



# Shawnigan Focus



Volume Three - Issue Twelve

DECEMBER 2013

*A Non-Profit Community Publication*

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## The Shawnigan Shiver

*Kick off the New Year with Shawnigan's very own*

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**January 1st, 2014 at NOON!**

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- ★ Registration begins at 11:15
- ★ Registration is \$5 per participant
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- ★ A waiver must be signed at time of registration
- ★ The first 20 registrants will receive a \$5 gift certificate from the Chipperry
- ★ 'Wet' participants (wet to waist) will receive a toque after their 'swim'
- ★ There will be separate draws for participants in costume

### The BOLD print:

- ★ **IF YOU HAVE HEART PROBLEMS** – Be careful!!
- ★ **FOOTWEAR IS REQUIRED** due to safety concerns and the fact that numb feet may not feel objects in the water.
- ★ **SWIMMERS 7 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER** - must be within arm's reach of an adult at all times.
- ★ **STAY WITHIN DESIGNATED BOUNDARIES** - No jumping off the dock.
- ★ **DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL** – it accelerates hypothermia.
- ★ **DON'T STAY IN THE WATER LONGER THAN 5 MINUTES.** Body heat is lost 25 times faster in water than in air.
- ★ **DON'T REMOVE YOUR OUTER CLOTHING UNTIL SWIM TIME. BRING A TOWEL AND DRY SHOES.**

**\*\*\* First Responders will be on duty \*\*\***

## THANK YOU FOCUS VOLUNTEERS!

**Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.**  
~Elizabeth Andrew

The Shawnigan Focus editorial team is grateful for the support of the many volunteers who faithfully play a role in producing the Shawnigan Focus on a monthly basis.

**Kim Hennecker** who patiently produces and updates ads for our advertisers. Kim also keeps our finances in order by producing invoices and reminders for our accounts.

**Taryn Treloar** who took on the role of layout and has learned the job well, through experience. With her upgrades and improvements, the Shawnigan Focus has evolved into something we are all proud to publish.

Our **proofers**, who come together once a month with the important job of reading every piece of copy that has been submitted. The proofers correct spelling, punctuation and grammar as needed and provide us with

a necessary cross-section of the community for comment on suitability of the submissions. They are also willing to step up for other tasks when needed. Proofing sessions are fun and lively and a bit reminiscent of a gathering at the 'town well'. Thank you to **Linda Nelson; Farrell Magnusson; Monica Foster; Sally Davies; Peter Nash; Bev McCooley and Marcy Green.**

**Janet Nielsen**, who has the 'paper route' to distribute

the extra papers to a number of public places for the people who are not in our mailing area. **Grant Treloar** who manages the archived copies on our website; posts on twitter and facebook, and helps with technical issues.

Our **contributors**. Without copy, we would not have anything to publish. We try to provide a good variety of articles, reports and fun. We thank the writers for your time and effort. Our success depends on you...

Our **advertisers**. Although you are not technically volunteers, you are critical to the success of the Shawnigan Focus and we could not achieve what we do without you. We are grateful for your support of the Focus, and of the Shawnigan community!

Thank you to all of our volunteers! The Shawnigan Focus is something we can all feel proud of.

**Dave, Lori & Brent**  
*Shawnigan Focus Editorial Team*

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DECEMBER 2013

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JANUARY 2014 Issue: January 7th

Please send copy as an email attachment using Microsoft Word, text, RTF or Appleworks to: editor@shawniganfocus.ca  
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### ABOUT THE FOCUS

The Shawnigan Focus is an independent, local, non-profit publication, produced by the volunteer Focus team. Shawnigan Focus endeavours to inform; promote harmony and involvement in the community; and interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

Shawnigan Focus is delivered, free of charge, to postal addresses in Shawnigan Lake (Area B). Out-of-town subscriptions are available for a fee. Contact: editor@shawniganfocus.ca

*Views expressed in articles are not the opinions of The Shawnigan Focus, but of the authors.*

Additional copies are available in The Village.

### MAILING ADDRESS

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## Our highway stretch is among BC's worst. Hmmm...no surprise there!

The Island Highway, between Victoria and Nanaimo, has one of BC's highest crash rates according to a Ministry of Transport – ICBC study.

*The provincial review seeks citizen input until January 24, 2014.*

Vancouver Island is among seven BC safety zones studied in the report which points to the Malahat-to-Nanaimo stretch as among drivers' biggest safety risks. The 109 km divided and undivided highway has 22 000 vehicles per day. The collision rate is .56 per million vehicle kilometers. BC's most dangerous collision rate, 2.06, is on an undivided 134 km highway from Anahim Lake to Bella Coola. That highway has roughly 100 cars per day.

Review comments can be emailed to [safetyandspeed-review@gov.bc.ca](mailto:safetyandspeed-review@gov.bc.ca) or you can call 1 866 974 1330.

# SIA contaminated fill permit status - December 2013

*Two important events have occurred since the last report. Most of the schedule is now known.*

## The Past

Nov 7, 2013: One additional affidavit was filed by the SRA lawyers. It included a letter from the Land Remediation Section of the Ministry of Environment, dated July 24, 2013, which questioned the quality of some of the geological data.

Nov 15, 2013: The Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) granted a Stay of the Permit. The Permit has not been overturned. Rather, SIA cannot begin accepting contaminated soil under the Permit until the Appeal has been decided. Since 1982 the EAB has granted 63 stays, denied 79 and had 24 other decisions. While a stay is not unusual, not getting the stay would have been a very negative result.

Nov 19, 2013: The EAB set the schedule for all events up to and including the hearing of the appeal.

## The Future

Dec 25, 2013: All the government documents must have been delivered to the SRA/CVRD lawyers.

Jan 30, 2014: SRA/CVRD present their written case to the

EAB, SIA. This case is based in part of the testimony of expert witnesses. Those experts must be provided access to the SIA site as needed.

Feb 17, 2014: SIA present their written response to the EAB, SRA.

Mar 3, 2014: Week 1 of the Appeal hearing

Mar 10, 2014: Week 2 of the Appeal hearing

Mar 24, 2014: Week 3 of the Appeal hearing

Mar 31, 2014: Week 4 of the Appeal hearing

## What Residents Can Do?

Sean Hern, lawyer for the SRA, spoke at the SRA AGM on Nov 28, 2013. He stressed the importance of public participation from now through the end of the hearings and beyond.

