



Volume Sixteen- Issue Eleven

Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

November 2025 Tth'al'xwumutsun
"The time when the ground is glistening from frost or ice"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Community Gathers for Annual Poppy Stuffing to Support Veterans

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

This year's Malahat Legion's annual poppy stuffing lunch was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and ingenuity of its volunteers.

Held on Wednesday,

October 15th, the event brought together community members to assemble poppies into pre-addressed envelopes, raising crucial funds for Veterans and retired RCMP members.

The Legion's kitchen was abuzz with activity, filled

with the delicious aromas of sandwiches, cookies, and treats provided by Valleyview Country Grocer.

As volunteers gathered between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., they were treated to a complimentary lunch and a chance to socialize before the official stuffing session began at 1:00 p.m.

However, enthusiasm got the better of some volunteers, who began assembling envelopes early. Just half an hour in, disaster struck: a volunteer noticed the return address displayed outdated postal codes, which would likely be rejected by the post office.

Upon investigation, we discovered that Eric at Cowichan Press, our longstanding printer, had outsourced the envelope job, leading to a miscommunication regarding the postal code. To remedy the situation, Eric generously provided 3,000 peel-and-stick labels with the correct address.

Despite this setback, our volunteers carried on, completing the stuffing process - though at day's end, we realized somehow 2,000 envelopes had been left undone, and the task finished well ahead of the published 1 p.m. start time.

Guest Member of Parliament, Jeff Kibble, a veteran himself, drew door prizes to boost morale and acknowledge the volunteers' hard work. As planned, a handful of devoted volunteers returned the following day to stuff the remaining envelopes and apply the corrected labels to the previously prepared ones.

Thanks to their dedication and quick thinking, the Malahat Legion was able to deliver 6,000 poppy-stuffed envelopes to the local post office.

The event's success is a testament to the community's commitment to this meaningful fundraising tradition. To those who arrived at 1 p.m. to help, only



By noon, most of the volunteers had had enough to eat and started stuffing.



to find the task already completed, the Malahat Legion extends apologies and looks forward to your participation next year.

The Malahat Legion Branch 134 is seeking help in finding a Veteran who left these Canadian Forces miniatures at the Cobble Hill coffee shop last year after the service. The Legion in Shawnigan still has them. We would like reunite the Veteran who is missing them.



*Please contact the Branch, if these are yours...
250-743-4621 or
rcl134@shaw.ca*



A surprise visitor was Member of Parliament, Jeff Kibble, who handed out 5 door prizes.

November 2025 at the Malahat Legion

Regular Hours

Fridays and Saturdays

Bar 1:00-7:00 PM

- Kitchen 12:00-4:30 pm

Drop-in Events

Wednesdays

- Crib 1:00 3:30 pm

Fridays

- Euchre 2:00-4:00 pm
- Mahjong 1:00-3:30 pm

Saturdays

- Meat Draws 3:00-5:00 pm

*Our Special Events:

- Tuesday, November 4th – The Young Senior's Activity Group holds Bingo 2 pm to 4 pm. All welcome. Bar is open.
- Tuesday, November 11th – Remembrance Day Service at

the Cobble Hill Cenotaph. Service at 10 am. Ceremony at 11. Everyone welcome and you are invited back to the Legion after.

- Friday, November 14th. CMS Fundraiser Bingo 6 to 8:30 PM. Pre-order your pizza from the website. <https://malahatlegion.ca/bingo-evening-fundraiser/>
- Friday, November 21st – Join us for a sizzling BBQ steak cooked just the way you like it, followed by Music Bingo with Holly Dopking. Check our our website for details.

Our event calendar.

More Legion events are available at Upcoming Legion Events



We will remember them

MALAHAT LEGION #134

2025 POPPY CAMPAIGN

OCTOBER 31ST – NOVEMBER 11TH



Support Local Veterans this Poppy Campaign Season!

The **Royal Canadian Legion's Annual Poppy Campaign** begins Friday, October 31st. This tradition supports local Veterans, their families, and retired RCMP members. Every donation made through the campaign directly assists those who have served, providing essential care, programs, and resources.

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

- Order online at malahatlegion.ca – look under events
- Email : rcl134@shaw.ca
- Visit the Legion on Fridays or Saturdays.
- Available until Saturday, November 1st.

Poppies are available until November 11th.

