neighbourhoods to sign up for this program. We are looking for residents who are willing to take part as a Lead\Co-Lead in their areas, contact our office for more information on

how to build community safety initiatives, one block at a time.

Speed Watch Road Safety program is requested in every area of the South Cowichan and Malahat Nation. As it takes volunteers to run this program, we are looking for community members who have 2 hours a week to join Speed Watch and actively support road safety, all training is

provided. Newest Program Business Watch that has been created through concerns and conversations with our business community members is now prepared and ready to be implemented this year. If you are a business owner interested in signing up you can go to our website under Business Watch Program a fill out the form.

Another program that will be back by popular demand this year is Positive Tickets for Youth & Children, if you're interested in donating to this program please go to our website under Positive Tickets and donate through PayPal.

We are excited to see what we can accomplish working together in this new year ahead of us.

As we as a community once again bring safety and education to create safer communities where we live, work and play.

Contact us at 250-929-7222
[Email: sccp@shaw.ca](mailto:sccp@shaw.ca)

Website:
<https://southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca/>

Shawnigan Focus

“Yes!” Shawnigan

Kim Barnard

250-732-0531

What's your 2026 resolution? I've started a puzzle that may or may not be intact (a thrifited find!), that fits loosely together with many areas of similarity, and above all, is a joyful depiction of a Peppermint Santa by one of my favourite artists, Susan Winget. It's a welcomed challenge!

Likewise, I'm delighted to announce that I'm stepping

up to be considered in the running for Showe'luguun | Shawnigan Lake's CVRD Area B Director at this year's October elections.

My learning curve started several years ago when I began attending CVRD meetings, carefully listening and striving to “piece together the jigsaw” of electoral area governance at a regional board. Always, the big picture to keep in mind is one of expected duties and responsibilities, as well as one's

own capacity for diligent study and “behaving in a manner that promotes public confidence” (from page 11 of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs - Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C. - 2022). Like working a puzzle, I am learning to pay attention, build understanding, entertain options, stay motivated, and bring clarity to the table.

Yes, this is where **YOU** come in! Help me to see the possibilities through your eyes - past, present, and future. I want to learn from you - so let's schedule some walk+talks!

Together we can arrange our pieces of perspective into a lasting vision for our growing lakeside community. Let's be prepared to tackle the challenges and look after the incredible beauty and bounty that we have been gifted to enjoy. I'm especially interested in ways we can prepare for emergencies and strengthen our caring connections to each other within our neighbourhoods. Stay tuned for the CVRD's new Local Area Plans, and the findings from the February 2025 South Cowichan Community Issues Assessment, to help guide us forward!



Meet Me at the Museum!

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

We wish everyone a happy, and healthy, 2026 from the Shawnigan Lake Museum!

If you haven't visited the Shawnigan Lake Museum (and we know that many in the community haven't) please take a chance! We promise to surprise you.

Dedicated volunteers, of the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society (established 1977), collected Shawnigan stories, and artifacts, and found spaces to create temporary museum exhibits in the late '70s and early '80s, before a permanent home was found, in 1983, in the first Shawnigan Lake firehall. The

main gallery is still in the same space.

Shawnigan's story is surprisingly big, and the stories need to be shared.

Even in the early days (1970s), the volunteers recognized the need to expand the museum. Our team has been planning the current expansion for the past ten years. The potential to make it happen started with a \$100,000 gift from someone who recognized its importance. It was a very long process – and, as time went by, the price tag rose drastically. In the beginning, the budget was \$800,000. In the end, we had to raise over \$2.5 million to get the project done. We are so

thankful for the many people in the community who stepped up to help! Thank you to all of our funders, generous supporters and donors! We are grateful to you! Without your help, the expansion would never have happened! You have helped the museum to survive and grow.

Prior to the project, we did not have an event space, a kitchen or public washrooms, which made it difficult to have gatherings, events and programming.

We now have the space for events, school programming

and more. In addition, we suggested to the CVRD that they include public washrooms, in the building that were independent of the museum. These are a bonus for the community, as there were no public or available washrooms in the village. The washrooms are accessed from the back of the museum, facing Elsie Miles Park. The CVRD provides daily cleaning of the washrooms, and they are on a timer for opening and closing.

And, finally, thank you to all our members and volunteers,

who continue to support the museum with their time and talent...we appreciate your help, and hope that you are proud of this tiny but tough local museum!

Please note: the museum is closed to the public in January. We will be working irregular hours at the museum on a lot of catch-up projects and new installations.

We hope that our local museum will make you proud! Take a chance and check it out. The museum will re-open with regular hours on February 3rd.



The Museum Theatre has many stories about Shawnigan for your viewing

ONE MEMBERSHIP... YOU GET IT ALL!



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

VALLEY
HEALTH and FITNESS

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



MALAHAT LEGION #134



The Malahat Legion expresses its heartfelt thanks to the following local businesses for their contributions to the success of the 2025 Poppy Campaign.

All donations go to our Veterans and their families.

