



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Fourteen - Issue Five

May 2023 Punhwe'num

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Director's Report

Sierra Acton
CVRD Director for
Shawnigan Lake

Happy Spring Shawnigan Lake! We are really starting to shine as our community has had a significant litter cleanup. Thank you to all those who participated, and to Rotary for organizing. The buds are out, the colours have popped and the warm weather is upon us. As we shift into summer, so do our concerns and priorities. In the summer we also have different activities and shared spaces get more heavily utilized.

One of the main summer items is use of the lake. Boaters, please refer to the Respectful Use of the Lake

Map for lake etiquette (<https://thesra.ca/Water-Safety>). This map was created in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, residents and organizations. The CVRD funding is in place for police patrols on the lake for summer of 2023. I recently met with Cpl Gregg Storm, and he informed me that the community can expect more Police presence on the lake this year. We can all expect their presence on long weekends and the peak times that are the busiest. So, if you are boating please ensure that all of your safety equipment is onboard and operational because the RCMP will conducting

safety checks. Lastly, a huge thank you to all the RCMP officers who work at our precinct. They are working at full capacity to keep our community safe, so thank you Shawnigan Officers and support staff!

Roads are a constant struggle for our community, mostly because they are managed provincially. Speed is always a challenge and leads to multiple incidents every year, like the most recent accident on the East side. We cannot change the speed limits on our roads unless we incorporate. In fact, we can't change anything about the roads except our own behaviour. So please slow down and give cyclists, and pedestrians, space as more people will be out

enjoying the warm weather.

The people of Shawnigan value the lake and know that it is the lifeblood of this community. Making sure that there will be enough drinking water for everyone this summer is a top priority. To this end, the CVRD has declared a Stage 1 Water restriction notice for May 1st. Stage 1 water restrictions are starting earlier than usual in an effort to conserve water use on residential properties and ensure aquifers and lakes can withstand the increasingly dry summers. Last year we saw many properties in Area B transporting water to their properties until November. The CVRD is preparing for Stage 4 water restrictions to happen earlier this year and has also tightened up on water uses.

Please see the CVRD.ca website for more details.

The Shawnigan Lake School Regatta is being hosted from May 12-14th. This event draws many high schools and rowing clubs from around the province. Please be prepared for more traffic and single-lane traffic in areas near the West Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park. If in a boat, please also watch your wake and be respectful of the course. Many of these rowers are new to the sport and boat wakes make things much more difficult. Let's leave a positive lasting impression of our community.

As always should you wish to discuss anything please connect, Sierra.

Sierra.Acton@cverd.bc.ca

(250) 715-6763

Be Safe on the Lake

All motorized boats and PWCs (Personal Watercraft) in BC powered by 10 horsepower or more are required to have a Pleasure Craft License.

All Canadian boaters, operating pleasure craft are required to obtain a boating license... To operate any brand of (PWC Examples: Jet Ski, Wave Runner, or Sea-Doo), you must be at least 16 years of age and carry a valid Pleasure Craft Operator Card with you.

Not having the required Pleasure Craft Operator Card or proof of competency on board = \$250

While it is possible to pull a skier behind a jet ski, by law it must be a three-seater. This is because you need a driver, a second person to be a spotter and room (a seat) to recover the skier or every person on the flotation device. To pull a 150-200 pound skier, you should ideally have an 110 horsepower (or greater) jet ski.

A Canadian-approved flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size must be available on the boat for each passenger on board.

Equipment required on board pleasure crafts of any size, including non-powered: Buoyant heaving line at least 15 metres in length. Watertight flashlight or Canadian approved flares - Type A, B or C. Sound-signaling device (example: a whistle).

Towing a water-skier, wakeboarder, kneeboarder or other towable device requires the use of a spotter. A spotter is a person who observes the person being towed.

