



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Seventeen- Issue Five

June 2026 Yu-qw'iqw'ulus
"Summer weather is coming"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Be Safe on the Lake!

Boating Licence Requirements:

- All motorized boats and PWCs (Personal Watercraft) in BC powered by 10 horsepower or more are required to have a Pleasure Craft License.
- All Canadian boaters, operating pleasure craft are required to obtain a boating license... To operate any brand of (PWC Examples: Jet Ski, Wave Runner, or Sea- Doo), you must be at least 16 years of age and carry a

valid Pleasure Craft Operator Card with you.

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

Boating Equipment:

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

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

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

A spotter must be in the boat at all times

- The towing vessel must be equipped with an extra seat for each person that is being towed in case an emergency recovery is necessary.
- Only personal watercraft designed to carry three or more people can be used for towing a water-skier
- The person being towed must wear an approved flotation device (a 'ski belt' is not considered to be an approved flotation device)

- Do not tow water-skiers between one hour after sunset to sunrise
- It is a criminal offence, as governed by the Criminal Code of Canada, to tow a person after dark
- Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.
- While it is possible to pull a skier behind a jet ski, by law it must be a three- seater. This is because you need a driver, a second person to be a spotter and room (a seat) to recover the skier or every person on the flotation device. To pull a 150-200 pound skier, you should ideally have a 110 horsepower (or greater) jet ski.

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

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

Paddleboards

- Stand Up Paddleboards require, at a minimum, a Personal Flotation Device, a floating throwing rope and a sound signalling device. A watertight flashlight is required for low light or nighttime conditions

- Option 1 – Wear a lifejacket with a whistle (no buoyant rope required).
- Option 2: Carry a lifejacket on board with whistle and a buoyant heaving line.
- Option 3 – No safety equipment which carries a fine of \$200- \$500 for non-compliance.

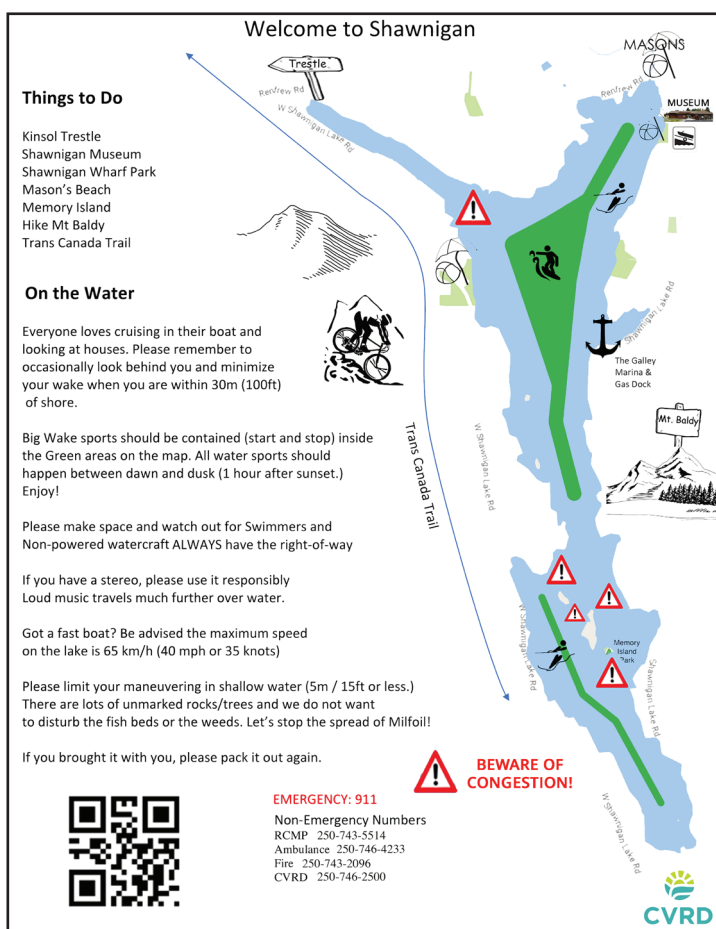
The RCMP is the law for all the above infractions on Shawnigan Lake.

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

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

Please share with visitors and guests. Download HR map:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3j3vntv>



Where is the parade?

