Shawnigan-Showe'luqun
Focus
Volume Seventeen- Issue Eleven
November 2026 Tth'al'xwumutsun
"The time when the ground is glistening from frost or ice."
A Non-Profit Community Publication

A Decade of Community. A Lifetime of Connection.



Sierra Acton
Area B Director *former*
Ph. (250) 715-6763

As I write my farewell Area Director's report for Shawnigan Lake, it's nearly impossible to sum up a decade of community service and three elections in one article but one thing is clear: it wasn't necessarily the decisions made around the board table that mattered most. It was what happened here at home, in our community. And, first and foremost, it was the people.

It was the ***advisory teams, volunteers and community members*** who showed up, shared their knowledge and offered encouragement and support. We could not have accomplished nearly as much without the people who worked alongside me.

The ***Shawnigan Lake Research Group***, which worked on the closure plan for the contaminated soil dump, the ***Parks Commission***, the ***Community Centre Commission***, the ***Advisory Planning Commission***, ***Shawnigan Lake School,*** the ***Shawnigan Residents Association*** and the ***ThinkShawnigan*** team all played important roles in shaping our community and supporting my work at the CVRD board table.

There are far too many people to name individually, but please know how grateful I am for every one of you and to those who gave so much to our community before leaving this world, you are remembered: Brent Beach, Sally Davis, Ed Wiebe, Glenn White and Mike Hennessy, *thank you*. During my terms, I was fortunate to work with Alternates: David Proctor, Heidi Goddard and Amber Champ. Words cannot fully express how much your support meant to me, both at the board table and in serving our community. I could not have done this job without you.

Accomplishments worth celebrating.

Two playgrounds were replaced including the nature-inspired playground at Old Mill Park the first of its kind within the CVRD and accessible washrooms (currently in the works) each made possible through grant funding.

Also, with the help of community partners and grant funding, pickleball courts were built at Kerry Park Recreation Centre. I know I'm going to enjoy them with my new found abundance of free time!

We celebrated the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre's 25th anniversary with a special community gathering and a climbing wall.

At Elsie Miles Park, washroom facilities were supported through the Shawnigan Lake Museum expansion project and the museum received solar panels each supported by gas tax funding.

Think*Shawnigan*: imagining the future together.

One of the most meaningful initiatives of my term was the Think*Shawnigan* Village Plan. It brought people together through an extensive community engagement process, beginning with Doug Griffith and a shared visioning exercise to imagine what we wanted Shawnigan Lake to become over the next twenty years.

The plan represented a tremendous amount of community energy, thought and collaboration. COVID disrupted our progress and we shifted gears with a focus on the Rail with Trail connecting four waterfront parks, incorporating community-designed viewing portals, artwork and benches details. The result, a continuous 1.5 km trail along Shawnigan Lake and soon connecting 5 waterfront parks. The project helped create the opportunity to purchase two waterfront parks, protecting valuable public spaces for the future.

Safety improvements to the Government Wharf dock and boat launch are underway. We secured $200,000 in grant funding for washrooms along the trail and another $150,000 for a playground at Elsie Miles Park.

The Think*Shawnigan* Village Plan remains a valuable roadmap for our community that I hope will be championed with our new Area Director, Kyle Cheveldayoff. A plan is only as good as the community that continues to believe in it.

The moments I'll remember most.

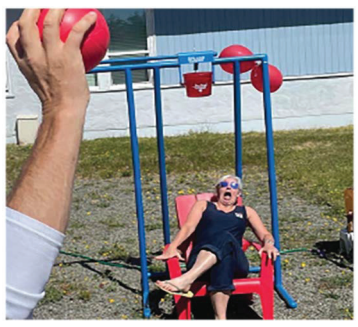
I could write another article about the work at the board table, including our work on the CVRD Hospital Board securing funding for the new hospital. That work matters, and I'm proud to have been part of it.

Three memorable community experiences at the top of my the list are:

(1) Leading the warm-up at the ***Shawnigan Shiver*** on New Year's Day. What better way to start a new year than surrounded by people willing to jump into a freezing lake!

(2) Taking part in the ***Canada Day Parade***. There is something special about a small-town parade coming together in celebration.