- ★ continue to write to Provincial politicians stressing your concerns;

- ★ continue to write letters to the editor of local and regional newspapers, expressing your concerns with this Permit;

- ★ appear as a witness for the SRA at the Appeal hearing, if appropriate;

- ★ appear in the gallery during the Appeal hearings.

## A Battle was Won, The War Continues

Having the Stay granted was an important achievement. We do have grounds for an appeal. Experts will work on technical issues, building the technical case against the permit.

While that is happening, residents can extend the size of the opposition to the Permit. If you know people who live in a watershed elsewhere in the province, urge them that our fight is their fight. If a permit to dump contaminated soil can be awarded in the Shawnigan Watershed, it can be awarded in their watershed. Urge them to join you in fighting this permit.

## Documents

November 7: SRA Affidavit which included the MoE Environmental Protection Division [concerns about the geology of the quarry](#). There are several documents in this file, The MoE document begins on page 2.

November 15: EAB [Grants Stay pending Appeal](#)

November 19: [EAB to all participants](#) - details of how the appeal hearing will be conducted.

November 27: [EAB release schedule for the Appeals hearing](#).

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US YOUR FAVOURITE PHOTO OF THE ANIMALS IN YOUR LIVES: [EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA](mailto:EDITOR@SHAWNIGANFOCUS.CA)

# Focus Furry Photos



Santa's little helper, Mick, ready for the Shawnigan Light Up! (Photo by Ros Cuthbert)



# Editorial

## “No one objects to taxes properly spent!”

The people in the Shawnigan Lake area – who already pay the highest taxes in South Cowichan - are about to be dinged again via Alternate Approval by-law 3737.

No one objects to taxes properly spent. However, being asked to agree to our property taxes (collected by government) to then be used to lobby that same government – in perpetuity – is pretty weird.

A new society, called the Shawnigan Basin Society is requesting \$50,000/year from all of Area B taxpayers to create a service to be called the “Shawnigan Basin Society Annual Financial Contribution Service”.

If this confuses you, you are not alone.

Those residents surrounding the lake have cause for concern. If, however - prior to asking for money to do something over which they have no control - they would proactively act on those things over which their local government does have authority, their concerns and their credibility would be greatly enhanced. They do not need tax dollars to:

1. Look after those ageing septic tanks surrounding the lake
2. Listen to their Advisory Planning Commission
3. Enforce the zoning by-laws that already exist
4. Stop all future development in the Shawnigan Basin until the above are under control.

We need to send in our alternate approval form. Throwing money at this issue without the proper authority is not only a waste of funds it does not solve the problem and politically, the optics are TERRIBLE.

~Lavonne Huneck

## Remembrance Day November 11, 2013.

A Veteran's point of View.

I arise to a beautiful sunny day and my thoughts immediately go to all the things I must do to get ready for the Remembrance Day festivities. Shoes are shined, pants, shirt, tie and jacket cleaned and ready to put on. Last thing to go on are the medals, reminders of places and people and battles long over. My mind takes me back to those places and reminds me that I was very lucky to survive.

Many of my buddies were farmers, fisherman, loggers and ranchers from all across this great country called Canada. Others worked in offices, banks and stores - all volunteers willing to fight for their country. *I shut my eyes for a moment and*

*I can see them all. When we were*

*not fighting, what great times we had together.*

*It's time for me to go to the Cobble Hill hall for church services followed by the service at the Cenotaph. As I park my car, I notice that we have a fair distance to walk. As I get closer I can see a mixed crowd of grandparents, parents & children. Seeing the children brings a smile to my face and a tear to the eye. It is so important that the children remember as well. The church service went very well and then it was time to march to the Cenotaph. The legs do not want to march but on this day I can get through it. Marching down Fisher Road, I can see the largest crowd of people that we have ever had at this Cenotaph. My chest swells with pride and now there is a bit more swagger in my step. Finally we take our place on the concrete and await instructions. Every group that calls this part of the Cowichan Valley home, was represented. The piper, bugler, the silence, the flypast and the placing of wreathson the Cenotaph seemed to race by. And then it was over. Time to go to the Legion and have a sandwich and a pint or two. The stories, true or not, that cross those tables are amazing. Some of the medals worn by some of the more senior vets tell of the battles that they were involved in. Some tell of capture and being a prisoner of war and the hardships they survived through. Then the pipes and drums come in for a thirty minute show. Outstanding they were, to say the least. Their new versions of some old music made my heart feel good and then it was time to go home. A day that started brightly, was made solemn and then the spirits rose to make my day and a hope that I can do it all over again next year.*

This is done for all the veterans, old or young who have served this great country with pride and valour. You will forever be in our hearts.

~Thank You, Canada

## My Neighbourhood

Over twenty years ago I found myself on a Sunday morning in a hurry to get to Victoria, speeding down East Shawnigan Lake Road. I don't recall how fast but, suffice it to say, faster than the posted 50km/hr. As I neared the south end of the lake I encountered one of my neighbours (whom I did not know at the time) walking unhurriedly across the road after retrieving his Sunday edition of the Times Colonist - so slowly that I was forced to come to an almost full stop. As I passed by, the angered look of disapproval on his face brought my vehicle to a dead stop. Already in a hurry, and running behind schedule, I could not help but get out of my vehicle and ask this man “what exactly his problem

was?” His reply stopped me dead in my tracks, “This is my neighbourhood. My children, my wife, my dog and I live here and you are putting us all in danger by driving so fast. This is MY neighbourhood”. I stood there thinking what could be so important in my life that would allow me to put others at risk? The answer was simply, nothing. I apologized, shook his hand and we have been friends ever since.

For years after, I have become acutely aware of how increasingly dangerous it has become to simply go for a walk in my neighbourhood - East Shawnigan Lake Road. My wife and I love to walk and continue to do so after work, after dinner or on weekends and there has not been a day in years where vehicles have not passed by at excessive speeds, sometimes as much as 80-90 km/hr. This I know for certain as recently there has been road equipment (radar detectors) that boldly posts these vehicles rates of speed. Even this does not deter these individuals. With the poor condition of East Shawnigan Lake Road, (in certain sections there is little or no suitable shoulder for walking and at times you must literally walk in the ditch to avoid being struck by a motorist) walking for exercise and pleasure has become a stressful and at times a dangerous endeavour.