Shawnigan Lake Community Association

Many generations in Shawnigan Lake will remember getting ready for the parade through the Village! Until twenty years ago it was the Kiddies Karnival Parade, a spectacular event beginning near the fire hall and ending at the then Elsie Miles School grounds. When Kiddies Karnival ended and the main celebration of the year moved to July 1st when we celebrated our nation's birthday, the parade continued but the prominent colours were

red and white. Dozens of children decorated their bikes and rode with huge smiles past the crowds that lined the road!

Then there was a break in the parade when the pandemic broke the tradition in 2020! The Shawnigan Lake Community Association have hosted the Canada Day event since it began and the parade was a main attraction! We continued the event virtually through the pandemic with activities families could do together but not the parade. Life for many changed during those years with some

activities not able to spring back on the traditional momentum. Volunteers worked hard to keep a parade happening but with the costs outweighing the enthusiasm for a parade it has come to an end.

There will still be a family event on July 1st in Elsie Miles Park from 10am to 1pm filled with food, games, music, crafts and, of course, we will celebrate Canada's birthday with flags and O Canada at noon!! The Pacific Edge Chorus will lead O Canada and more music will be by Jim Baker and friends from our own community! Admission and fun are free so put on your red and white and bring the family

to the Park. Let's see how big we can build a birthday party even if there will not be a parade!!

To view photos of parades from our past the museum will be open

during our event. For more information on events hosted by the SLCA, or to volunteer with us please visit our website or email:

info@shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca



South Cowichan Library

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

Crafts for Kids! Saturday, June 6 and 20, drop in to make a rainbow-themed creation.

Summer Reading Club starts July 2 but registration begins on Tuesday, June 16. If your family will be away in July, consider signing up early!

Parent-Child Mother Goose sessions happen every Thursday, 10:30-11:30am, through June 11. Focussing on ages 0-2 and their adults. Drop-in welcome.

South Cowichan Seed Library is stocked with seeds for vegetables, herbs, and flowers, generously donated by West Coast Seeds and our community. It's time to start growing!

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

LEGO® Club happens every Tuesday, 2-5pm. We provide the LEGO (and Duplo) and you supply the imagination. Come ready to build! This is a free, drop-in event.

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

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

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

Pride events in Duncan: VIRL will be at the Cowichan Pride Teddy Bear Picnic at Centennial Park on June 14 (10am-2pm) and the Pride March and Festival on June 21. Please stop and say hi!

If you know someone local who is unable to come into the library due to illness or injury, please let them know about our volunteer **Home Delivery service**.

Find out more at virl.bc.ca and on Facebook at VI Regional Library South Cowichan.

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

Mon & Tue 10-6

Wed & Thu 10-7

Fri & Sat 10-6

www.facebook.com/VIRLSouthCowichan

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — May 2026



Stats courtesy of [UVic Weather Network](#) and [Weather Underground](#)

Reported by Grant Treloar



	May Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
Average High	17.2	21.7	19.0	21.0	18.6	21.0	5.1	21.3	20.0	21.3	15.7
Average Low	7.0	8.9	7.2	6.4	5.0	8.7	7.2	9.1	8.4	8.3	7.0
Extreme High	33.9	30.8	28.6	30.4	28.5	29.5	28.3	30.1	4.4	30.2	22.5
Extreme Low	-3.9	4.0	3.0	0.9	0.5	3.1	2.9		4.9	2.0	2.8
Precipitation	50.6	21.1	56.6	11.1	44.8	18.6	43.7	12.7	32.8	15.9	44.5
Days w precip	14	6	14	5	15	5	14	4	11	5	14
Year Precip	591.7	650.7	606.0	518.2	490.5	493.9	461.8	417.6	421.4	520.1	494.9

2026 Rank since 1914: 3rd warmest, 13th driest

Lake Readings	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Temperature	17°	17°	14°	18°	20°
Temperature 2025	14°	14°	16°	16°	16°
Surface Elevation	116.36m	116.32m	116.31m	116.29m	116.28 m
Elevation 2025	116.33m	116.28m	116.24m	116.31m	116.31m

Comments

May was warmer than normal, and it has been much drier than average for the second month in a row.

The warmest day was on May 3rd with temps around 30°. The daytime temperature reached 25° or higher on 6 days. The coldest nights were on the 15th & 20th, under clear skies with temps bottoming out near 6°.