MILL BAY

Laughing Lama
Royal Bank
Voyage Liquor
Subway - MB
Thrifty Foods
Bosleys
Third Addition
Kav Ko
Island Savings
Credit Union
Pharmasave - MB
BC Government Liquor
Island Pharmacy #8 MB
Tim Hortons
McDonalds
Shell Gas Station
Rise Cannabis
Westland Insurance
Sweet Meadows
Petro-Canada Gas
Arbutus RV
Mill Bay Power Products
Charlie's
CIBC
Co-Op Gas
Serious Coffee
Mill Bay Pizza & Grill

MILL BAY (CON'T)

Island Water Store
Kerry Park Arena
South Cowichan
Policing
A&W Restaurant
Bridgeman's Bistro
250 Liquidation Shop
Westcoast Fish & Chips

COBBLE HILL

Cobble Hill PO
Cobblestone
Beer & Wine
Arbutus Ridge
Golf Shop
Satellite Bar & Grill
Rona
Shawnigan Mill Bay
Auto Parts
Demexx
Country Grocer
Drumroaster Coffee
Liquor Plus - Valleyview
Mirra Hair Lounge
Valley Health & Fitness

SHAWNIGAN LAKE

Subway - SL
Island Pharmacy #7 SL
Aitken & Fraser Store
Black Swan Pub
Masons Store & Patio
Acacia Lodge
Shawnigan Lake
Family Practice
Shawnigan Lake PO
Shawnigan House
Coffee
Troll Bros. Quilt Shop

MALAHAT

Malahat Chalet
Skywalk Gift Shop
The Aerie Restaurant

“This Calls for Cookies!”

250-732-0531

Kim's Gingerbread

- homemade with love -

kim.barnard@gmail.com

www.KimsGingerbread.com

A Taste of Shawnigan ❤ Since 2004

Celebrating 21 years - Thank you for your support!



Order for 2026!

Shawnigan Focus

Catherine Robertson meets the President and First Lady of the USA.

Ross Carter

Ted (Walter Edward "Ted") Robertson, born and bred at Shawnigan Lake, died in 1928 leaving behind his wife Catherine Robertson (nee McAllister) and two kids. Little did Catherine know, that years later, she would meet the President and First Lady of the USA. The following story explains how that unlikely meeting happened.



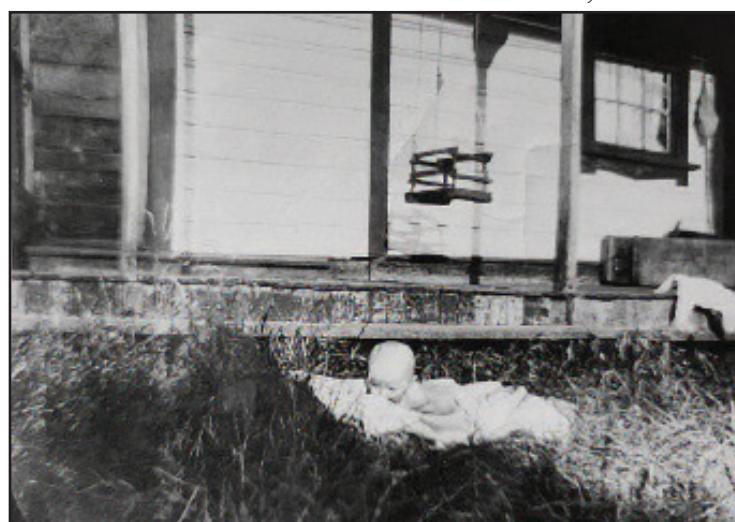
Ted and Catherine with their children Bertha and Dennis.

Ted Robertson, born in 1897 at his Shawnigan Lake waterfront home, grew up there along with his parents and five siblings. He was working as a logger but after turning 20 years old was conscripted into the Canadian army in May 1918. However, Ted only spent 8 months as a home

front soldier before being demobilized in January 1919. Afterwards, he returned to his employ with the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company and worked there as a hook tender while living at his family home. In August 1921, Ted won the mens single sculls one-mile race at the Shawnigan Lake Regatta that year (see November 2025 Shawnigan Focus related story).

Interestingly, at the time of this race, his wife Catherine was already pregnant and their first child Bertha was born in March 1922.

Their baby Bertha was named after Ted's older sister Bertha who had died in 1917. They lived at Ted's parent's house and had their second child, Dennis



1922. Baby Bertha in the back of the Robertson Shawnigan Lake house.

(Walter Dennis), in 1924. In 1926, they moved to Victoria where Ted got a job as a driver with the Pacific Transfer Company (PTC).

In August 1928, Ted, in the employ of PTC, was killed when a piece of steel machinery fell upon him during railway loading operations at Camp Two, Jordan River, at the B.C. Electric Railway Company plant there.

The newspaper report said that a flume pipe, weighing about two and one-half tons, was suspended in the air between the automobile truck and the railway car when the chain holding it snapped. The mass dropped crushing Ted's head against a block which he was placing to support it on the car. His head was badly mutilated, death occurring instantaneously.