My question is simple, what is so important in your life that you would willingly put another person at risk?

To be clear, not every person that drives East Shawnigan Lake Road drives excessively fast, and to those of you adhering to the posted speed limits and giving pedestrians a bit of room to walk, thank you very much. You are easy to spot, as there will undoubtedly be a line of 20+ cars riding your bumper pressuring you to pull over in an attempt to arrive at their destination a few minutes sooner.

To those of you that continue to drive dangerously fast on this road, I don't believe that you would intentionally put another person at risk of harm. Our days and lives are busy, filled with deadlines and commitments. I ask you to stop and think - would it be acceptable to come into your subdivision or neighbourhood and drive by your home at 90km/hr while your children are out riding bikes, playing ball, street hockey or when you and your significant other were out for a walk??

And yes, I am that person that you curse each morning and evening for driving the speed limit.

~J. Robinson

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS...

The focus will publish your thoughts on Shawnigan issues: bouquets you would like to offer to special 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. Send letters to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca)



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# Holidays bring a new tax to Shawnigan

**Brent Beach**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Act today to stop a stealth property tax increase on January 6, 2014. Only YOU can do it.

### A Bit of Tax History

Every taxpayer in the Area B knows that taxes have risen much faster than inflation over the last 10 years. In 2004, Area B taxpayers paid \$1,913,483 to the CVRD. In 2013, the amount is \$4,657,232. 243% increase in 10 years.

After accounting for population growth (15%) and inflation (15%), the increase is over 184%. Pull out your old tax bills and check my numbers.

### Controlling Spending

In Focus articles this year, several residents have pointed to the large increases in salaries of senior CVRD management.

In the August Focus, Director Fraser wrote: “core review”, process, rationale, scale structure, methodology, span of control, indicators, guidelines, balance, prudence, systematic, ... Controlling spending clearly requires considerable study.

Local resident Blaise Salmon retrieved the provincial government documents which list all public sector salaries over \$75,000. He pulled out the salaries of CVRD senior managers over the last 10 years. He found that their salaries had increased by over 75%. [Focus, March 2013, page 8] He then spent several months lobbying the CVRD directors.

Fortunately for area taxpayers (and all CVRD taxpayers), CVRD Board Chair Hutchins and Director Giles responded to that lobbying and, in November, brought a motion to the board which froze management salaries.

### Alternate Approval Process (AAP)

In addition to raising existing taxes, the CVRD can add new taxes. They can do this either by referendum or by AAP. A referendum requires supporters of the new tax to come out and vote for it, and opponents to vote against it. The majority decides. An AAP requires opponents to get a form, fill it in (don't you dare write anything on the back) and take it down to the CVRD offices. If opponents do nothing, the new tax happens.

There is no similar mechanism for removing a tax, unfortunately.

### Important Goal, Bad Outcome

The most recent AAP created a function to maintain the Shawnigan Lake outflow creek. Director Fraser supported this new tax - “no-brainer” he called it. Adding taxes requires no thought at all.

The CVRD rushed to spend about half of that requisition even before they received it. They dredged the deepest widest part of the creek - the worst possible site to dredge. A year later, the CVRD is just getting ready to start a creek depth survey to determine where dredging should be done.

### Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS)

The new tax will give the SBS up to \$50,000 a year. The mission of the SBS is to “to achieve greater control of industrial development, waste treatment, forestry operations, subdivision approvals, recreation development and interface fire protection,” in the words of Director Fraser (Focus, Sep 2013). Even incorporated municipalities do not have these powers! Why would the province delegate them to a small society?

Who are the people in the SBS? On Dec 2, 2013, I attended the Annual General Meeting of the SBS. There were 3 directors present when the meeting started, another one arriving part way through. Total attendance was at most 9 people at any time. No director has any municipal government experience, as far as I know.

### The Ecological Assessment

The money will be spent, in the first years, on a comprehensive ecological assessment. This appears to involve collecting together existing maps and reports and creating a library of these documents. A contractor has been selected, although no formal public Request for Proposal process was undertaken.

Not everyone agrees that an Ecological Assessment is required to begin land conservation efforts. I have discussed the issue with the executive director of a nearby Nature Trust. He is actually in the land conservation business. He minimized the value of ecological assessments in conserving land.

Will this be another case of Important Goal, Bad Outcome?

### Its Up to You

This tax will happen unless **10%** of residents vote against it. Negative option billing - didn't you hate

it when credit card companies did that to you - is illegal in Canada except for adding new taxes.

This new tax will be imposed unless you take action to stop it.

- ★ If you think that the CVRD has enough of your tax dollars already this year, or
- ★ If you think that there are no no-brainers when it comes to spending your tax dollars, or
- ★ If you are concerned that there is a process that adds a new tax unless you and a bunch of your neighbours vote against it, or
- ★ If you agree with the goals, but think the SBS has yet to demonstrate its ability to achieve those goals, then

Fill out and return the Elector Response Form indicating you do not approve this new tax function.

### Act Now

You have until January 6, 2014 to act. You know you will be too busy over the holidays. **Do this today!**

Google ‘3737 - Elector Response Form’, print the PDF file, fill it out and get it down to the CVRD today.

You can also get a copy of the form at the Community Centre. You can fill it out and submit it there!

After you have done that, talk this over with a couple of neighbours and ask them to fill out the form as well.

### What This Does Not Mean

Filling out and sending in this form does not mean that you are against ecological assessments, or that you are against Director Fraser, or that you are not concerned about the future of the watershed.

This does mean that you have a feeling you are taxed enough already. That perhaps some of the existing tax money is not wisely spent. That you don't think the need has been demonstrated. That you don't think the SBS has a demonstrated track record to be given this large a budget.

### Links

A link to the Elector Response Form and links to all references in this article can be found at *Bren-tattheFocus.blogspot.com*

# Area Director's Report

**Bruce Fraser**  
*Director, Area B*

### Merry Christmas Shawnigan!

Congratulations are in order for the SLBA Shawnigan Light Up team that drew so many of us to the Village on December first. The parade of dogs with beards, the kids with glowing garlands, the inspired hockey rink, and the line up of both kids and dogs for a photo op visit with Santa in Bowser and Company, make for great memories. The music, the crafts, the hamper prizes, the carol singing, the food stalls, the firemen and police, all came together to show how the Christmas spirit is thriving in Shawnigan. The Light Up came at the end of a spectacular year of activity:

- ★ The Triathlon and the village reception was a great success with the introduction of engagement of youth participants and new scenic routes over the Kinsol Trestle.
- ★ The First Shawnigan Gathering drew over 500 people to two days of arts, music, trade show, food and discussion launched by the Lieutenant Governor and keynoted by Anne Mortifee and Paul Horn.