A spotter must be in the boat at all times

The towing vessel must be equipped with an extra seat for each person that is being towed in case an emergency recovery is necessary

Only personal watercraft designed to carry three or more people can be used for towing a water-skier

The person being towed must wear an [approved flotation device](#) (a 'ski belt' is not considered to be an approved flotation device)

Do not tow water-skiers between one hour after sunset to sunrise

It is a criminal offence, as gov-

erned by the Criminal Code of Canada, to tow a person after dark

Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Operators with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood are liable to the following fines:

- 1st offence: at least \$1,000 fine
- 2nd offence: at least 30 days of imprisonment
- 3rd offence: at least 120 days of imprisonment

Consumption of Alcohol on Boats

Alcohol may be consumed on board the pleasure craft if it meets all of the following conditions:

- The vessel has permanent sleeping facilities
- The vessel has permanent cooking facilities
- The vessel has a permanent toilet
- The vessel is anchored or secured alongside a dock

Paddleboards

Stand Up Paddleboards require, **at a minimum**:

- a Personal Flotation Device
- a floating throwing rope
- a sound signalling device
- a watertight flashlight is required for low light or nighttime conditions

Option 1 - Wear a lifejacket with a whistle (no buoyant rope required).

Option 2: Carry a lifejacket on board with whistle and a buoyant heaving line.

Option 3 - No safety equipment which carries a fine of \$200-\$500 for non-compliance.

The RCMP is the law for all the above infractions on Shawnigan Lake.

Welcome to Shawnigan

Things to Do

- Kinsol Trestle
- Mason's Beach
- Shawnigan Museum
- Shawnigan Wharf Park
- Provincial Park
- Hike Mt Baldy
- Trans Canada Trail
- Memory Island Park

On the Water

- Everyone loves cruising in their boat and looking at houses. Please remember to occasionally look behind you and minimize your wake when you are within 30m (100ft) of shore.
- Big Wake sports should be contained (start and stop) inside the **BLACK** areas on the map. All water sports should happen between dawn and dusk (1 hour after sunset.) Enjoy!
- Please make space and watch out for Swimmers and Non-powered watercraft; they ALWAYS have the right-of-way
- If you have a stereo, please use it responsibly; Loud music travels much further over water.
- Got a fast boat? Be advised the maximum speed on the lake is 65 km/h (40 mph or 35 knots)
- Please limit your maneuvering in shallow water (5m / 15ft or less.) There are lots of unmarked rocks/trees and we do not want to disturb the fish beds or the weeds. *Do your part to stop the spread of Milfoil!*
- If you brought it with you, please pack it out again.

Non-Emergency Numbers;

RCMP	(250) 743-5514
Ambulance	(250) 746-4233
Fire	(250) 743-2096
CVRD	(250) 746-2500

R.A.P.P.
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
Cellular Dial #7277

⚠ Beware of Congestion

Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Rotary EcoClub

It Takes a Village!

Kim Barnard
Secretary-President
Story Gatherer

Thank You to the community members, students and families who came out to restore the beauty of Shawnigan on Earth Day - your Hearts-in-Action have altogether given nature a huge helping hand - taking the trash out of our treasure!

Thank You to our sponsors, partners and local businesses for your support of this community-building event. Donated prizes brought smiles to all, especially the winners! Kind contributors helped keep us fuelled and hydrated - plus expanded awareness with roadside safety

signage and a reusable Shawnigan Village banner. As well, nature-inspired artists, watershed stewards and safety-trained fire department volunteers gave of their time and talents to make the soggy day a satisfying success. We're very proud of our local schools too, and imagine a bit of friendly competition?!

Heartfelt Gratitude to our local waste management providers for making this epic event possible! P.A.N. Disposal donated time, trucks and expertise to safely pick up from our two official Event Drop Zones. DL's Bins / Fisher Rd Recycling supplied a huge walk-in bin with more than enough space to pile everything brought in! Their facilities sort and divert waste

wherever possible. Beyond Earth Day, together we can inspire others to tackle litter wherever it appears, one invasive piece at a time. "Better yet, don't be dumping it!"

Historically Showe'luqun was known as a sacred place to gather beneficial medicines. We're honoured to help take care of Shawnigan as One Heart One Mind respecting the land and the waters. In Hul'q'umi'num - "Nuts'amaat Shqwaluwun" - means Working and Succeeding Together (Jared Qwustenuxun Williams). We all have a responsibility to do our part.