(3) ***Ribbon Cutting for the Rail with Trail*** official opening. After many sleepless nights and attacks on my family, seeing this project completed was an incredibly meaningful accomplishment. It was the vision of the community that prevailed over a few voices who opposed it.



Canada Celebrations in the line of fire of a bucket of cold water and community shenanigans.



Shawnigan Shiver here with Pieter and Sally ... devoted Shawnigan champions.





The ***ThinkShawnigan*** working team brought Doug Griffiths, author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, to our community for a presenation and to kick-start this initiative.



Rail with Trail ribbon-cutting.



Pickleball Courts ribbon-cutting.

There have been plenty of other highlights and some lowlights, too. Ten years in local government will give you a few stories to tell! But rather than dwell on the difficult moments (hello, COVID), I want to finish by focusing on what matters most.

I may be reaching the end of my time at the CVRD board table, but that doesn't mean I'm stepping away from the community I love.

Thank You, Shawnigan Lake!

I hope we will continue to cross paths, share ideas and work together toward common goals. You can find me on LinkedIn, and I'm always happy to connect with people who want to make a positive difference.

Shawnigan Lake is worth showing up for, and I know there are good things still to come when we work together.

As I close this chapter, I'll leave you with the words that have guided so much of my work:

Love it. Share it. Protect it.



From recent Facebook post. I'm happy to share that I had coffee with your next Area B Director, Kyle Cheveldayoff, and I'm feeling good about the future of Shawnigan Lake. We'll likely meet again, as we're both committed to working together to ensure a smooth transition and that nothing gets lost with the changing of the leadership.

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The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors, not the paper. The Focus endeavours to promote respectful and open dialogue in the community and aims to interest a broad cross-section of the residents of Shawnigan Lake.

Ad & Submission Deadline and How to Send Copy

- *300 words max for community group updates*
- *500 words max for a story/article of interest to the Shawnigan community.*

Due dates for articles:
2026: Nov 26, Dec 31,
2027: Jan28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, Jun 24, Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 30, Nov 25, Dec 30

Advertisements due by the day before articles. Please send copy as ane-mail attachment in Microsoft Word, text to: shawniganfocuseditor@gmail.com
*****Do not send PDFs***

*****Photos should be high resolution and be in jpg or png format***

About the Focus

Since 2011, the Shawnigan Focus is a non-profit locally produced newspaper, published by :
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1-1455 Brigantine Drive
Coquitlam, BC V3K 7C2

Shawnigan Focus Weather — October 2026

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

	October Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Average High	14.1	15.0	13.4	15.6	14.3	16.4	14.2	16.8	14.2	16.0	14.0
Average Low	5.8	6.8	6.1	6.2	5.3	4.4	3.5	6.7	6.4	6.0	5.3
Extreme High	28.3	21.3	18.8	23.1	21.0	23.4	21.7	23.7	19.2	22.9	20.2
Extreme Low	-7.2	2.3	0.8	1.3	-0.5	-0.9	-1.9	2.4	0.8	1.3	-0.2
Precipitation	114.7	54.7	177.0	64.6	123.8	55.2	156.7	48.0	114.9	55.6	143.1
Days w precip	16	13	17	12	17	11	18	13	17	12	17
Year Precip	830.8	819.8	894.4	641.5	661.5	648.6	733.5	540.6	599.1	662.6	722.1

	Rank since 1914: 15th warmest, 23rd driest			
	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
Lake Temperature	17˚	15˚	14˚	12˚
Lake Temperature 2025	18˚	15˚	14˚	12.5˚
Surface Elevation	115.86m	115.83m	115.80m	115.80m
Surface Elevation 2025	115.83m	115.82m	115.83m	115.85m

Comments

October 2026 was a warmer and drier than normal.

Warmest days were in the 3rd and 4th with temperatures close to 22˚. The last 20˚reading occured on the 16th, with temeratures dropping off for the remained of the month.

Coolest night was on the 23rd with temperatures hovering near 1˚. There were 4 days when the daytime temperature did not reach 10˚.

The dozen days of rain (8 consecutive from the 24th - 31st) about half the monthly average total. So far the yearly total for rainfall is running about 80% of normal.

During October he lake levels were still being controlled by the weir just north of the end of the lake. It was opened briefly to wash the lower stream fish ladders in Mill Bay because of a water pipe break caused by consturction. The weir is ususally opened fully sometime during November as the usual heavy rains start to raise the lake level.