- ★ The Community Association held a wonderful Canada Day parade and celebration in the heart of the village.
- ★ The Inspire street festival in September brought families to a day of great entertainment and food to the village.
- ★ The Parks and Recreation Commission finally acquired the old community centre to complete the Elsie Miles land assembly accomplished earlier with the purchase of the School District property.
- ★ The SRA led the charge to give legal challenge to the SIA contaminated soil facility with the fund raising help of Steeples, the Black Swan and the Cobblestone and a host of generous donors.
- ★ The Shawnigan Focus continues to be the lively published voice of the community.
- ★ The Museum draws increasing visitors to delightful displays, including the superb EJ Hughes Gallery; and, the exterior also received a wonderful face lift this year.
- ★ The CVRD, MOE and local partners established a water monitoring program for the lake and attracted a federally funded national

- university consortium to conduct work in the Shawnigan watershed.
- ★ The Shawnigan Basin Society has launched an initiative to create a Basin Authority to give us more say in managing our watershed.
- ★ Shawnigan House Coffee and Oma's bakery, EmAlly's, The Gather Restaurant, Bonterra Pizza, Steers Meat Shop, and Sarpinos Pizza, have conspired to challenge Shawnigan's taste buds to a marathon of new delights.
- ★ DFH is drawing together the scattered small home-based businesses that are so invisible but also so important to our local economy.
- ★ Shawnigan Station won a major brownfield remediation award that will help it reach the goal of a new commercial centre in the village across from the Community Centre.
- ★ An RCMP boathouse to serve the lake was developed on the shore at Shawnigan Lake School.

Every one of these celebrations, initiatives and developments took a huge investment by community volunteers, established and new civic organizations, businesses and entrepreneurs. Shawnigan's vitality was on display this year and we should all be proud of our achievements.



## Why fund a Shawnigan Basin Authority?

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Shawnigan has many valuable assets that need ongoing stewardship. Foremost among these is our lake, not only for its great recreation value but also for its crucial role as our community water supply. The surrounding hills are home to the upland forest and stream networks that provide our lake with the water we drink. This is the Shawnigan Basin, and it is in jeopardy.

The Shawnigan community is well aware of the many impacts on our watershed that have taken place without consultation, and certainly without our approval. The SIA proposal for the contaminated soil facility, the numerous illegal soil dumps throughout the upper basin, the extensive private land logging in our upland forest, and silt-producing gravel operations are some major examples. Each of these has been endorsed or tolerated by government agencies despite their growing negative impacts. No agency is looking out for our community as a whole.

We need to develop the capacity to promote stewardship of our assets and to prevent continuing degradation of our watershed. As an electoral area within the CVRD we have very little control over our landscape. Most of the critical decisions in the watershed lie under the jurisdiction of distant government agencies and private corporations. To have influence on decision makers we need to have some formal mechanism of our own that is respected, and involved before decisions are made. That is what the Shawnigan Basin Authority is intended to provide. An Authority, linked to local government, with broad public membership and support, can give us the clout to be a major player in our own watershed.

In November, 2011 Bruce Fraser won the position of Area Director. Sixty percent of people who care enough to vote approved of his vision for our area. One of his platform statements was "... set in motion a collaborative and basin wide stewardship process for the Shawnigan and Koksilah watersheds." The Shawnigan Basin Society was formed in October of 2012. The SBS Board members are a group of local people volunteering their time and working diligently to create a mechanism for some local control of our watershed. It is natural that not everyone will agree and, as with any public undertaking, there is opportunity for naysayers and

those with an axe to grind.

So, why provide our Authority with tax funds? Government agencies and corporations are more likely to take us seriously if we have committed our own funds towards establishing local watershed management. Infrastructure grants, foundation grants, partnerships, and restoration projects, all require local contributions, both cash and in-kind, before we are even in the running. Unlike incorporated municipalities, electoral areas have no automatic access to granting sources. This means that a community contribution is necessary. It demonstrates our resolve and commitment.

The amount requested is \$50,000 per year. The maximum cost to residential property owners would be \$2.98 per \$100,000 assessed value. For a \$500,000 property that would be \$14.90 per year. Yes, it is another tax and it would be preferable to reallocate existing tax dollars from another less important area, but the Local Government Act does not allow Regional Districts to do that.

The Alternate Approval Process (AAP) is a flawed way of seeking public approval for funding. However, it is the only one provided to us by the Local Government Act. We can legitimately complain about the process but we need to keep a firm eye on the goal we are trying to achieve.

### Ten Steps to Gain Influence over Watershed Management:

1. Know and map our physical watershed in detail - climate, hydrology, geology and ecology.
2. Know and map the human uses of the watershed in detail - industrial, commercial, transportation, settlement, institutional, and recreational.
3. Assess the carrying capacity of the watershed for human uses, particularly water, so that we know what and where we need to conserve and what we can use sustainably.
4. Develop a practical watershed master plan that reflects the physical and development reality and supports sustainable human uses into the future at a scale we want for our community.
5. Prepare the civic organization that will allow our community to participate with local

and senior government agencies and private landowners in the decisions that affect watershed management.

6. Provide basic funding for our civic organization so that it has the capacity to do the necessary research, engage the public, do the planning and bring in outside funds to help accomplish the projects identified in the watershed master plan.
7. Monitor and report on the state of the watershed and
8. Engage a team of technical experts to help us with the details.
9. Work with all community interests, public and private, to develop the partnerships needed to shape the future uses of the watershed over time so that we can achieve ecosystem health and a safe water supply.
10. Work with the CVRD to gain legislative

track changes resulting from our work and from outside influences.

support for local engagement in watershed management as part of the modernization of the Water Sustainability Act.