Together We Envision A Beautiful, Natural, Litter-Free Shawnigan... Please



Some of our favourite photos show participants posing with their finds!

sign up to "Adopt-An-Area" at our website www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca to join in the LitterWatch efforts year-round.

"You Are Our Heroes!" Huy tseep q'u! Thank You Everyone! www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

Cowichan South Arts Guild

Call for Volunteers

Jennie Stevens
Cowichan South
Arts Guild

Dear Community,

Wishing you a Creative Spring! CSAG has been busy. With The Art of Storytelling weekend over, we are organizing our regular activities: workshops for kids - Explore & Create (May 7th) and adults, Spotlight

Coffee House (May 5th), Acoustic Jam (May 7th), Fearless Friday Painters & Maker Circle (May 11th, combined windup gathering 'til Fall) and Inspired by Reading Book Club summer reading. (Check website for details: cowichansouthartsguild.com)

Summer Events begin with Art in the Park in Shawnigan's Elsie Miles Park (July 16th), so watch

for a call for artists! We'll also be busy with Inspire! Youth Art Tent at Cobble Hill's weekly Music in the Park (Thurs evenings, July/Aug) and POP UP Community Art Tents at various venues and events through the year.

Whew!! Did you know that all of our programs, membership/volunteer coordination, secretary jobs, advertising, design, writing and more is being accomplished by just five intrepid board members and a handful of volunteers?

We ARE feeling pretty proud of ourselves, but still (!) we could use some help!

The CSAG board is bringing as much creative variety to South Cowichan, as we can, AND we are struggling to keep up with the demand! We love it when community minded volunteers join this creative team and discover the spirit of collaboration that our board is so proud to share. You don't have to be an artist! Writing, computer, design and communication skills are needed, and

support is available to move at your own pace, integrating as much or as little is sustainable for you! Anything is appreciated, and will help us to follow up on leads and pursue great ideas - people-power gets the jobs done. From sedate to exciting - there is a job for all!

If you are interested in helping out in ANY capacity, especially those listed above, please contact Jennie or Diane at : hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com.

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn

Family Storytime continues every Monday at 10:30 am through the end of May. If the day is sunny, you may find the songs and stories in the Mill Bay Centre playground!

LEGO® Club meets 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.

Conversational Spanish: drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting each Monday at 6:30pm and chat en español en la biblioteca! Beginners welcome.

The Intermediate Chess Club meets every Wednesday for matches from 12:30-4 pm.

Tech Help is available Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays, drop-in or by appointment. You can also set up a 1-on-1 Book a Librarian session most weekdays. Just call or email to make an appointment.

The South Cowichan Library has public computers for use when we're open as well as a printer/scanner and a copier. Printing costs \$.25/page and scanning is free.

If you know a local who is unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about the Home Delivery service for users of the South Cowichan library. Staff collect books, audiobooks, and DVDs and a volunteer delivers them all to the door at the start of each month. Please call the library to find out more.

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

10am - 8pm, Monday and Tuesday

10am - 5pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and at www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

250-743-5436

southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

"A Shawnigan Clean Up Day Success!" Thank you to the community members, students and families who came out to restore the beauty of Shawnigan on Earth Day and to our local businesses for their support.

"You Are Our Heroes!"

Thank You

to our Event Partners and Sponsors!

For Event Photos and MORE go to www.ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca

Follow the Focus on Facebook

Memories of Shawnigan

Collected by the Shawnigan Lake Museum

Another great story from our story call out in 2022. If you would like to submit a Shawnigan story, please send a word document to museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com. It would be great to have a photo as well.

Mary Hunt

In 2010, I obtained my Early Childhood Educator license and began working for Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Childcare. When out on the playground one day in the Elsie Miles Park a curious child asked about what was in the museum building. He could see in the back window from the playground. I decided to show them and booked a tour at the museum for the preschool group.

While waiting for our special day we read about Curious George, Maisy, Dora the Explorer and others who visit a museum, we drew and coloured pictures of various antiques

and artifacts and made dioramas. I brought in some antiques for the children to try out. A balance scale from 1890s was a big hit, I put it on the science table and the children took turns weighing various items. We played with fossils and arrowheads and spent a day searching around the Community Center for animal tracks making track casts.