Precipitation totals were very low with only 5 days with any measureable rain.

Daylight hours will increase in June until the 20th. Sunset moves from 9:09 PM on June 1st to 9:21 PM for the last week of June. It moves north by just 2° during this coming month.

Central Vancouver Island Crime Stoppers (CVICS)

Brian Cornborough
President

Non-Profit Interview Questions

What is the history of your organization? How long have you been in operation for? Is your work seasonal or ongoing?

Answer - Crime Stoppers was founded in 1970 in the USA and since then, has expanded to Canada. In British Columbia, there are 15 chapters. We are active all year meeting monthly.

What benefits to the community do you provide?

Answer - We provide a safe way for people to provide Tips about a criminal action which has taken place which does not require a 911 call which would go directly to police. Tip calls are treated as

anonymous calls answered by a third party company with no ties to us.

What is your motto or vision statement?

Answer: Our vision is to see more people, when they see something, say something in the form of a tip to our tip number **1 800 222 8477**.

How many members does your organization have?

Answer: We operate with a Board of Directors of 10 people from the greater Nanaimo area.

How does one apply to your organization?

Answer: Our email address is president@cvicrimestoppers.com for more information. Screening and a criminal record check as a minimum are required.

How is your organization run? Who are the key contacts for your organization and what is the method of contact your organization prefers?

Answer: We operate as a non-profit under the Society Act of BC. We have a Board of Directors who manage the actions of the organization.



We raised \$5,000 to purchase hundreds of these "Trauma Bears" which are placed in police vehicles in our area (Mill Bay to Tofino) to be given to youth at accident scenes or other trauma related incidents.

What volunteer commitments do you offer?

Answer: Our volunteers commit to one meeting per month and attendance at any functions that we promote like shredding events. We offer a learning atmosphere about ways to reduce criminal activity in our communities.

What services do you provide?

Answer: We provide companionship and learn how to report any criminal activity and ways of combatting crime generally.

What makes you different/unique from other organizations that provide similar services?

Answer: We are unique and no one else offers such a service.

Who are the people that primarily use your services?

Answer: Anyone who sees something of a criminal nature who wishes to report it anonymously should use our tip line. If the crime is happening, call 911; otherwise use our tip line.

Any story or experience you wish to share?

Answer: In the past few years, we have donated from raised money to other non-profits, youth programs, Indigenous events, police and the United Way. For the total tips received so far in our program totaling 13,538, we have seen 553 arrests and paid out \$117,720 in tip rewards.

When/how often do you meet?

Answer: Once a month meeting plus attendance at events.

Who is the main contact person for your organization? What is the best way to contact them?

Answer: Brian Cornborough is the current President. He can be reached at president@cvicrimestoppers.com. Our website is cvicrimestoppers.com for information and event coverage.

What is the location of your organization? Do you have multiple locations?

Answer: We can be contacted through our email address above or our website.

A current program you are working on?

Answer: We currently have a program running in our area which addresses the criminal intent of spiking alcoholic drinks in pubs/bars. As the issue can have deadly consequences, we are providing visual materials in the pubs/bars in the form of coasters and posters depicting scenes of such actions. We are providing thousands of free coasters with important information and what you should do if you suspect this has happened to you.



Posters created by VIU students in Nanaimo for displaying in places such as washrooms in pubs and other public areas.



We raised money to purchase drink coasters to be given to pubs/bars for use in highlighting the criminal act of spiking peoples drinks for physical or sexual purposes.

Shawnigan and the CVRD: Inside Regional Governance

Michael Battler

Shawnigan Lake

Part 3 of a Series Ahead of the October Regional Election

Roles and Responsibilities What Directors Do, and What Staff Do

As discussions continue in Shawnigan Lake around zoning changes, development permits, and how land use is regulated, a common question keeps coming up. Who is actually responsible for these decisions?

Understanding the difference between elected officials, Directors and the Board, and staff working through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is key to answering that question. It helps explain not just who makes the final decision, but also who is involved along the way.

What Directors Do?

At the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), elected Directors are the decision-makers, and ultimately where the buck stops.¹ They do a significant amount of work on behalf of their communities, and that effort is often not visible. They are chosen by the community and bring forward local concerns to the Board table. They vote on bylaws, policies, budgets, major land use matters, and are responsible for setting direction on behalf of the residents they represent.