***This is an ambitious undertaking and a lot of work. Shawnigan will achieve success by pulling together as a team. There will be differences of opinion and debate every step of the way as we learn together, discuss alternatives and choose among options. We can do it, because we must.***

For more information see:  
[shawniganwater.org](http://shawniganwater.org)

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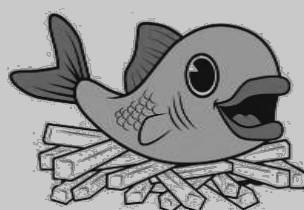
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# Shawnigan Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Dave Hutchinson  
*Shawnigan Focus*

About 100 people attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) held on the evening of November 28th. It has been a busy year for the SRA as reflected in the Director's Reports. The Board will be doubling in size from eight to sixteen directors including two students from Shawnigan Lake School. Graham Ross-Smith, who has served on the board for many years, including several stints as president, will be stepping down.

The closing speech by Sean Hern, a lawyer from Farris LLP, was the highlight of the evening. He outlined the status of the SRA's legal battle against the contaminated waste facility proposed by South Island Aggregates.

The forum for the AGM was generously provided by the Shawnigan Lake School in the splendid Hugh Wilkinson Theatre.




The new SRA Board for 2013-2014 (Photo by Anne Brunet)

Top Row – Left to Right:

**Al Brunet** is seeking a fourth term as a Director; **Lois Morrow** is seeking a first term as a Director; **Anne Marie Thornton** is seeking a second term as Director of Fundraising; **Cecil Ash** a Grade 11 student from Shawnigan Lake School, is seeking a first term as Director; **Calvin Cook** is seeking a third term as Director of Development; **Blaise Salmon** is seeking a first term as Director; **Jonathan Noakes** is seeking a first term as Director; **Joe Woolls** is seeking a first term as a Director.


Front Row – Left to Right:

**Fiona Zahradka** a Grade 12 student from Shawnigan Lake School, is seeking a first term as Director; **Guy Baker** is seeking a first term as Director; **Georgia Collins** is seeking a first term as Director; **Grant Price** is seeking a third term as a Director of the Lake Water portfolio; **Dewar McCarthy** is seeking a second term as Treasurer; **Garry Horwood** is seeking a fourth term as President; **Jason Walker** is seeking his second term as Director of Administration and Communications; **Alison De-waal** is seeking a first term as Director.



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# Inspire!

Leanne Boschman  
*Inspire!*

“Affinity Unfolding” – that is the title of the exhibit in the Inspire Space during the months of November and December 2013. The mixed-media pieces combine text and visual imagery and are the result of collaboration between painter Edward Epp and poet Leanne Boschman. Their joint artistic partnership has been ongoing since the 1990’s and is an exploration of the chal-

lenges, joys, and paradoxes of being in relationship. To work in the medium of the other, to risk vulnerability, to move forward despite any guarantees of how all the elements will come together is at the heart of this work.

On December 6th, an interactive opening was held in the spirit of creativity and community building. Those who attended enjoyed an evening that flowed through rich dialogue about the nature of humanity and the

compassion and courage evinced by individuals such as Nelson Mandela and collaborative drawing and writing exercises. The pictures and poem that resulted were astonishing, and engaging in conversations through colour, line and texture emerged as a delightful way of connecting. I have attended several events sponsored by Inspire Shawnigan and have savoured, each time, the dynamic energy released when we build community through the arts.

Shawnigan Weather November

stats courtesy of UVic Weather Network ~ compiled by Grant Treloar

	November Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Museum		Elford Road	
		2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average High	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.9	8.3	9.6	9.1	8.9	8.8
Average Low	2.4	2.3	3.7	1.5	2.6	2.4	3.6	2.3	3.4
Extreme High	20.0	13.4	14.1	13.2	13.4	14.3	14.8	14.0	14.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	-4.4	-1.3	-5.4	-2.8	-3.9	-1.5	-4.0	-1.5
Precipitation	214.6	144.7	241.4	98.0	182.6	90.7	190.8	108.2	205.0
Days w precip	21	15	19	15	21	15	18	16	22
Since 1914: 49 <sup>th</sup> warmest/25 <sup>th</sup> driest									
Lake Temperature: Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 11° Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> : 10° Nov 17 <sup>th</sup> : 9° Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> : 7°									

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www.shawniganfocus.ca





Santa kindly visits Shawnigan Lake for our *Christmas in the Village*

The SLBA Board would like to thank all the businesses and volunteers that came out to help make this year’s Christmas in the Village our best yet!!!!

We were thrilled to hand over 200 food items, \$180 in cash as well as clothing and

toys to the Cowichan Valley Food Bank

What a wonderful show of support from our community! Thanks to all of you who came out and donated, and enjoyed good times with friends and neighbours. Our best wishes to you for a safe and happy holiday season.

Dwight School students courageously celebrate cross-cultural holidays

Sarah Lando & Joshua Schmitdt  
*Dwight School*

On Wednesday afternoon (Dec 4th), after tree decorating and gingerbread making, the entire school gathered together in the auditorium to watch Dwight School Canada’s Holiday Showcase. Students of all nationalities collaborated to create a wonderful show for fellow classmates, teachers, and local families.

Performances included a comedy routine with two students from Mexico and one student from Japan, a melodious medley of songs by the A-Capella club, an Iaido martial arts demonstration by the Japanese language teacher, a hip-hop dance routine, a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, and many more memorable performances.

Dwight School Canada’s principal Andrea Spinner, noted “Getting up on stage is not so much about having talent but more about being willing to take a risk and having the courage to overcome your fears.” For many students, English is not their first language, and

the courage it must take to perform in front of the entire school must be immense.

Rocky Zhang, an ESL student from Beijing, performed a Chinese hip-hop song. Zhang was able to forget his fears and courageously perform in front of a supportive audience. Rocky notes, “I felt really good when I sang the song, although they could not understand the words I sang. All of them [the participants] clap[ped] their hands and gave me power to keep singing.” It is evident that Zhang’s courage came from within and from a supportive audience.

After the performances were over, Ms. Spinner concluded in her speech that, “Getting up on stage is not so much about having talent but more about being willing to take a risk and having the courage to overcome your fears. At the end of the day, that’s what really makes you successful in life.” The showcase concluded with these wise words and left students, staff, and local families with a warm feeling inside and a smile on their face.



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# Shawnigan Lake (Area B) Parks and Recreation Commission



### Bill Savage Shawnigan Resident

On November 12th, the day after Remembrance Day, I was on Memory Island. It felt good to be there. Once again, I read the commemorative plaque.