Finally, our day came and we trooped down to the museum. The children were fascinated with the model of the trestle, the dollhouse, the toys, and the school room. They got to try out the typewriter, (hands on is such a great way for young children to experience something new) and we watched old films in the movie house. The staff were so kind and patient. They really put themselves out to answer questions and explain all the attractions.

We all had a wonderful day, and over the following weeks we used the museum theme to continue to explore many subjects. We hung up a museum calendar in the preschool room with old photos from around the lake. Each

new month we made up circle stories about the pictures. In a circle story I would start with a sentence or two. Then the story expanded as each child took a turn to add their bit. Some were so funny we got the group giggles. The museum's pictures inspired imagination.

The children often asked to go to the museum again and the preschool class did enjoy more trips there. I encouraged them to ask their families to take them as well. It was such a wonderful opportunity to have a museum almost in our playground.

Though I am now retired, I have visited Shawnigan Museum again with my grandson. I can recommend this as a great day excursion for a grandparent. The museum is a real gem in our community and there is something for everyone from preschoolers to adults. If you haven't visited take the time...you will be amazed at how many items and how much information are packed into the old Shawnigan Lake fire-hall. (continued on page 5) With the museum set to expand, the visitor experience can only get better.



My Life in the Woods

by Cliff Tate

7 PM Thursday, May 11
A LIVE and Zoom Event

Cliff will give a fascinating talk about growing up on Cowichan Lake in the 1940s & 50s!

email to register:
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com

Live Event takes place in our Old Time Theatre (limited seating)



Work toward the museum expansion continues, and we hope to share more information in the near future. In the meantime, we have received a grant from the BC Arts Council to research the Asian history in Shawnigan Lake. There was a relatively large population of people of Chinese, Japanese and South Asian ancestry who worked in this area, early in the 20th Century. Many worked as loggers and/or at the mill...and one man even operated a laundry in the village! Another, Sam Jay, came to Canada, in 1881, and ended up in Shawnigan Lake where he had twelve children! It can be difficult to find these stories, so we are asking longtime residents of Shawnigan to share any stories from the community that would help our research. We will weave the stories and artifacts through our existing galleries. We appreciate any help that you can provide. Please contact Lori at museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com if you can help.



EJ Hughes Paints British Columbia

Robert Amos
Author & Artist

In 2004, a seminal painting by E. J. Hughes, Fish Boats, Rivers Inlet, (1946) was offered for sale by Heffel's Fine Art Auctions with an estimated price of \$300,000 - \$400,000.

It was subsequently sold for almost a million dollars which, at the time, was the highest price ever paid for a work by a living Canadian artist.

The painting was sold again in 2018 for more than two million dollars. Of course, Hughes received none of this money, as the painting was one of many which he had sold to Max Stern in 1951 for a paltry sum.

This month, on May 24, the next painting Hughes created, Abandoned Village, Rivers Inlet (1947), will be offered by Heffel's Auction House with an estimated price of \$1,250,000 - \$1,750,000.

Pat Salmon, Hughes's assistant, recorded the sale of *Fishboats, Rivers Inlet* (1946) in her diary:

Tuesday, November 24, 2004: I took Ed to lunch. It is still raining. He keeps

concentrating on the forthcoming auction and hoping the *Rivers Inlet* oil will reach its estimate. Then he lets it slip that he hopes it will reach over its estimate. I don't like this. It should, certainly, go over the estimate (and doubtless will). But it seems a bit insulting that, just because someone has bucks, they should be almost empowered to state that this is the best Hughes painting.

If a decent comparison were ever done, one could see that his latest watercolours are simply the best watercolours ever done. Even those by Franklin Carmichael, of the Group of Seven, can't touch them. Also, it is a bit of an insult to a person who has painted all his life, and says he is learning everyday, to state that his earliest work is his best, strongest, etc. Do they think that in learning every day, he has not learned a thing? Also, this is mainly the opinion of Dr. Stern's early buyers and has been parroted by various curators (many who have not even seen his later works). When Hughes puts so much skill, work and love into his paintings, it is too bad that art lovers can't put a little thought behind their

proclamations.