Daylight hours are now shortening by greater than 3 minutes per day, but will slow down to just under 2 minutes daily by the end of November. Sunset on the November 1st was 5:54 pm; by the end of the month, sunset gets close to its earliest time at 5:21 pm and remains there until the end of December.

Noon time sunshine height above the horizon dips from 27˚ on the first to 20˚at the end of the month.

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn
South Cowichan Library
250-743-5436
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https:www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

- **AI Workshop** series with Literacy Now Cowichan, Wednesday, Nov 18 & 25, Dec 2 & 9, 10:30-12:00. Learn about artificial intelligence in social media, videos and photos and more. Please call or drop in to register. Free.
- **The Inspired by Reading Book Club**, hosted by the Cowichan South Arts Guild, meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 5:15-6:45pm. Nov 12 meeting will be on Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy and Dec 10 meeting will be on Theo of Golden by Allan Levi.
- **South Cowichan Poetry Group**: this new group is meeting Saturday, Nov 14, 2-3:30ish. All levels of experience welcome! contact Gillian at poetryrocks@proton.me
- **Tech Help**: Drop in Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays or make an appointment for one-on-one help with a mobile device or laptop.
- **LEGO® Club** happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.
- **Intermediate Conversational Spanish** meets 5:30 to 6:30pm on Thursdays. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting.
- **Conversational Scottish Gaelic** is a fun way to learn and practice Scottish Gaelic. Join in at 4:30pm on Tuesdays.
- **Intermediate Chess** meets Wednesdays at 1pm. For experienced players looking for matches.
- Know someone local who is unable to come into the library due to illness or injury? Please let them know about our volunteer **Home Delivery** service. They can get books, audiobooks, and DVDs delivered to their door monthly.
- The library stocks **period products** in the washroom using donations of items or money to support this. Thank you.

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

- 10am - 6pm, Monday and Tueday
- 10am - 7pm, Wednesday to Saturday
- 10am - 6pm Friday & Saturday,

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



Remembrance Day — John Lander

Kevin Rothbauer
Shawnigan Lake School

Forty-five alumni and staff members from Shawnigan Lake School gave their lives during the Second World War, and are honoured not only on Remembrance Day, but year-round with a cenotaph in the Quad and a Roll of Honour in the Chapel. This is the story behind one of the names on Shawnigan's Roll of Honour.

John Gerard Heath Lander was born in Liverpool, UK on July 7, 1907. His father, Gerard Heath Lander, served as Anglican Bishop of Hong Kong from 1907 to 1920, and sent John to Shawnigan Lake School from 1918 to 1920. John eventually graduated from Shrewsbury School, where he became an outstanding rower, helping the Shrewsbury men's eight win the Ladies' Challenge Plate at the Henley Royal Regatta in 1924.

He continued to row while attending Trinity College, Cambridge, and in 1928 won a gold medal for Great Britain in the coxless four at the Summer Olympics in Amsterdam as his crew edged the Americans by one second.

After graduating from Cambridge, John worked in Hong Kong for the Asiatic Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of Shell, and was the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's Rowing Captain from 1929 until he was transferred to Manila in 1930. In the Philippines, he became a "leading light" at the Manila Boat Club. While on leave in England, he married Kathleen Elizabeth "Betty" Lander, and their son, Gerard Heath "Gerry" Lander was born in 1939.

John returned to Hong Kong in June 1941, but Betty and Gerry had to stay in the Philippines as British women and children had already been evacuated due to the threat of a Japanese invasion. When Japan ultimately invaded Hong Kong in December 1941, John enlisted in the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps and worked as a gunner at Stanley Fort. He was killed in action near St. Stephen's College on Christmas Day, 1941 at the age of 34, just hours before Hong Kong surrendered. He is buried at Sai Wan War Cemetery, where Shawnigan staff uphold a tradition of laying a wreath whenever they are in Hong Kong.

John Lander was the only Olympic champion from Great Britain killed in the Second World War, compared to 13 killed in the First World War. He was predeceased by his younger brother, Peter, who was killed in action in November 1941 when his Royal Air Force plane crashed into the North Sea.