The Malahat Legion will be open following the ceremony. Please Drop in and welcome our community as we honour our Veterans
Thank You for Your Continued Support

November 11th, Remembrance Day 2025 - PROGRAM

10:00 am Remembrance Day Service at Cobble Hill Hall
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



South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

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

- Mon & Tue 10-6
- Wed & Thu 10-7
- Fri & Sat 10-6

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. The November 13 book is *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* by John Vaillant.

Crafts for Kids 10:30-12pm, Saturday, Nov 1, 15, and 29: Drop-In and create an art project or craft to show your family and friends!

Parent-Child Mother Goose for children 0-4 and their adults has started! Thursdays at 10:30am. You can register at the program.

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.

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

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**.

They can get books, audiobooks, and DVDs delivered to their door monthly.

Book a Librarian: available various days and times for a 1-on-1 session on using the library catalogue, downloading digital books and audiobooks, help researching, and more.

The library stocks donated **period products** in the washroom.

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — October 2025

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	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2024	2023
Average High	14.1	13.4	13.7	14.3	14.9	14.2	14.6	14.2	14.6	14.0	14.5
Average Low	5.8	6.1	6.6	5.3	6.0	3.5	4.4	6.4	6.4	5.3	5.9
Extreme High	28.3	18.8	19.8	21.0	20.9	21.7	21.2	19.2	20.6	20.2	20.6
Extreme Low	-7.2	0.8	2.7	-0.5	1.2	-1.9	-0.1	0.8	1.9	-0.2	1.4
Precipitation	114.7	177.0	214.0	123.8	157.8	156.7	180.1	114.9	153.2	143.1	176.3
Days w precip	16	17	20	17	23	18	20	17	21	17	21
Year Precip	830.8	894.4	1165.6	661.5	885.7	733.5	979.3	599.1	860.8	722.1	972.9
Rank since 1914: 54 th warmest, 32 nd wettest											
				Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26				
Lake Temperature				17°	15°	14°	12°				
Lake Temperature 2024				15°	15°	13°	13°				
Surface Elevation				115.83m	115.82m	115.83m	115.85m				
Surface Elevation 2024				115.94m	115.87m	116.00m	116.03m				

A Life in the Country - Part 3

Robert Amos
Artist & Author

For several generations, Bruce Hutchison was one of Canada's beloved newspapermen and "the dean of Canadian political commentators". When he found time to leave his Victoria home for some rest and relaxation, made his way to Shawnigan Lake where he transformed a wilderness shack into a family cabin full of memories. In 1988 - at the age of 87 years - Hutchison published 'A Life in the Country', a bittersweet look at the joys and tribulations of "the country life that urban dwellers envy and fortunately escape." This is the fourth of a series of excerpts from this book.

Robert Amos

The autumn reality was more vivid than prose. At sunset the forest stood in stark profile, each tree distinctly etched against the blood-red sky. Now we knew that the Group of Seven, painting an eastern landscape, had not exaggerated the colours of Canada. After the western colours faded and a harvest moon like a round of ripe cheddar hung over the mountains, we often walked on the road when traffic had

paused and darkness worked its sorcery.

In daylight the scars of human presence disfigured nature's work. Highway crews with their travelling derricks and mechanical saws had slashed the trees close to the power line. Telephone poles stood in ugly nakedness. Decaying shacks and even new houses seemed ugly, too. But moonlight blurred these shapes, melted the buildings into the forest and expunged the scars as if a film of silver had been poured over everything.