For Shawnigan Lake, that responsibility sits with one Director representing Electoral Area B, as part of the regional district governance structure.²

It is also worth recognizing that, because Directors are elected from the community, they may or may not have formal training in governance or board pro-

cesses, which are central to the position. They step into responsibilities that involve legal frameworks, financial oversight, and policy interpretation, often while balancing other professional or personal commitments. That range of experience can be a strength, bringing diverse perspectives to the table and influencing how decisions are approached and understood.

What Staff Do?

At the same time, CVRD staff, led by the CAO, are responsible for carrying out those decisions. They also do a significant amount of work behind the scenes, and their role is an important part of how the system functions. They prepare reports, provide technical analysis, interpret policy, and present options to the Board.

Most decisions that come forward for a vote are supported by staff reports, often including recommended actions. Staff are responsible for ensuring that what is brought forward is grounded in existing policy, legally sound, and aligned with standard professional practices.

Staff and the CAO typically operate within professional and administrative frameworks, and often have formal training, professional designations, and experience in areas such as planning, engineering, environmental management, or public administration. At the same time, like any organization, backgrounds and experience can vary, which can influence how recommendations and priorities are viewed and understood.

Everything starts with the CAO when it comes to turning Board decisions into action. The CAO is responsible for running the organization and overseeing staff. Direction from the Board flows to

the CAO, who then ensures that it is carried out through staff.² In practical terms, this is where Board decisions and policy direction move into day-to-day operations.

Where Consultants Fit In?

In addition to staff, the CVRD also relies on third-party consultants where specialized expertise or additional capacity is needed. These can include planners, engineers, environmental professionals, legal advisors, and other specialists. They may be brought in to support complex projects, prepare studies, provide technical input, facilitate public engagement processes, or offer independent analysis related to CVRD projects and initiatives.

For example, consultant-led processes have been used in community planning work such as Official Community Plans and local initiatives like the Shawnigan Lake Village Design Charrette.³ These processes often involve gathering public input, analyzing options, and presenting information that can shape public and Board discussions.

Their work can influence how issues are understood, how options are developed, and in some cases how costs are estimated and budgeted. That information then feeds into staff reports and recommendations, and ultimately into decisions made by the Board.

Consultants are only as effective as the direction they are given throughout the process. Their work can influence how issues and options are framed within the overall decision-making process, including how priorities, impacts, and potential outcomes are presented and understood.

For residents, this adds an-

other layer to the process. It helps explain how technical information is developed but can also raise questions about how priorities are set, how consultants are selected, how their work shapes outcomes, and how costs and budget pressures can increase or change over time.

Where Everything Connects

People often ask who actually made the decision. In many ways, that brings us back to where we started, and to the importance of understanding how decisions are shaped.

The answer is not always straightforward. Directors make the final call, but the way a decision is framed, what options are presented, and how impacts are described are often influenced by staff work, consultant input, and related processes leading up to that moment.

In BC local government, the Board does not direct staff individually. Direction flows through the Board as a whole to the CAO, and the CAO then directs staff.¹ It's a small detail, but an important one.

In practice, by the time an issue reaches the Board table, much of the groundwork has already been done. Reports define the issue, outline possible approaches, and often identify a preferred direction. Directors can question, amend, or reject those recommendations, but they are working within that structure.¹

At the same time, it remains the role and responsibility of the Board to review, question, and, where needed, adjust that information to ensure decisions reflect the best interests of the community while recognizing community concerns and priorities.

That distinction matters. It helps explain why some

decisions can feel like they were largely set before they reached a vote, and it clarifies where accountability sits.

A Regional System, A Local Experience

In Shawnigan Lake, this structure is being felt more directly as policies move from broad planning into detailed regulation.

Whether it is proposed zoning changes, development permit requirements, or how land use rules apply in practice, the effects are no longer abstract. They show up in what can be built, how land can be used, and what approvals are required for even small changes.

In many cases, the discussion is not just about the final decision. It is about how the issue was defined in the first place, and how the available options were shaped before they were ever presented publicly.

Electoral areas like Shawnigan Lake operate within a regional system, where staff support multiple communities under one Board.