Japan invaded the Philippines the same month they invaded Hong Kong,



and Betty and Gerry were held captive in the Santo Tomas internment camp. Betty did not learn of John's death for almost two years. Betty and Gerry returned to England, then later moved to South Africa. Gerry became a renowned nuclear physicist, best known for studying the neutron and X-ray scattering of actinide materials.

Gerry remains connected to Shawnigan, visiting the School for Remembrance Day ceremonies in 2024, and attending a special event at Canada House in London last March to celebrate the School's 110th anniversary.

The entire community is invited to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies, which will be held at the School on November 11, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Guests are asked to gather at the flagpole at 1:20 p.m.

Don't Be Goaded On!

Ross Carter
Shawnigan Lake

Henry "Hank" Vincent Robertson is in a number of the early pictures of the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Co logging crews. In the picture below, one can see Hank with his handlebar moustache holding an axe in his hand. In another picture, instead of an axe, Hank's holding a goad stick where he's ushering on the oxen team. Anyways, who was Hank, this man of the woods?



1893 Hank & Rebekah's marriage portrait

Hank came from Arkansas in 1891 when he was 27 years old and started working at the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Co. He would soon marry a local woman, Rebekah Handy, and they proceeded to have six children, 4 girls and 2 boys. To learn what happened each time a Robertson child was born, which can still be seen today, read the story on Page 1 of the January 2023 Shawnigan Focus issue.

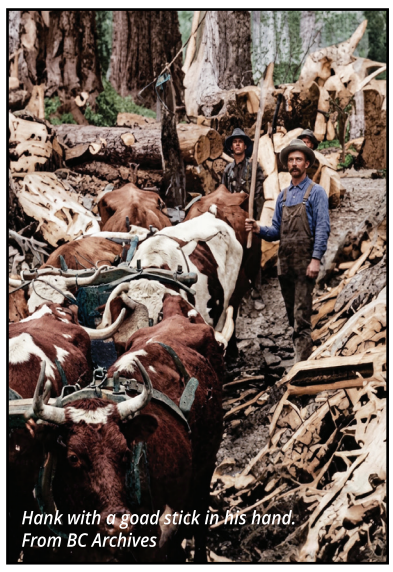


Hank with axe in hand.

They built their house on the westside of Shawnigan Lake and it's still there over 125 years later. In the 1890s, his job was the bull puncher on the company logging team. Oxen were known to be very strong but also slow and stubborn hence the need to guide or "punch" them. A goad stick was used by the bull puncher to prod the stubborn oxen in the direction and speed he wanted. It was a highly skilled role controlling the oxen team and navigating the skid roads so one was paid more. The bull puncher needed a good goad stick that was perfectly balanced, flexible and strong enough not to snap when used in a difficult moment. Hank could only trust himself to fashion the type of goad sticks he needed.

In the Green Branches and Fallen Leaves book, Hank's wife Rebekah is quoted "On a fine Sunday, when we were first married, we would row across the lake and climb Bald Mountain to cut young oaks for goad sticks. These were peeled and wrapped with waxed thread with a spike in the end. They dragged a go-devil behind the oxen to haul the chains back to the woods, and often I used to ride on it. The oxen came from Duncan and around,….and sometimes they had bulls - real bulls - and I was scared to death of them, but the men said they never gave any trouble."

By 1900, logging practices were evolving away from using oxen teams. Hank's job too changed as he became the company blacksmith for the next 10 years. He would die in 1919 at the age of 55.



Hank with a goad stick in his hand. From BC Archives

(photos enhanced and colourized by Google Gemini)



Hank in the centre holding an axe. From BC Archives

Shawnigan Lake Fire Department

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

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

October 2026 Report

Department Members Attended 28 Incidents in October

- Friday, Oct 2 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Friday, Oct 2 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Oct 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 6 – Assistance on Northgate Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 7 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, Oct 8 - 1st Responder off Thain Rd
- Friday, Oct 9 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Monday, Oct 12 – Alarms Activated on Mahon Rd
- Monday, Oct 12 - 1st Responder off Lovers Lane
- Tuesday, Oct 13 - 1st Responder off Sooke Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 14 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Oct 17 – 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- Saturday, Oct 17 - Burning Complaint on Carlton Dr
- Monday, Oct 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Oct 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Oct 19 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Monday, Oct 19 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 20 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 20 – Burning Complaint on Laverock Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 20 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 21 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 21 – Duty Investigation on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Oct 22 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Oct 23 – Alarms Activated on Ravenhill Rd
- Sunday, Oct 25 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Oct 26 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Oct 27 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Wednesday, Oct 28 – Bush Fire on Munsie Rd