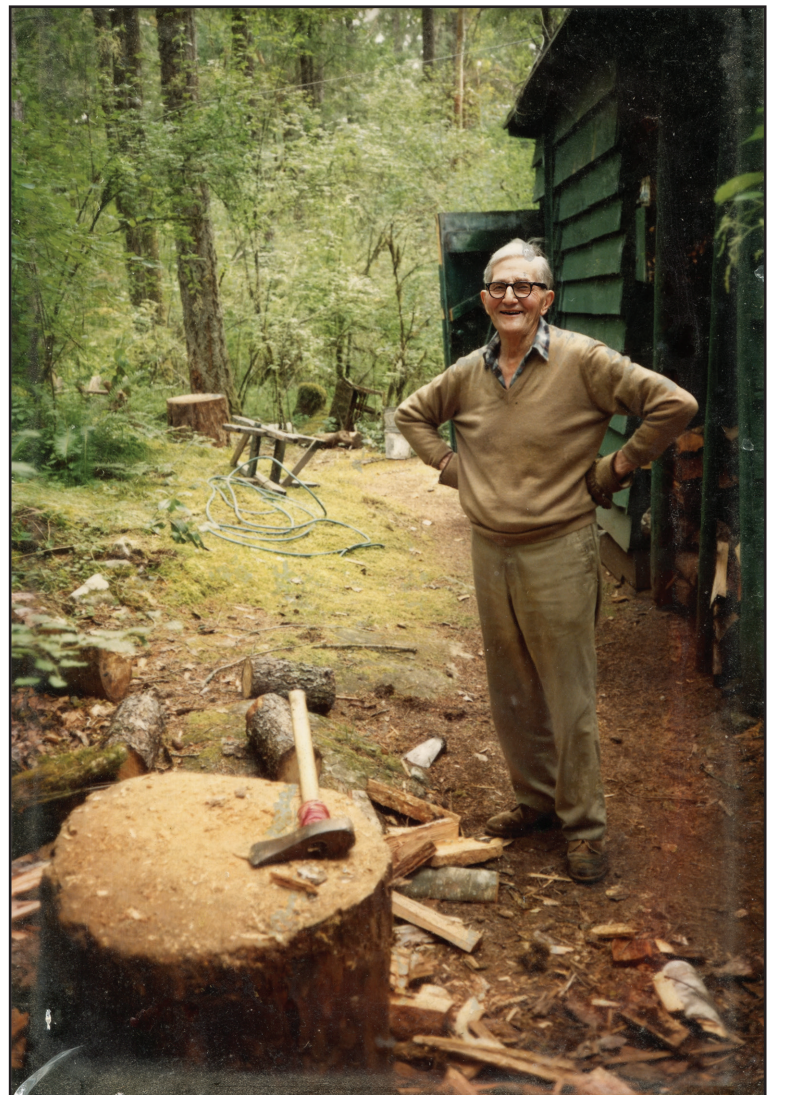
When we reached a bend in the road and the moon was hidden by the hill, the stars swam out to confront us with the beauty or the horror of the universe. Beholding glimmers from distance unimaginable, the emptiest mind is jolted into thought and the greatest member of humankind becomes less than the fraction of an atom.

Thus every human must face the paramount question and judge that the universe has some meaning or that it is a chemical accident, perhaps a grisly joke. If

the question is evaded, life's voyage may be comfortable but it will lack compass, ballast or anchor. So Lincoln judged when he said that a reasonable man, looking down on our planet from another, might well be an atheist. However, it was impossible for Lincoln to conceive that a man looking upward from the earth would see no evidence of an intelligent cosmic purpose.

We also had reached the same judgement, without the means to express it, but the spangled vault above us looked as frightening as it was grand. Weak creatures, we groped our way home along the pitch-black trail, saw the light in our kitchen window and, like our ancestors from remote ages, sought the imagined safety of the cabin as they sought it in their caves.

A flimsy roof could not muffle the message of the stars, and yet all the apparatus of modern societies, though it has mastered space travel, is designed to shut out the menace of the void.



Bruce Hutchison at Arcadia, Shawnigan Lake.
Photo courtesy of the Hutchison Family

The more affluent and sophisticated the society the more insulation, the thicker mental carapace, it builds around itself until the fortunate people of the Western countries huddle beside an electronic screen and

drug themselves with technicoloured fairy tales.

We had no television set, the cabin was uninsulated and soon, in annual disorder, we must retreat from the forest to the edge of the town.

Upcoming Workshop on Forests and Water

Bernhard Juurlink
Shawnigan Basin Society

We are pleased to announce that this year we are collaborating with the Koksilah Watershed Working Group to hold a public workshop on how forestry practices impact the hydrology of watersheds. The workshop will feature Dr Younes Alila, Daniel Pierce and

Heather Pritchard. This workshop will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., November 29, 2025 in the gymnasium at the Hub at Cowichan Station (2375 Koksilah Road). There is no charge for admission but donations will be appreciated to help cover costs. Further information will be placed on the SBS website and Facebook

page.