This can create consistency across the region, but it can also make decision-making feel more removed from local context, particularly when policies affect everyday use of private property.

Understanding these roles does not change the outcome of a decision, but it does change how that decision is understood. It helps clarify who sets direction, who shapes the options, and how decisions move from idea to implementation.

As the October regional election approaches, this becomes more important.

It is not just about who is elected, but how effectively those representatives can work within the system, how clearly they communicate with their communities, and how well residents understand how decisions are actually made.

In the next part of this series, we will look at how decisions get made, from committee meetings to Board votes.

Sources

1. Local Government Act (British Columbia) – https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96323_00
2. Cowichan Valley Regional District Organizational Chart – <https://www.cvrld.ca>
3. Shawnigan Lake Village Plan (2020) – <https://www.cvrld.ca/1210/Shawnigan-Lake-Village-Plan>

This article was prepared using publicly available information and research, with editorial assistance





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Shawnigan Lake Water Ski Legend Passes

Lee Curtis
President,
Victoria Aqua Ski Club

Recently Cliff Moffat, our friend and mentor passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. Cliff will be greatly missed by his many friends and associates in the Canadian water-ski community and the Victoria and Duncan construction community.

Cliff was born in Virden Manitoba in May 1938. His family moved west to Saanich when he was twelve years old. His parents purchased a hobby farm on Feltham Road in Gordon Head. That is where he learned a lot about looking after animals, being responsible and learning to take pride in doing a good job at whatever he did. Apparently, he became quite good at riding one of the huge pigs they raised, but he got a few bruises in the process. Cliff's family later moved to the Rockland area where he attended Central School and Victoria High School. He apprenticed at Benton Overbury and later owned Duncan Drywall and Acoustical Ltd. Cliff's water-skiing adventures started through a chance encounter with a beautiful young woman, when he was eighteen years old. He met Joyce Schuring at a beach party on Willows Beach. It was a very fortunate meeting as he and Joyce were married three years later. They were madly in love and remained life-long partners through all of their joys and sorrows.

When Cliff met Joyce, she had already water skied several times with friends. Then Cliff tried it and he was hooked by the rush. He said the thrill and challenge kept him looking forward to the next time he would get a chance to carve the water. That en-

thusiasm lasted until he was eighty-five years old! In the early years, Cliff and Joyce skied in and around Victoria at several sites on the ocean as well as Elk Lake and Shawnigan Lake.

At Shawnigan Lake, Cliff and Joyce became involved with the Victoria Aqua Ski Club that had evolved from the Victoria Outboard Club. The ski club became incorporated as a society in 1958 and they both became members a few years after that. When Cliff and Joyce joined the ski club, it was located in what is now Old Mill Park. When that property was acquired by the province to create the park, the VASC had to relocate. A search for a new home was initiated and by a stroke of luck, the current property where the VASC is now situated, became available. Cliff and Joyce helped purchase the land along with a few other members of the club and a new chapter of the VASC began.

Cliff's passion for water-skiing led him to many tournaments here in Canada and the USA. He won slalom at the Canadian Nationals and other competitions; that says something about his skill level! Cliff got to know many of water skiing's early great skiers and many of them came to Shawnigan Lake to visit and compete.

Cliff helped direct the development of the sport of water skiing as a member of the Executive of Waterski Canada as well as that of Waterski BC. He also served for years as an executive member of the Victoria Aqua Ski Club. Cliff became a registered and qualified coach, teaching numerous kids and adults in his tenure as "Coach Cliff" which he became affection-



ately known as. When Christie Moffat, Cliff and Joyce's teenage daughter worked at Camp Pringle, Cliff taught and towed dozens of kids and that tradition continued until just a few years ago. Most of the campers were new to the sport so there was a lot of tubing being done.

At the Victoria Aqua Ski Club Cliff was a "regular" on the dock, but more than a regular, Cliff was a "presence". He would help out in any way he could; driving, coaching, fixing gear, giving pointers or demonstrating technique. He would share encouraging stories and lots of funny memories. I was just told the other day by a new young member how welcoming and encouraging Cliff was to him and his family. He hardly knew Cliff but was touched by his kindness.