Election Results

CVRD - Area A - Shawnigan

As of the October 2026 local government elections, local regional district records for CVRD Area B (Shawnigan Lake) provide the following voter statistics and breakdown:

Key Voter Statistics (October 2026 Election)

- Estimated Eligible Voters in Area B: ~6,500 – 7,200 electors
- Total Ballots Cast in Area B: 2,269 voters
- Voter Turnout: ~31–35%

Area B Candidate Breakdown (October 17, 2026 Local Election)

In the October 2026 local election for CVRD Electoral Area Director (Shawnigan Lake), a total of 2,269 valid votes were recorded across four candidates:

Candidate	Votes Received	Percentage
Kyle Cheveldayoff (Elected)	1,201	52.9%
Kim Barnard	566	24.9%
Amber Champ	386	17.0%
Alan Sutherland	116	5.1%
Total Ballots Cast	2,269	100%

(Note: Regional districts in British Columbia do not maintain a permanent static voters list between elections; voter eligibility is determined at the polls via the Provincial Voters List or same day voter registration for residents and non-resident property electors). (Source: Elections BC)

Provincial Election Preliminary Results
Final Count on November 6, 2026

Electoral District	Candidate's Ballot Name	Affiliation	Total Votes	% of Votes
Juan de Fuca-Malahat	Jeff Brown	Christian Heritage Party of BC	60	0.27%
	David Evans	BC Green Party	3,880	17.45%
	Shane Friesen	OneBC	553	2.49%
	Mike Hicks	Conservative Party	9,246	41.58%
	Dana Lajeunesse	BC NDP	8,478	38.13%
	Total Valid Votes		**22,217**	**99.91%**
	Rejected Ballots*		19	0.09%
	Total Considered Votes		**22,236**	**100%**

Advance voting ballot boxes | 7 of 7 reported (Counting Complete - Results Not Official)

Final Voting Day ballot boxes | 77 of 77 reported (Counting Complete - Results Not Official)

*Rejected ballots are ballots that cannot be counted because they were not marked clearly for one candidate. (Source: Elections BC)



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

A Busy and Productive October at Malahat Legion Branch 134

Brenda Burch
Malahat Legion

October has been a busy and productive month at Malahat Legion Branch 134, with two important events honouring our veterans and a record turnout for our annual Poppy Stuffing event.

For the first time, the Legion offered both a lunch and a dinner for our valued veterans. The lunch was held on October 14, with the traditional evening dinner scheduled for October 22nd.

In previous years, attendance at the dinner exceeded 90 people, with some guests seated on the stage. This raised concerns about safety, particularly for our senior guests. Offering a lunch as well as a dinner helped address this concern and provided an alternative for veterans who prefer not to drive after dark.

This year, we welcomed 26 guests for lunch and 73 for dinner. Both events relied on the generous support of community volunteers. The Young Seniors Activities Group (YSAG) volunteered to serve the lunch, while the Malahat Lions are helping with the evening dinner.

An important part of both events is the Fallen Soldier Table; a meaningful tribute found in many Royal Canadian Legion branches. This symbolic display honours those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and reminds us of the service and sacrifices of our fallen comrades.

October also brought a record turnout for our 2026 Poppy Stuffing event. We extend our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who filled the Legion Hall to prepare 6,500 envelopes having 13,000 poppies for mailing throughout our region. Thanks to their enthusiasm and teamwork, this tremendous task was completed in just 45 minutes!

These events demonstrate the generosity, dedication and community spirit that keep our Legion active and connected to the people we serve.

As we approach Remembrance Day, we encourage residents throughout our region to support the annual Poppy Campaign. Your contributions help ensure that the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten and that we can continue to support veterans and their families.



We will remember them

MALAHAT LEGION #134

2026 POPPY CAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 24TH – NOVEMBER 11TH

Support Local Veterans this Poppy Campaign Season!