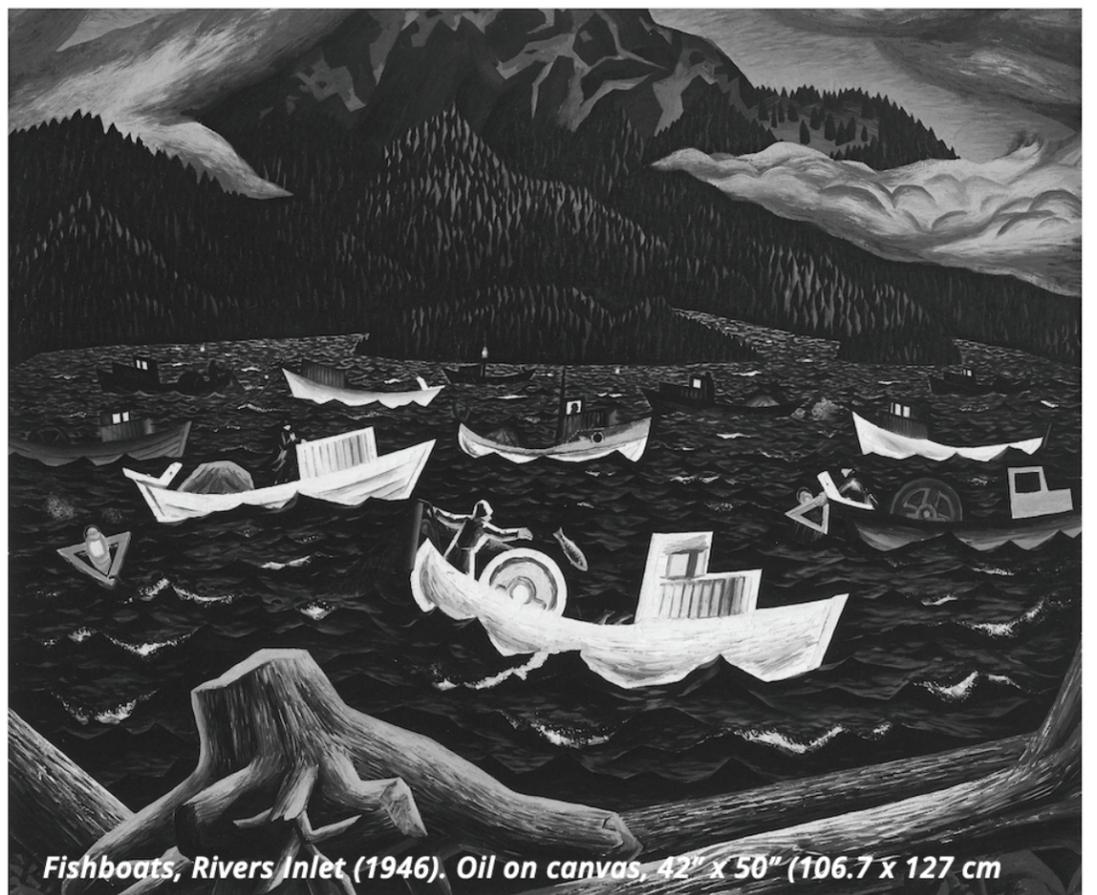
Wednesday, November 25, 2004: Ed phoned about 6 p.m. Sharp old Heffel's [Auction House] took the chance to phone Ed during the auction and he heard the bidding over the phone, and his appreciation was broadcast in the sale room. He heard the bidding reach

\$800,000, which means the buyer paid \$912,000, plus GST and PST after the buyer's premium was put on. This was the highest amount ever paid for a living Canadian painter. Good for Ed. There will be grand rejoicing tomorrow.

Thursday, November 26, 2004: I took Ed for lunch to the Dog House. I didn't feel like going there but did,

as he had promised Deidrie [the manager] that he would tell her. She is so nice, and understands his funny little ways.

Saturday, December 4, 2004: I went to lunch with Ed yet again as the weather is simply too poor to let him wait for the bus in the rain. He is still quite high from the million dollar sale. It is a really nice thing.