Cliff could often be seen with a wrench, a hammer or a paintbrush. Routinely, he could be found fixing something that needed attention, reading a good book, or inventing an event like our annual Bay-n-Back Tournament that people of all ability levels can enter and just have fun. Cliff was known to be generous with his time, with his attention, and with his concern for others. I appreciate and remember him for his outstanding interest and care for the Victoria Aqua Ski Club. The club without Cliff is going to feel very different. It will take some getting used to Cliff not being around to encourage everyone and tell them great water ski stories. Our condolences go out to his wife Joyce, daughter Christie Bennekou, her husband Beau and their children Faye, Leiland, River, Tobias and Isaac. Cliff is also survived by his sister Beverly Andrews, her husband Bill Andrews and their son Earle.



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2026 Visions
ART STUDIO TOUR & SALE
June 26, 27 & 28 | 10am-4pm

THE VISIONS ART TOUR SOCIETY
invites you to enjoy the longest-running art tour in the Cowichan Valley. As is the tradition, visit the studios, and engage with our 12 talented artists. See the interactive map and more information on our website and in the June issue of the Valley Voice.

visionsarttour.ca
f/visionsarttoursociety

ART STUDIO TOUR COWICHAN

**I'll Participate,
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& Advocate!**

October 17th
ELECT

Kim B for Area B
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Saturday, June 20, 2026

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EVERYONE WELCOME
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- Adults 13YRS & OLDER \$22.00
- Youths 12YRS & YOUNGER \$8.00
- Bar & Website Registration closes Friday night, June 19

BBQ by MILL BAY LIONS CLUB
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HOW TO WIN!

- Weigh-In at the Government Wharf - Shawnigan Lake
- Largest Trout or Bass WINS Adult or Youth
- Only ONE PRIZE per person

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IT IS THE FISHERMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO READ THE DERBY RULES
A copy is posted on the Front Bulletin Board & Legion Sports Bulletin Board

BC FAMILY FISHING DAY - NO LICENCE REQUIRED*
*Unless you plan to retain any species that must be recorded on your license
www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations

Shawnigan Focus

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

Did you know that the Shawnigan Lake Museum has a consistent 5 Star rating on Google/Trip Advisor and Facebook. It may surprise you to learn that, Shawnigan's story is much bigger than you might think. We are certain that you will be surprised! Enthusiastic guides will enhance your visit by sharing stories of people, places and events in Shawnigan's history with photos, artifacts and interesting anecdotes

There is also a small retro theatre where you can watch historical slide shows on the 8-foot screen from the plush seats in surround-sound. It is a fun and easy what to learn about the history of the community. We also share what you need to know about the

Meet me at the museum!



Kinsol Trestle and how it inspires – we have a 3 foot and 10-foot model of the trestle.

We are planning events over the next several months:

In Early July, the Seeds and Salt vaudeville group will offer a “60-Minute Escape” into local heritage featuring three incredible true stories of the visionaries, rogues, and heroes who shaped the history of the Cowichan Valley and beyond...

Watch for monthly events such as talks etc. in the Fall. We hope to see you soon...

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.

May 2026 Report - Department Members
Attended 25 Incidents in May

- Friday, May 1 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, May 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, May 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Thursday, May 7 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, May 9 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Tuesday, May 12 – Burning Complaint on Natalie Rd
- Tuesday, May 12 - 1st Responder off McKernan Rd
- Thursday, May 14 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Thursday, May 14 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Friday, May 15 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Saturday, May 16 – Burning Complaint on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, May 17 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Sunday, May 17 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- Tuesday, May 17 - 1st Responder off Heald Rd
- Monday, May 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, May 18 – Hydro Lines on Renfrew Rd
- Monday, May 18 – Alarms Activated on Kay Pl
- Monday, May 18 - 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, May 18 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, May 20 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Wednesday, May 20 - 1st Responder off Colman Rd
- Friday, May 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, May 25 - 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- Monday, May 25 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd

Local Crown Forest Presents an Opportunity

John Robertson
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is a volunteer-driven, science-based nonprofit dedicated to restoring and protecting the ecological health of the Shawnigan Creek watershed and the drinking water it provides. Since 2012, SBS has led community science, ecological mapping, water quality monitoring, and public education across the region.

Recognizing the importance of healthy, mature forest ecosystems for providing clean water in a timely way to our community, the SBS Five Year Plan prioritizes the protection and conservation of 30 % of the watershed, advocating for long term ecologically based management that restores and maintains a healthy productive watershed. This initiative aligns with the general policy for protection and restoration of natural assets outlined in the CVRD Official Community Plan.