The Royal Canadian Legion's Annual Poppy Campaign supports local Veterans, their families, and retired RCMP members. Every donation helps those who have served.

How You Can Help:

- Return your Poppy envelope with a donation to support our Veterans.
- Make a cheque payable to **RCL 134 Poppy** and mail it back or
- Deposit it in the drop-box at the Shawnigan Lake Legion's front door.

Wreath Orders:

- Email : **rcl134@shaw.ca**
- Visit the Legion on Fridays or Saturdays.
- Available until Saturday, November 7th.

Poppies are available until November 11th.

The Malahat Legion will be open following the ceremony.

Drop in and join our community as we honour our Veterans.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

November 11th, Remembrance Day 2026 - PROGRAM

10:00 am **No Service at the Cobble Hill Hall this year.**
10:30 am Form-Up for Parade to Cobble Hill Cenotaph
10:55 am Remembrance Day Ceremony at Cobble Hill Cenotaph

MALAHAT LEGION BRANCH #134

1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road



ONE OF TWO TABLES WITH VETERANS SERVED LUNCH BY MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG SENIORS ACTION GROUP SOCIETY - OCTOBER 14TH, 2026

Opinion

I watched the BC local election results on CHEK TV at 10 pm last night looking for the results of the election where I had voted. Since you are the local Island Channel, I expected to see results for my area. I watched through the whole listing of results twice. You listed mayors and counsellors elected up and down the Island. That was good coverage, however I was disappointed.

I live in the Shawnigan Lake area. We are unincorporated, so we do not have a mayor or counsellors. We elected our director to serve on the Cowichan Valley Regional District yesterday. But there was no mention of that race or the winner in your broadcast yesterday.

Area A - Mill Bay, Area B - Shawnigan Lake, and Area C - Cobble Hill have a combined population greater than Duncan or North Cowichan, yet both of those areas were listed while we were ignored.

I listen to CHEK news because I want local news, and yet last night, there was no local news for those of us living between Duncan and Goldstream. Please consider including us in the future.

Barbara Schultz
Shawnigan Lake, BC

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

The museum continues to have a lot of visitors… and group visits.

Group visits in October:

- - 18 people from an Indigenous community near Powell River
- - Roughly a dozen 'Sparks' (pre-Brownies) from the community
- - 13 members from a local hiking group
- - And a visit from a Probus Group

We hosted a talk from Norman Kent on the history of Peetz reels which have been part of Victoria's history for around 100 years. Norm brought in his collection of reels and rods.

The wood reels come in all sizes, and they are beautiful 'works of art'. With any luck, Norman will repeat this talk at some point.

We had a great time with our summer student, Luke, who is now back at UVic and is planning to become a teacher.

Progress on the Shawnigan lion continues…it will look 'as new' when it is finished. For those of you who might wonder what the lion story is all about, the lion is carved in cement, approximately 12 feet long and close to 20000 pounds.

It was commissioned by the Chief Justice of BC early in the 20th century and sat on his Shawnigan waterfront for over 100 years. It was removed by the new owners of the property.

The back story for the lion is great, and it is very fitting that Craig, the great grandson of the original carver George Gibson, is making the restoration happen.

When the project is done, the lion will be placed beside the museum. It has been suggested that we consider building a canopy to keep the lion from the elements. We are collecting donations for the project – 1. to compensate Craig for materials and 2. to fund the canopy.

On November 21st we have a Bob Ross paint class planned.

There are still a few spots if you would like to embrace your artistic talents. Apparently, it is a 'no fail' class…everyone will create a successful painting.

Also, in November, I will be giving a talk, about George Gibson (the Shawnigan Carver who embellished the high-end homes in Victoria for Maclure and Rattenbury) at Wentworth Villa in Victoria.

This talk will be repeated at the museum at some point…watch for details.