Catherine was now a widow with two young children to raise. There were many hard years ahead but Catherine's presidential meeting was in her future.

From the early 1930s until 1942, Catherine Robertson raised her children in Victoria while working for the BC Coast Steamships (BCCS) first at their harbour newsstand and by 1935 as a seamstress there.

In 1943, Catherine moved to Vancouver and got a job running the canteen at the RCAF's Western Air Command in downtown Vancouver. During the same time period of time, her son Dennis Robertson, became an air gunner in the RCAF and was killed in July 1944 when his Halifax bomber was shot down over Germany.

Four months later, in November 1944, her daughter Bertha married a US Army soldier, Vincent Corridore, and they lived in Seattle and



Card says: To Mrs. Catherine Robertson With my best wishes Mamie Doud Eisenhower. In the actual painting, Mamie is wearing her inaugural pink gown which had over 2,000 rhinestones embroidered into it and that gown is now on display at the Smithsonian.

had a daughter Joanne there in December 1945.

In 1946, Catherine ends up moving to Seattle to help her daughter with her baby and to be closer to her two sisters who were also living there. In 1947, Bertha divorced her husband.

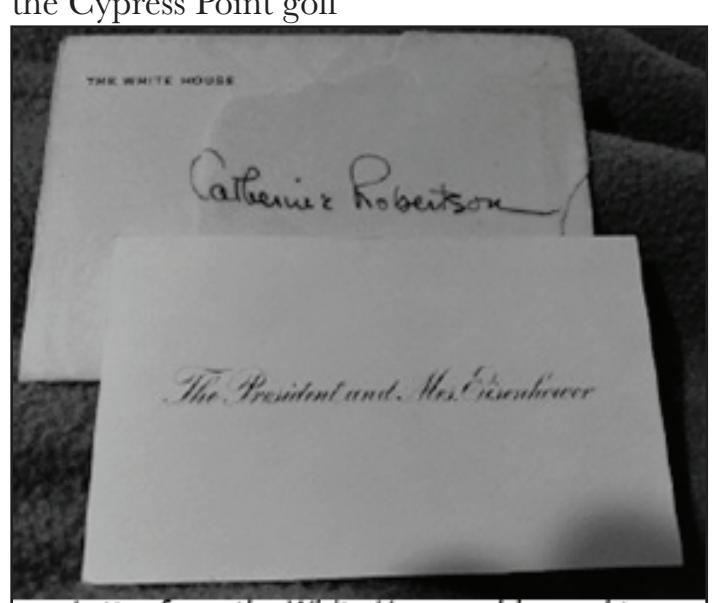
In 1951, Bertha married Harold Doan and they had a child together who they named Dennis after Bertha's brother Dennis who was killed in WW2.

By August 1956 Catherine is living in California (CA) with her daughter Bertha's family. She was working as a housekeeper at the Cypress Point golf

course in Pebble Beach, CA when President Dwight Eisenhower and his wife Mamie stayed there for four days. (President Eisenhower was the sixth President to visit there and since then another nine presidents have played there.)

While performing her housecleaning duties, Catherine befriended Mamie's personal maid Rosie Woods and was able to meet Mamie and Ike!

When her husband Ted died in 1928 I'm sure Catherine never imagined, nor anyone she knew for that matter, that she would ever meet this famous presidential couple.



Letter from the White House addressed to Catherine Robertson and a card from the President and Mrs. Eisenhower.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cvrd.bc.ca
- Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
[https://www.cvrd.ca/list.aspx# \(sign up for meeting notifications\)](https://www.cvrd.ca/list.aspx# (sign up for meeting notifications))
- CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
LegislativeServices@cvrd.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): blogysag.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
- Malahat Lions Club**
Contact: 250-743-0569

Classified FOR SALE MISC

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

GENERAL INTEREST

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

RENTALS

CHILDCARE

AUTOMOTIVE

LOST - FOUND

HOME SERVICES

PROPERTY SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

**Cheap
Ad
Rates!!**
Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

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



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

No Winner!

No one was able to identify the new plaque on the Elsie Miles Daycare building.

Shawnigan Cemetery

EST 1965
"A Community Resting Place"
Information 250 929 6100

Maintained by
MALAHAT LIONS



Shawnigan Lake's Local Vape Store

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
VISIT US AT:
www.OhmZoneVapes.ca
1-1752 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd.

MATTHUW RONALD-JONES
Personal Real Estate Corporation



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

Shawnigan Barber Shop
Fin & Denise
Experienced Barbers

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

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

Mason's Store
YOUR LOCAL STORE

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

**HERE'S TO A
HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

PHONE: 250 743 2144 FAX: 250 743 7883
SERVING SHAWNIGAN LAKE FOR 69 YEARS

**D Y R D A
B R O T H E R S**
Construction

• Renovations • New Build
• Additions • Fences / Decks

Licensed Residential Builders



DyrdaBros.com 250-589-2817