Fishboats, Rivers Inlet (1946). Oil on canvas, 42" x 50" (106.7 x 127 cm)

Shawnigan Focus

Food Was Free

Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, (he/him)
Writer & Educator

I said this at a meeting a few days ago and I think every time I say this it hurts a little. All food used to be free in our communities before colonization. And if you go back far enough, even in the colonial world of Europe food was once free. The act of harvesting and processing was all that was needed to eat. A working knowledge of whose harvesting site was whose was crucial to not encroaching on someone else's food supply. But, for the most part, people could

harvest and eat from their own food systems without any cost, except time.

In our Salish community our families created and maintained their own family-owned food systems. Though some elders talk of community harvesting places. Places where people who possessed no given land or family harvesting places could go to eat. Our community made room for those who had no direct access. Food was a right, given to the people from the creator. We look after the salmon and the salmon provide for us. We look after the camas and the camas provides for us. We look after the clams and clams provide for us.

Some land was owned by families, but much of the land was still free. No one owned the river, everyone owned it, it was communally owned. Sure, families had weirs with specific ownership laws and had specific harvesting sites along the river that were theirs by law. But some of the river, and the entirety of the salmon run, were common property. Meaning that even though a single weir could allow a family to harvest all the salmon from the river, they did not. Everyone knew that they weren't the only family that relied on the salmon run.

This time of year reminds me of this bounty. In small corners, these gifts still

thrive. Places bounding with wildberry shoots and edible flowers. Yet, I see people starving underneath trees full of free food and don't know how we ever let it get so far. Most people work hard to make enough money to afford to eat and have shelter. Food prices grow ever higher, and we move further away from being able to produce our own food. So far, in fact, that many wouldn't know an edible wild plant to save their life. But the more we rely on someone else to feed us the more we will work to get that food.

Yet we know that, pre colonization, people worked fewer hours than we are expected to work now. But

we worked for food, for shelter, and for each other. Families lived communally and worked together to produce a standard of living that, in some ways, was superior to our current ways. But why can't we have both? Why can't we reinvest in traditional food systems and feed the people.

Food was free, food was once a right, food was our wealth, and it can be again. If we allow the ancestral caretakers of the land to govern it once again a combined future is not too late. In so many ways it might be the best way forward.

Muy', all that from a maple flower...

Shawnigan Weather - April 2023 Report

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

	April Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Average High	13.5	12.0	10.8	12.5	11.4	12.4	11.5	12.4	11.1	12.2	11.2
Average Low	3.8	3.2	2.1	1.5	0.3	3.2	2.0	3.8	2.6	3.3	1.9
Extreme High	30.0	25.8	18.3	26.5	19.0	25.2	17.9	25.3	17.6	25.0	17.0
Extreme Low	-5.6	-0.8	-1.2	-2.2	-2.6	-1.2	-1.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-1.0
Precipitation	71.9	118.1	232.9	103.5	236.0	90.4	168.9	82.0	155.1	82.6	161.2
Days w precip	16	22	22	22	23	24	22	23	23	21	26
Year Precip	541.1	539.1	660.6	490.1	637.8	410.9	542.3	393.1	491.6	404.6	542.4
Precip since Oct 1	1075.8	1077.2	1310.1	993.2	1320.0	815.7	1343.1	797.3	1215.5	831.6	1316.6

Rank since 1914: 37th coldest, 27th wettest

	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30
Lake Temperature	7°	7°	8°	8°	14°
Lake Level Change	-4cm	+23cm	-13cm	-8cm	-4cm
Surface Elevation	116.51m	116.50	116.51	116.51	116.47

This past April was much like last year's: cool and wet. Temperatures were well below normal and the wet spring continued well towards the end of the month.

Springtime weather finally arrived in the final week with temperatures jumping above normal. On the 29th, the 25° temperature was the warmest since last October 1st.

Although it feels like it's been wet for so long, there has actually been significantly less rainfall during the rainy season. It's just been grey, grey, grey. Looking for more sun to come!!!