**Memory Island Park:**  
*Donated to the people of British Columbia by Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Scharff and the Hon. and Mrs. Mayhew in memory of their sons Kenneth Scharff and Alan Mayhew who died*

*in World War II and who had spent many happy days on the lake.*

I paid my respects to young Kenneth and Alan for their ultimate sacrifice. I also gave my thanks to the Scharff family and the Mayhew fam-

ily for their beautiful gift to us – Memory Island.

On that Tuesday morning, two CVRD maintenance department employees accompanied me, in order to erect a park bench in Memory of Robert Scott Stone.

Ellen Parkinson and Carolyn Dowell, who represented the Stone family, met us there. A spot was selected for the bench and the tools and materials were brought to the site. Before work commenced Brian Brown, carpenter for the CVRD asked, "Who was Robert Scott Stone"?

Following a deep breath, Ellen Parkinson began...Robert Scott Stone (Scotty) spent every summer at Shawnigan Lake. He enjoyed his days here and especially his July birthdays, spent with family friends and cousins. He wake-boarded and tubed, spent many hours on the ski jump, camped around and enjoyed many hours on Memory Island. Shawnigan Lake was his favourite place to be in the whole world.

Scott loved sports from a

young age and played lacrosse for the Victoria Shamrocks and the Nanaimo Timberman. He spent a year in Australia attending school and learning the finer skills of surfing and spear-fishing. He also played rugby for a league while there. He played all sports with passion, fairness and sportsmanship. Scott spent time in South Africa working on various game reserves pursuing his love and passion with the animal world. He also achieved his life long goal of becoming a helicopter pilot.

Scott passed away suddenly on May 1st of this year, leaving his Mom, Dad, brother, sister, his dog and many, many friends.

Memory Island is a beautiful Park for creating wonderful memories. I have a few Scotty, and you are now one of them. I know you will be in good company with the Scharff and Mayhew boys.

The bench is located on a rock on the southeast side of the island in the perfect spot to greet each wonderful day.



**Rachel Allen**  
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*The Shawnigan Lake School Senior Girls Field Hockey team capped off a very successful season by capturing the team's second championship banner at the BC AA Provincials in Vancouver in November.*

*"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." ~Plato*



# The Mark Hobson Fish Hatchery

**Sarah Doyle**  
*Shawnigan Lake School*

For the past 33 years, the School has been engaged in salmon enhancement initiatives and education. With the School's Mark Hobson Hatchery as the centrepiece, countless Shawnigan students have learned about the economic, social and ecological value of these amazing fish, through hands on experience.

This is what happens each year: in November, the School's Hatchery program receives brood stock from the Mill Bay and District Con-

servation Society's trap on Shawnigan Creek or from the Goldstream Hatchery. With the assistance of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), students learn to extract the eggs from mature female salmon and milt from mature males, and to complete the external fertilization process. Currently in this stage, the plan is to complete four more sessions over the next week, allowing four science 9 classes to participate.

The fertilized eggs are then "planted" in incubation units, and the developing salmonids are monitored through the winter months. During this

time, students measure the water's temperature to determine accumulated thermal units on a daily basis that are used to assess the stage of development of the developing salmon. The School's Environment Club plays a key role in managing the facility, helping to keep it running smoothly. Come early spring, the emerging fry are put on a feeding program for a few weeks and their adipose fin (the small vestigial or useless fin on their dorsal surface) is clipped in order to identify them as "hatchery fish." The fry are then released by the students into local streams and

rivers as directed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Shawnigan students join the dedicated group of volunteers at the Mill Bay Fish Trap, where coho salmon make their way to the mouth of Shawnigan Creek. Here the crew physically lifted the spawners past the seven impassable falls along the lower stretch of Shawnigan Creek. The salmon then continued their fight upstream to spawning grounds throughout the Shawnigan Watershed.

The School's hatchery was established by Mark Hobson (world renowned wildlife artist

and former staff member and alumnus of Shawnigan Lake School) in 1980, and is one of the first on-campus high school fish hatchery programs in British Columbia. Thanks to the donations from the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Shell Environment Fund and the Shawnigan Foundation, along with invaluable support from DFO and its community advisors, the program has flourished.

In addition to their on campus education, students travel to streams, rivers and other hatchery facilities on Vancouver Island to see their subject at work in its natural habitat.



*Wrangling a Shawnigan Coho  
Photo courtesy of Shawnigan Lake School*

## The Wild Side The Shawnigan Coho Run

**Dave Hutchinson**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

Last December the front page of this newspaper was a celebration of the Shawnigan Coho run which set an all-time record of 4,736 fish. This year the number is 2,734. While it does not match last year's super run, it is the second highest number of fish that have been moved by the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society and associated volunteers.

There are no naturally occurring salmon in the Shawnigan system. The falls at the bottom of the creek, near where it empties into Mill Bay, are tall enough that no fish can get up. When the fish return to the creek, they are caught in fish traps, crated up, and brought to various locations along Shawnigan Creek and also directly into Shawnigan Lake.

The project started in 1971 with fry from the Goldstream hatchery. Guidance from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and help from Shawnigan Lake School and other volunteers, have made the decades of work remarkably successful.

This is a wonderful success story for our area and many

thanks to all those involved. Thanks also to Shawnigan Lake Automotive for their donation towards covering fuel costs.

Shawnigan Lake School has been operating its own hatchery since 1980. This is described in a separate article in this issue.

A Few Details:

- ★ Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), are a member of the salmon family. They are also known as silver salmon or "silvers".
- ★ Mature adults average 28 inches (71 cm) and 7 to 11 pounds (3.2 to 5.0 kg), occasionally reaching up to 36 pounds (16 kg).
- ★ During their ocean phase, coho salmon have silver sides and dark-blue backs. During their spawning phase, their jaws and teeth become hooked. After entering fresh water, they develop bright-red sides, bluish-green heads and backs, dark bellies and dark spots on their backs.
- ★ The eggs hatch in the late winter or early spring. Once hatched, they remain mostly immobile during the sac-fry stage, which

lasts for 6-7 weeks. They mature into fry and then fingerlings, spending 1-2 years in their freshwater birth streams, before transforming into smolts. At this time they are about 4-6 inches long and undergoing a process of physiological changes which enable a shift from fresh to salt water. Smolts migrate to the ocean from late March through July. Coho live in salt water for 1-3 years before returning to spawn. Some precocious males, known as "jacks", return as two-year-old spawners.