The SBS plan outlines approaches to meet this goal through securing management of existing properties identified for conservation, consideration of available crown properties for parks status and conservation management, and working with private landowners and CVRD to protect sensitive lands through zoning, covenants, and land swaps.

One such example of an opportunity to protect an existing mature forest ecosystem is located just north of the Shawnigan Beach Estates neighbourhood along Gregory Road. This property is Crown land managed by the BC Ministry of Forests-South Island Resource District and recently received a fuel management treatment given its proximity to residential development. It is heavily used by the surrounding

residences for recreation and functions as a de facto park for the community with walking trails throughout..

However, it is zoned F1 which designates it for primary use that includes silviculture, timber harvesting, harvesting of wild crops and general resource management.

This property is an excellent example of the opportunities that prevail throughout the watershed to identify and protect existing natural assets through citizen-led initiatives to establish parks, change management paradigms, and create tangible pathways towards ecosystem conservation and restoration goals. The SBS is working towards transitioning this property to a park status through conversations with CVRD and the provincial government as a first step towards the larger goal of protecting 30% of the watershed. Opportunities like this, and the decisions that are needed to take advantage of them, are best guided by a clear understanding of existing natural assets and locations that provide opportunities to restore needed ecosystem services.

The CVRD Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program is designed to provide that information and the framework for future decisions through the drafting of watershed management plans. The SBS works in partnership with the CVRD to support their work and provide community engagement with the process. Our 5 year strategic plan provides an effective roadmap to work with regional and provincial stakeholders, including First Nations and private land owners, to achieve a vibrant and healthy watershed for current and future generations. If you are interested in contributing to our program or would like more information please contact us at info@shawniganbasinsociety.org.



Summer Movies in the Park returns for the 2026 season

Opening Night - Saturday, July 4 @ Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park

The featured movie for the Season Opener will be **TWISTER** - a 1996 classic!

There will be two more movies during the summer, one in Cobble Hill, one at Kerry Park. So, pack up the family, bring your lawn chairs, and join us for **Summer Movies in the Park**.



ADMISSION by DONATION
Movies Start @ Dusk (8:45-9:15)

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Shawnigan Lake Community Association



www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

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10:00AM - 1:00PM
Elsie Miles Community Park

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www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

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Shawnigan Lake Community Association



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Shawnigan Focus

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- **CVRD Director for Shawnigan Lake Area B**
Sierra.Acton@cprd.bc.ca
- **Area B Parks Advisory and Area B Advisory Planning Commission**
<https://www.cprd.ca/list.aspx#> (sign up for meeting notifications)
- **CVRD Public Input to the whole Board**
Legislative.Services@cprd.bc.ca
- **Shawnigan Improvement District**
2nd Monday of each month 7 pm at #1 Fire Hall
- **Shawnigan Lake Museum**
Contact us for information: 250-743-8675
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com (web): shawniganlakemuseum.com
- **Shawnigan Lake Community Association (SLCA)**
Contact: bburr@shaw.ca
- **Shawnigan Basin Society**
#102-1760 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.
Contact: info@shawniganbasinsociety.org
- **Young Seniors Action Group (YSAGS)**
Contact: 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: 250-743-0569
- **South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary**
Contact: info@southcha.ca



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

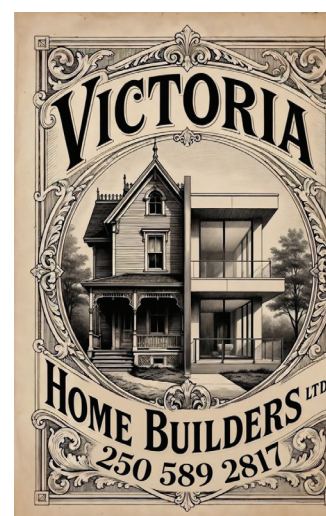


One lucky respondent with the correct answer will be randomly selected to win two Specialty Coffees. Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee

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Contact Kim:
shawniganfocusads@gmail.com

Congratulations!
ELAINE HENNECKER
correctly identified April's photo of the caution area in front of the RCMP Station.



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3

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1956 – 2026

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