St. John's Academy Spotlight



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

Event Details

St. John's Academy Campus
2317 Shawnigan Lake Road
Shawnigan Lake
Saturday, May 27, 2023
11 AM to 2 PM

Join us for lunch - served from 11 AM to 1 PM
Let's play ball! Meet Jamar Dixon and others from the Pacific Football Academy.

Visit the "Clothing Swap & Shop" held by SJA's Parent Community Engagement Group (PCEG).

See interesting ideas at the **Young Entrepreneur Fair**.

Participate in the Shawnigan Basin Society **Paddle-a-thon Fundraiser**. Please pre-register (limited to 100 participants).

Hear updates on SJA's **Education Plan** that includes an updated campus expansion.

Plus, more... games and prizes, campus tours, meet the faculty and staff!



SHAWNIGAN LAKE YOU ARE INVITED SJA's 2nd Annual Community Fun Fair

St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake
Saturday, May 27th, 2023
11 AM to 2 PM

Join **St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake (SJA)** for our **2nd Annual Community Fun Fair** – a fun and family-friendly event for SJA students, families, teachers, Shawnigan Lake residents and neighbouring communities.

For further details, please contact: *Jenny Boomer*, Director of Admissions, jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca. We look forward to seeing you there!

Shawnigan Focus

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 134

Gloria Solley
Malahat Legion Branch 134t

We would like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers out there.

The Malahat Legion General Meeting will be held on May 28th due to the Victoria Day weekend.

Donations for the BOTTLE DRIVE, FOOD BANK and BROKEN PROMISES RESCUES are on-going. Items can be dropped off at the Legion.

Our next major fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 26th. Ukrainian Dinner served from 5 to 7:00 pm. followed by the "Kinda Ceili" band from Nanaimo and will be playing great music from the British Isles and Canada. Ten dollars

from each dinner/show ticket and all the show only ticket proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal Fund.

June is going to be a very busy month.

We will be hosting a Flea Market on Saturday June 3rd from 10:30 - 1:30 pm in our back yard and parking lot. Sign up on our website - Tables \$20.00 and all proceeds will go to the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock 2023 All emergency services personnel cycle 1200 km across Vancouver Island raising money for childhood cancer research and support services at the Canadian Cancer Society.

The annual Walter Hall Community Fishing Derby

will be held Saturday, June 17th. Tickets are available online and remain the same as last year - \$25 for adult and \$10 for youth. Fishing and weigh-in will be held only at Shawnigan Lake until 1:30 pm. Refreshments and awards will follow at the Malahat Legion.

The end of June will see the end of most of the clubs/activities like crib, mahjong and YSAG will resume in September.

Make sure you mark your calendar for our annual Canada Day Pancake Breakfast and afternoon activities. More information in our June article. Be sure to check our website and Facebook for further information.

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Canada Day Celebrations Be a part of the Changes!!

Since 2005 Shawnigan Village has celebrated Canada Day beginning with a parade from the Fire Hall to a Family Fun event in Elsie Miles Park! However, this year the celebration will still be as exciting and fun but look a bit different.

What is popular at a community celebration? Food, Games, Music, Art and, of course, the opportunity to get out and play with folks who share your community! This year will be 156 years since the colonies united and Canada was born...what a milestone to celebrate!

On Saturday, July 1st, Canada Day, local celebrations will respect the expansion of our museum in the village and celebrate in and around the Community

Centre. There will still be games, music, food and plenty of fun!

The SHAWNIGAN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION is welcoming new volunteers, new energy and new ideas to make this event a day you will not want to miss! Due to the safety of our participants, there will not be a parade, but we will welcome the kids with decorated bikes in another way!

We encourage you to watch our website for details as they unfold. We also encourage you to join our team (no fee) if you enjoy planning events and making your community a fun place to be on Canada Day!

Email: info@shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Website: shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca



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

The Focus team encourages community members to submit editorial content, including letters; articles of local interest, bouquets you would like to offer to people; things that strike you as funny; challenges you want our civic leaders to consider; and/or ideas that would better our community. Letters to the Editor must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and phone number, but the contact information, other than the name, will not be published. Letters should be limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for brevity or to refuse inappropriate or abusive language. Letters should attack issues - not individuals or groups.