- ★ Ocean-caught coho are regarded as excellent table fare. With its orange-red flesh, firm texture and delicate flavour, many consider Coho the best salmon for grilling.
- ★ Coho are harvested commercially on both sides of the Pacific, from Alaska to Oregon, and from Russia to Japan. The status of coho populations in the Pacific Northwest varies; some populations are listed as endangered while others are abundant.

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# Take a Hike!

**Robin Massey**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

On the most perfectly sunny October Sunday we started out at the end of Khenipson Road off of Tzouhalem Road. If familiar, you may be aware that parking is VERY limited so it's best to tuck in really tight to the roadside or consider carpooling, a better choice for bigger groups.

Once the vehicular arrangements were complete, we headed in on foot to the 'Bumpy Road' sign and past the barricade leading onto the ridge trail. Just before entering the forest is a cute collection of inukshuks indicating that you are definitely on the right trail.

The first half leads you up steeply, past a few big old wise giants and then peaks at an extraordinary cliff edge boasting an eagle's eye view of Cowichan Bay. Across this cliff is a trail leading downward, which we chose to stay on right up until a major fork where we steered left to our

chosen destination.

After the fork, the trail winds through private property, but rather than feeling like an intruder you are kindly welcomed by the mantra OM MANI PADME HUM (Hail to the Jewel of the Lotus) posted on a tree.

Flowing through the sea of ferns you spill onto a country road that leads to Genoa Bay Café & Marina if you continue to go straight. We were faster than expected and arrived a bit early for our reservation. This gave us the perfect opportunity to mosey about the marina taking in the most amazing collection of eclectic and charming arts and dwellings!

The Café staff welcomed us warmly as we bustled in with our muddy boots and dishevelled hair-dos. Thank goodness that a pretty little place such as this does not require formal dress attire! We sampled various menu items, and each was delightfully delectable. Following our thorough



tummy stuffing we wandered out with happy bellies and a sense of accomplishment for such a great hike. And since this was our first time for this particular adventure, we car-pooled from the Café to the start. We collectively agreed that next time that we could certainly hike in, eat, and hike the 45 minutes back with ease.

The terrain of the trail is well maintained and starts you off with a good burn, followed by a long gradual finish, which is essentially the same both ways. The average hiker can tackle this trail with ease, BUT coming down there are steep declines that can be precarious on the gravelly paths. Trekking poles are

definitely an advantage.

Many thanks to the Iron Butts for entertaining the idea of this adventure and also heartfelt hugs to the Genoa Bay Café staff for their spectacular hospitality!

*Robin frolics in Cowichan Valley's viewpoints with The Iron Butts (www.theomtree.com)*

# Koksilah Sandstone Quarry Update

**Brent Beach**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

In response to the Koksilah Sandstone article in the November Focus, a reader from Cobble Hill, Neil Bonner, got in touch with me. Neil wrote that he knew the probable location of the quarry.

Neil is a member of the Cowichan Valley Rockhounds. Some of these amateur geologists hike the back country looking for interesting rocks. Have geologist's hammer, will travel! Several members live in the Shawnigan Lake area.

Neil had hiked to the Koksilah Quarry a couple of times with this group and offered to take me there. We hiked from Bright Angle park to the site in about

10 minutes. Sure enough, small sandstone cliffs right beside the railway that match the description in the various articles I had read.

When I got back home and put the location into Google Earth, its measurement tool reported the quarry was exactly 1 mile north of Cowichan Station! I had stopped well short of the quarry on my previous hike, thinking I had missed it or it was not actually along the railway. My distance estimating skills while hiking need a little bit of work.

The railway follows a long curve around the sandstone outcrop. While the outcrop-forced detour could have meant extra cost, the builders turned that challenge into an opportunity, using the rock in

that outcrop almost right away - to build the rail bridge at Cowichan Station.

Neil also reminded me of the railway bridge over Northgate Rd, a bridge I had seen but forgotten. Last week, while hiking the Shawnigan outflow creek below the weir, I refound two other sandstone railway bridges over Shawnigan Creek between Shawnigan Lake and Northgate Rd.

So, there are six of these Koksilah sandstone bridges along the E&N line, all built in 1885-1886. These are perhaps the oldest man-made structures still standing in our area.

Thanks to Neil for guiding me to the quarry.



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The Shawnigan Focus Team would like to wish you a wonderful Holiday Season & Happy New Year with friends & family.



# Our Voice ~ Our Thoughts ~ Our Community

SHAWNIGAN FOCUS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ★ **Area B Director's meetings**  
1st Monday of each month – 7 pm at SL Community Centre
- ★ **Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission (APC)**  
1st Thursday of each month. 7 pm at Inspire Gathering Place
- ★ **Shawnigan Parks and Recreation Commission**  
3rd Thursday of each month 6:30 pm at SLCC
- ★ **Shawnigan Improvement District**  
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- ★ **Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) Board meeting**  
3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - [www.thesra.ca](http://www.thesra.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Business Association (SLBA)**  
1st Tuesday of each month 7 pm at the Village Chipperry.
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Community Association**  
4th Monday of each month 7pm. Contact [bburr@shaw.ca](mailto:bburr@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Village Development Council**  
Meeting times TBA. Everyone welcome!
- ★ **Shawnigan Watershed Roundtable**  
See website for details: [www.shawniganwater.org](http://www.shawniganwater.org)
- ★ **Inspire! Arts, Culture and Heritage**  
Gathering Space hours: M/W/F 11-4: [www.inspireshawnigan.com](http://www.inspireshawnigan.com)
- ★ **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAG)**  
Info at: [www.ysag.ca](http://www.ysag.ca) email: [ysagssl@gmail.com](mailto:ysagssl@gmail.com)
- ★ **Shawnigan Lake Museum**  
Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30-4. Closed Dec 22, 2013 - Jan 31, 2014  
[www.shawniganlakemuseum.com](http://www.shawniganlakemuseum.com) email: [shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)
- ★ **Shawnigan Scouts**  
Cubs (8-10 Years): Each Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm SLCC  
Scouts (11-14 Years): Each Wednesday, 7:00-9:00pm Discovery School  
Venturers (14-17 Years): Mondays after school  
Register: William Thow: [thow@pacificcoast.net](mailto:thow@pacificcoast.net)
- ★ **Shawnigan Players** - Robin Hood and his Merry Men. A Panto for the whole family. Dec 27-30 7pm. Dec 31 at 1:30. Mercury Theatre: 331 Brae St Duncan. Tickets available at Mason's Store. Adults \$15 Children \$12
- ★ **Shawnigan Shiver** - January 1st 2014. Join us at the Government Wharf for a New Years dip in the lake. Registration from 11:15 a.m. 'Swim' at noon.
- ★ **[www.exploringshawniganlake.com](http://www.exploringshawniganlake.com)**
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*Department Members Attended 15 Calls in November  
Department Officers attended 1 burning complaints.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ★ Saturday, November 2 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd   | ★ Tuesday, November 19 – 1st Responder off Elford Rd            |
| ★ Sunday, November 3 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd   | ★ Wednesday, November 20 – CO Detector Alarm on Sommer Ln       |
| ★ Thursday, November 7 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd<br>Friday, November 8 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd | ★ Wednesday, November 20 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd |
| ★ Tuesday, November 12 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd  | ★ Thursday, November 21 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd    |
| ★ Saturday, November 16 – Hydro Lines on Shawnigan Lake Rd   | ★ Monday, November 25 – 1st Responder on Shawnigan Lake Rd      |
| ★ Sunday, November 17 – MVI on Renfrew Rd  | ★ Tuesday, November 26 – Structure Fire in the Beach Estates    |
| ★ Tuesday, November 19 – 1st Responder off   | ★ Saturday, November 30 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd              |