The 12 foot Concrete Lion, carved by George Gibson in 1920





Dad's Old Fashioned Split Pea Soup

- 2 cups (1lb) dried yellow or green split peas
- Soak overnight in cold water (12 cups) ***Do not drain***

Add:

- 1 hambone or smoked pork hock
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup finely diced celery
- 1 cup finely diced carrot

Bring slowly to boiling point. Cover and simmer for 1½ hours

Check for tender (peas, carrots)

Remove the ham bone or smoked pork hock – remove meat and dice finely dice. Set aside

Skim the fat from the soup

Spice with salt, pepper, chili powder to taste

Combine 3 tbsp butter and 3 tbsp flour to create a rue

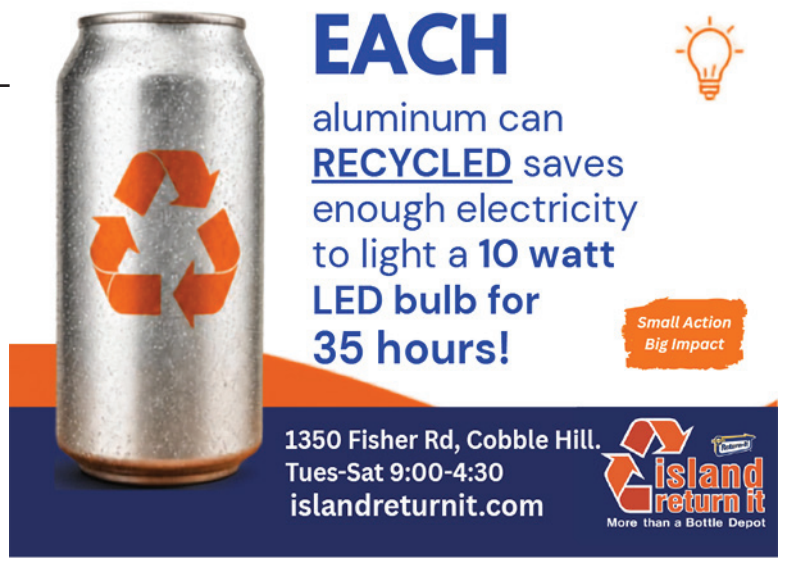
Blend the rue into 1 cup of soup

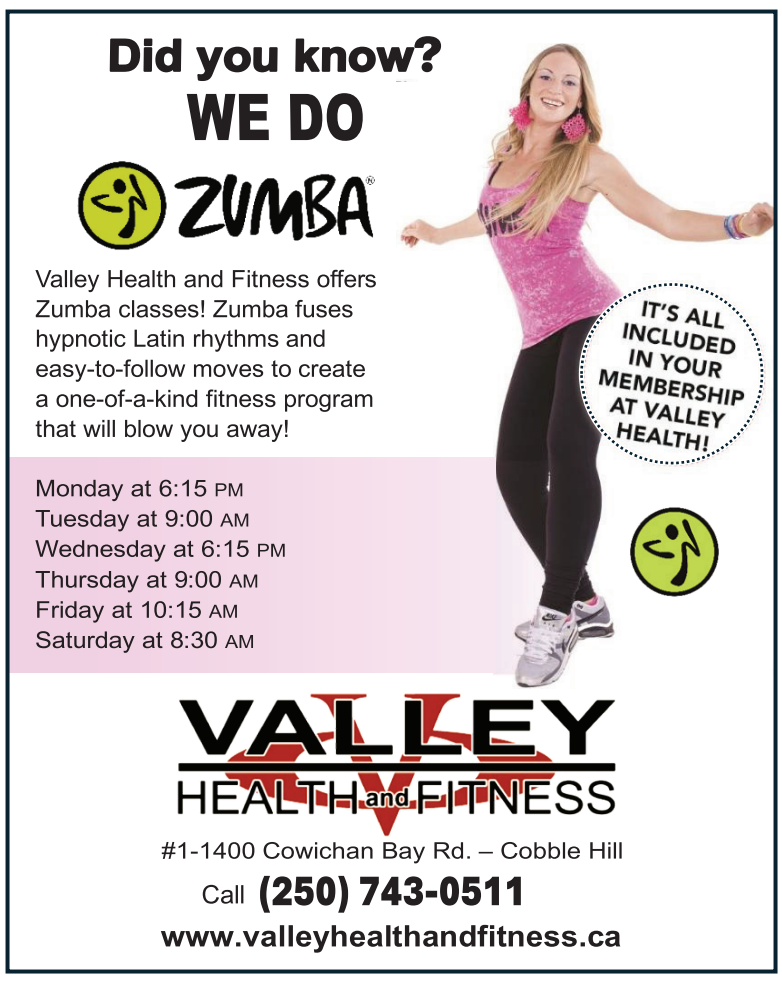
Stir the rue into the soup pot and bring to boil

Add diced meat back

Check spices. Enjoy!