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Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Basin Society

SBS Looks to Preserving the Ecology

David Munday & Bernue Juurlink

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) was established because it was realized that we needed to protect the watershed for a variety of reasons, including protecting water and species biodiversity. We are currently being assisted in our programs by the BC Coalition Institute (BCCI). BCCI is a group of people that have academic backgrounds that can assist us in providing insight into the many complex relationships that naturally occur in our watershed. It is well recognized that preservation of large blocks of functioning forests and wetlands are essential to keeping our lakes and streams healthy to support our needs for fresh water, as

well as supporting the needs of natural ecosystems.

We are in a crisis. Not only do we have climate change but, in 2022, the WWF released the alarming statistic that we have lost 69% of the wildlife population on Earth since 1970. According to Natural Resources Canada, Canadian managed forests which have been net carbon emitters since 2002 are now a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. The way we manage our forests and wetlands is contributing to climate change, decline in biodiversity and negatively impacting our streams and aquifers.

In 2015, the United Nations in their Sustainable Development Goals

document pointed out that only 15% of nature is protected, and since we depend very much upon nature for our survival, more of the earth needs to be set aside for nature. Starting in 2017, Dinerstein and colleagues published reports on ecoregion-based approaches to protecting our earth and that we need to put aside 30% of all ecoregions for nature by 2030 and an additional 20% to be carefully managed in a way to promote biodiversity and counter climate change. In 2021, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat stated that by 2030 we need to: "Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes."

Setting aside 30% of our ecosystems for nature by

2030 is also the policy of our federal and provincial governments. Canadian governments have emphasized that we must do this in consultation with indigenous peoples who, for thousands of years, maintained good stewardship of our environment.

Presciently, the SBS commissioned Herb Hammond to develop an ecosystem-based conservation plan for the Shawnigan Lake watershed. This report, completed in 2015, can be found on our website. In this report, Herb Hammond indicates that 43% of our watershed needs to have protection, in general agreement with the subsequent Dinerstein reports.

The SBS will engage residents of the Cowichan Valley including First Nations, as well as the CVRD, in the discussion of how to achieve 30% protection of the Shawnigan Creek watershed by 2030. We look forward to any opportunity to help our community preserve land in our watershed.

The Shawnigan Cemetery Committee

is hosting a headstone revitalization project
Saturday, May 13th,
9 am – 12 noon

Volunteers are invited to join in "a spring cleaning" of headstones in the cemetery.

Please bring two pails for water and a soft bristled brush

Also, if you have a family member or know someone interred, you may wish to bring a story of your loved one's life, which will be compiled into the history of our community's cemetery.

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shawniganfire@shaw.ca

April 2023 Report

- Sunday, Apr 2 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- Monday, Apr 3 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Monday, Apr 3 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Apr 4 - Mutual Aid Structure Fire w/Mill Bay Fire
- Thursday, Apr 4 - Alarms Activated on Wylde Wood Ave
- Thursday, Apr 4 - 1st Responder off Skylar Cir
- Wednesday, Apr 5 - Structure Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Apr 6 - Structure Fire on Robertson Rd
- Friday, Apr 7 - 1st Responder off Gibbs Rd
- Friday, Apr 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday Apr 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Tuesday, Apr 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday Apr 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Apr 16 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Apr 17 - Structure Fire on Wallbank Rd
- Friday, Apr 21 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Saturday, Apr 22 - Assistance off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Saturday, Apr 22 - Burning Complaint on Mel Place
- Saturday, Apr 22 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, Apr 26 - 1st Responder off Ingot Dr



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- **Area B Director's meetings with Sierra Acton**
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- **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Meetings TBA
- **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**
Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month.
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Centre Commission**
Meetings TBA. Held at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information about hours and/or group visits.
Contact: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA)**
For info: (web): www.thesra.ca
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shazw.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**
Saturday Meat Draw 3:00-5:00pm. Contact: Gloria gsolesley@shaw.ca
- **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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Alison Lobe

was randomly picked from the correct responses: identified March's photo — the talbe & bench at Mason's Beach.

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2023



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