### Gill-Power Hobby Farm

... wishes everyone Season's Greetings

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What is it? Where is it? Why is it?

## WE STUMPED YOU IN NOVEMBER

Looking towards the lake, the photo showed a fire hydrant protected by posts which is located at the bottom of the hill near the old Community Hall.



first CORRECT answer sent to [editor@shawniganfocus.ca](mailto:editor@shawniganfocus.ca) wins  
two Specialty Coffees at Shawnigan House!



### Factory Direct Clothing Outlet

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# The old hall is returned to the community



**Lori Treloar**  
*Shawnigan Focus*

On November 28, 2013 the CVRD bought the 1931 Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association hall on behalf of the Shawnigan Lake Community. This acquisition is significant. With the Elsie Miles property and the Hall property back in the hands of the Community, a historic gathering space in Shawnigan

Lake has been restored.

The story of this old hall begins just after noon, on April 2, 1930, when fire started on the roof of the 1910 Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association (SLAA) Hall. With high winds that day, the fire spread quickly to other buildings along the village waterfront. Essentially, the commercial core of Shawnigan was destroyed. A small cottage, once

part of the hotel property, was the only survivor. Most of the businesses quickly found temporary quarters but there was no quick fix for the loss of the hall.

The SLAA Directors worked diligently for eighteen months following the fire to collect insurance money and then to replace the building, which was central to the activities of the community. Fortunately, for the shareholders, it was determined that the cause of the fire was slash burning by the E & N Railway. The E & N vehemently denied the claim but lost their suit against the insurance company.

Countless, lengthy meetings of the SLAA Directors were held to determine the best course of action. Many decisions had to be made such as whether to rebuild on the

same site, what size the building should be, and who would build it. The architect hired to design the building produced a plan that was far too rich for the budget of the shareholders. His plan was never used. The sale of shares for the Association, which had been closed, opened once again for a short period of time to augment the insurance money.

In June of 1931, more than a year after the fire, the debris from the site was finally cleared. The new hall opened October 10, 1931 with a dinner and dance. Workers were kept busy with finishing details right up until opening day. The new hall was more utilitarian in form and function than the original. It provided more interior space but was less attractive from the outside. It did not matter in the least. Soon after the

opening dance, the directors arranged for the use of the hall for the Badminton and Basketball groups. Their next order of business was to organize a Hallowe'en dinner and, not surprisingly, a dance for October 31st. The hall was back in business.

The hall was owned and operated by the SLAA until the company disbanded in 1963. At that time, the hall (and property) was turned over to the Shawnigan Lake Recreation Commission.

When funds were needed in the early 1990s for a down payment to build the current Shawnigan Lake Community Centre, the hall was sold to private ownership.

Christmas came early for Shawnigan – returning the hall to the community is a priceless gift.

## SHAWNIGAN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

presents its annual

## SANTA RUN

Wednesday, December 18th  
6pm to 9pm

Santa visits the Beach Estates starting at Ceclon Road, making his way to Linden Lane. On the East side, Santa starts in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnham Park area.

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

## Mason's Store *Happy Holidays*

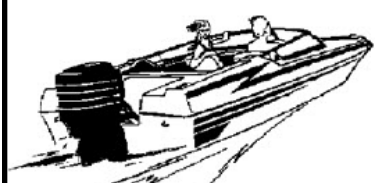
### CHRISTMAS HOURS

Christmas Eve, December 24	8 AM - 9 PM
Christmas Day, December 25	CLOSED - Merry Christmas
Boxing Day, December 26	9 AM - 9 PM
New Year's Eve, December 31	8 AM - 9 PM
New Year's Day, January 1	10 AM - 8 PM

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We are all hoping you and yours have a safe and Happy Holiday Season  
- Jim & the Staff at Mason's Store

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## CALLING FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

**The Shawnigan Basin Society is Seeking Inaugural Board Members for the SHAWNIGAN BASIN AUTHORITY.**

*Our purpose is to establish a model of participatory ecological governance of the Shawnigan Community Watershed*

**The Authority and its purposes will be thoroughly discussed with the community over the next few months as the work begins. Members will engage in planning, project implementation consultation, agency liaison and discussions with government about the need for delegation.**

**The overall mandate of the Authority will be created by the individuals who step forward - those who are willing to contribute their time and energy to gaining local control of our Watershed.**

**This is a long-term project that will need much dialogue and cooperation within the Shawnigan Community (residents, First Nations and the many government agencies).**

We are currently dealing with the consequences of not having an established local device for watershed management. We are witness to contaminated soil dumping, failing septic systems, extensive logging, and development pressures. Until now, there has been no single agency tasked with addressing the cumulative impacts within the Watershed.

**Applications are being accepted from residents who are interested in serving as a volunteer member of the SHAWNIGAN BASIN AUTHORITY.**

**Please submit your statement of interest by mail, email or in person.**

P.O. Box 189 1760 SHAWNIGAN MILL-BAY ROAD  
SHAWNIGAN LAKE, BC V0R 2W0

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