



## So You Want to Be Area Director...

*These two candidates announced that they are running for Area B - Shawnigan Director after the September publication.*

*We reached out to them to answer the questions posed to the others that are running*

### Amber Champ

#### ***Why should people vote for me...***



I have grown up and raised my family here and for the past five years I have served as Alternate Director. That experience has given me a strong understanding of the CVRD and the decisions that affect our community. I have built positive relationships around the table and learned that working together, asking the right questions and finding practical solutions can make a difference.

My work experience as an educator has shown me first hand that families are struggling. And many families face aging parents who have no place in or close to Shawnigan to live. As Director, I will bring that experience, along with a genuine commitment to our community when reviewing policy, bylaws, and initiatives. I will listen, communicate openly, and make sure Shawnigan's voice is represented at the CVRD table so that we are taking care of our community in the most sustainable and practical way. I am ready to lead with experience, courage, and a strong commitment to the residents of Shawnigan. I would be honoured to be your Director and your CHAMPion for Shawnigan.

#### ***What is the essence of Shawnigan - In your opinion what are the three major goals that Shawnigan should focus on during the next four years?***

Shawnigan Lake, to me, is first and foremost about the people. Next, it's the genuine feeling of community and pride, and thirdly, our lake and forests that provide us with so much beauty and recreation.

Over the next four years and into the future, I believe we need to plan responsibly, be strong stewards of our lake and environment, and build a community where people can afford to live, work, and stay.

We also need a strong knowledgeable voice at the CVRD. With many decisions facing the new board, I will be prepared to represent you on all the acronyms - MOCP, CZB, OCP - not to mention digging into the more than 180 budget line items. I will listen, ask the hard questions, and be prepared to hold the CVRD accountable.

After five years as Alternate Director, I bring experience, stability, and continuity, along with the courage to speak up at the board table. My goal is to hit the ground running, be prepared from day one, and make sure important details don't slip through the cracks due to the fact that it's a new board.

### Alan Sutherland

#### ***Why should people vote for me...***



The residents of Shawnigan Lake should vote for me Alan Sutherland based on the commitment I've made to Shawnigan Lake serving with our Shawnigan Fire Department for 32 years.

In 1989, we had a need in our community due to the housing growth in the North end for a 2nd. Fire station and at 2560 West Shawnigan Rd. Our #2 Fire Station was built. I served our Community for 32 years receiving the 20 year and 30 year Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal and the Provincial Long Service Awards.

Commitment is my passion in life and as shown through my time coaching our Kelsey High School Rugby team, a dedicated husband and father and a neighbor that cares about neighbors. I care.

#### ***What is the essence of Shawnigan - In your opinion what are the three major goals that Shawnigan should focus on during the next four years?***

The essence of Shawnigan Lake to me is a small Rural Area with a lot of heart.

We live here for the dark nights, the quiet, the ease of travel on our roads, the small town feel of neighbors who care about each other and are there in times of need.

Three major goals for me as our Area B Director:

1. To convince and work with my new fellow Area Directors to rescind all the Bylaws that take away our freedom of property ownership.
2. To fairly support all Property Owners and their legal rights.
3. Bring back the trust, transparency and open communication we have lost in our CVRD Management.

# Shawnigan Focus

***What is your position on whether Shawnigan Lake would be better served if it was incorporated as a municipality together with Cobble Hill and Mill Bay?***

We are so far away from incorporation. At the moment, the referendum question is to create an opportunity for us to work on some of the issues that the province doesn't seem to have the tools nor the will to address in an electoral area. The purpose is to address these issues as an electoral area not as a municipality.

I, like you, have one vote on the upcoming referendum question. The referendum is not a vote on incorporation. It is an opportunity to look at how South Cowichan is governed and how services could be delivered in the future through the province in a more fair way with better services. I believe residents deserve good information, meaningful consultation, and the opportunity to have their voices heard before any major change is considered. The referendum is just a tool to start addressing these issues like storm water, water availability, subdivisions, road safety, and snow removal.

After five years of working as Alternate Director, I understand the importance of working collaboratively with the province and the federal government. I am not prepared to prejudge the outcome. I am prepared to ask questions, examine the evidence, and support the option that provides the best long-term value, representation and services for the people of Shawnigan Lake.

***What is your position on growth in Shawnigan, and what policies would you propose to manage it?***

I believe growth is coming to Shawnigan Lake, and our responsibility is to manage it thoughtfully - not simply to react to it. We should welcome people who want to make Shwani-gan Lake home while ensuring growth works for the community we already have.

Growth must be matched with the infrastructure and services needed to support it, including water, roads, wastewater, fire protection, and housing and environmental capacity. Development should contribute fairly to the infrastructure it relies on, while protecting our rural character and watershed. Affordability matters too. Our children should have opportunities to live and work here, and our seniors should be able to remain in the community they call home. Residents deserve a meaningful voice early in the planning process. Shawnigan should have a strong say in where and how our community grows and what infrastructure must come with it.

I know first hand that strong leadership means supporting growth that is right for our community, while also having the courage to say when a proposal may not be the right fit. Good development should move Shawnigan forward while respecting the character, environment, and infrastructure that makes our community special. The most important decisions are the ones that we need to ensure we get right.

***What is your position on whether Shawnigan Lake would be better served if it was incorporated as a municipality together with Cobble Hill and Mill Bay?***

If we incorporate, we would be financially responsible for all our roads. Repair, repaving, convert cleaning and replacement. Bridge repair and replacement, winter maintenance. (sanding salting) Tree removal in storms that cross our roads.

We would need a Works yard and building, Managers, Supervisors, Equipment, paid union staff, payroll.

We would be responsible for our police services.

We would have to do an audit on those costs to find out if it's in our best financial interest.

***What is your position on growth in Shawnigan, and what policies would you propose to manage it?***

The growth in our area depends on the needs of our Community.

Those needs would be provided by the Property owners in our area through our input of our needs. Ambulance Station, yes.

Walk in medical Clinic, yes

If we say yes, we can get it done.

It's not my and it's not your way it's our way.

Together we can be better

Alan Sutherland stepping up for Area B Director