Watermain Rupture Had Catastrophic Effects On Coho Salmon Returning To Shawnigan Creek

Bernhard H.J. Juurlink & John Robertson
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Coho currently returning to Shawnigan Creek is one of BC's major salmon success stories. In the 1970s the Coho run in Goldstream river was running into trouble and DFO personnel thought the Shawnigan Creek watershed might be good Coho habitat.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Coho were brought from Goldstream and placed into Shawnigan Creek.

The progeny of these transferred Coho returning to the mouth of the creek needed assistance to get past the 5 major waterfalls. The Mill Bay & District Conservation Society volunteers have been moving Coho into Shawnigan Creek for decades now. About ⅔ of the returning Coho are caught by net (photo) as they attempt to go up the first set of waterfalls while ⅓ use the fish ladder to enter the fish trap at the mouth of the creek.

Each year more and more Coho return. In 2007, Cycle 1 had 248 fish return, the last Cycle 1 (2025) had 4,781 fish return. In 2008 only 1 Coho returned in Cycle 2 which necessitated adding more fish stock to the creek. This year's Cycle 2 return as of October 25 is 2,580 and more are fish expected. Cycle 3 return in 2009 was 1,273 and in 2024 it was 8,485 fish. The only watersheds on Vancouver Island that have larger Coho runs are those that add hatchery-raised Coho to the system.





The Coho are transported into Shawnigan Creek. Some then enter Shawnigan lake and from there into the major streams entering Shawnigan lake:

South Shawnigan, McGee and West Arm Creeks. If you happen to notice mature Coho salmon or their fry in any of these major streams, please inform the SBS at: *admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org.*

On October 2 there were about 800 Cycle 2 Coho in the fish trap. These fish were to be moved the next day when an excavator working at the Stonebridge site broke through a 6-inch watermain.

This resulted in a massive release of chlorinated water for about a 30-minute period. This water carried fine silt, sand and gravel into the creek and from there into the fish trap.

Fish gills are complicated structures that have a number of functions beyond the gas exchange: gills play key roles in acid/base balance, nitrogenous waste excretion and osmoregulation.

The silt, scouring sand and oxidizing chlorine played havoc with gill function. At least 38 fish died before or during transfer into the Creek the following day.

Even fish successfully transferred seemed sluggish when forming their redds. Fortunately, over the following 3 weekends more than 1,800 very healthy fish were transferred and more are expected. The election day rain attracted more Coho to the creek.

The accident at the Stonebridge worksite is indicative of the tension between aggressive, high-density development and the natural assets inherent in our community.

Continued growth in our community comes at a cost to the natural ecosystems that provide intrinsic values. Unfortunately, those costs often become evident long after the work is complete and, inevitably, are paid out by the regional government.



Witches' Paddle at Shawnigan Lake *Photo by Sherry Sullivan*

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
  Sierra.Acton@cvrd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
  https://www.cvrd.ca/list.aspx# (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
  LegislativeServices@cvrd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
  2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
  Contact us for information: *250-743-8675*
  museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): *shawniganlakemuseum.com*
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
  Contact: *bburr@shaw.ca*
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
  #102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.
  Contact: *info@shawniganbasinsociety.org*
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
  Contact: *ysagsexec2024@gmail.com* (web): *blog.ysag.ca*
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
  Contact: *250-929-7222* (web): *southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca*
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
  Events: (web) *malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events*
  Contact: (web)*malahatlegion.ca/contact-us*
  250-743-4621
- **Cowichan South Arts Guild (CSAG)**
  Contact: *hello@cowichansouthartsguild.com*
  (web): *cowichansouthartsguild.com*
- **Shawnigan Quilters** - Wed. 9-2 at Lion's Hall (former Sylvania School)
- **Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club**
  Meeting Info & Contact: *ShawniganRotaryEcoClub.ca*
- **Malahat Lions Club**
  Contact: *778-936-0112*
- **South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary**
  Contact: *info@southcha.ca*

Shawnigan Cemetery



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No one
correctly identified last month's
photo of the rope covered
pole at the Galley.

When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us.

Alexander Graham Bell, Inventor