Younes Alila is a civil engineer with a PhD specializing in hydrology and is a Professor of Forest Hydrology and watershed management in the Department of Forest Resources Management at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. Daniel Pierce is a film maker and journalist who has been covering BC forestry for more than a decade. He has made a number of films and recently has worked with Younes to prepare the short documentary called 'Trouble in the Headwaters'. Heather Pritchard is an eco forester concerned with how forestry practices impact watersheds. She co-authored the Ecosystem-

Based Assessment of the Koksilah River Watershed, similar to a 2015 report commissioned by the SBS that Herb Hammond wrote for the Shawnigan Lake watershed.

The workshop will start off with Heather giving an overview of the issues in the Koksilah River and Shawnigan Creek watersheds. We will then have a few comments by Younes and Dan on their film Trouble in the Headwaters that has a focus on the relationship between forestry practices in the Kettle River watershed and flooding of Grand Forks in 2018. We will then watch the 25-minute film followed by some comments by Dan, Younes and Heather. The floor will then open

for public comment and questions.

This is the third workshop on forestry issues we have held with other organizations. In 2023, we organized, together with the Vancouver Island Hub of the Pacific North-West Health Network, a public forum on the 'Indigenous Perspectives For Sustaining Forests' led by four Cowichan Tribes speakers. In 2024 we collaborated with the Boundary Forest Watershed Stewardship Society to hold a public workshop on "Power of Forests".

We encourage you to attend and learn how forestry practices can impact flooding, landslides, summer stream flow and biodiversity.



Safer Roads Start with Me

Sarah Davidge-Cardinal
Executive Director
South Cowichan Commu-
nity Policing (SCCPAS)

Be Reflective -
Be Visible - Be Seen



Have you been driving at night and come around the blind corner to see a person walking on the shoulder or close to the end of the road in dark clothing?

Does it make you heart stop... well at least cause you to take a deep breath. I know this happens in many communities through out the Cowichan Valley. Be Reflective - Be Visible - Be Seen.

We have partnered with ICBC who have donated reflective high visibility circles for distribution to the community. As we all know our roads are shared by both pedestrians and motor vehicles, narrow shoulders, limited lighting and no sidewalks for your nightly walk, this can put many of us at risk.

At community policing we hear the stories and experience it for ourselves, one community member came into our office in Mill Bay to pick up s

Be Reflective - BeVisible - Be Seen
Be Reflective - Be Visible - Be Found



COWICHAN
COMMUNITY POLICING
AND ENGAGEMENT



reflective circle and said - I want to have my car full of them, so every time I see someone walking with dark clothing in the dark I can give them one to wear.

It is important to wear reflective gear and bright colours at night. Stop by our office for your free reflective circle.

Be Reflective-
Be Visible- Be Found
(new) Order Online

Presently, as the dark and chilly winter months are descending upon us, we are promoting Double Sided Reflective House Number Signs.

These house number signs have large reflective numbers that stand out, make it easier for your home to be found especially in the case of an emergency where time is of the essence.

To encourage the purchase of these signs we, together with Panago Pizza in Mill Bay have relaunched a promotion whereby if you order a Reflective House Sign you will receive a coupon for a Free medium pizza.

These signs are quality aluminium made locally the cost is \$60 for the house number sign and \$35 for the post, if you should need one. Order Online

30 Minutes Finding



You or 30 Minutes
Caring for You -
Where Every Second
Counts

South Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society programs are designed to bring education and awareness to promote:

- Safer Roads – Speed Watch/Cell Watch/ Pedestrian Safety initiatives with ICBC and RCMP
- Safer Homes – Block Watch BC – Reflective House Number Signs
- Safer Communities – Block Watch BC – Safety Expos - Crime Stoppers
- Safer Youth – Positive Tickets – Youth Education
- Safer Seniors – Free Friendly Phones - See Something Say Something–It’s Not Right
- Safer Waterways

These are vital programs and events in our communities that you may already be familiar with or attended.

Our programs are successful in encouraging and promoting “safer communities where we live, work and play” and we have statistics to back this up. Our volunteer facilitated programs reflect the strong commitment that residents and businesses have to the beliefs and credibility of community policing.

Our newest program Business Watch which we implemented last year is building momentum.

Give us a call to discuss our program or stop into our office in Mill Bay. We are always looking for volunteers to join of our team. Stop by our office or give us a

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 2025 Report
Department Members Attended
36 Incidents in September

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Wednesday, Oct 1 – Structure Fire on Shawnigan Lake Rd | Thursday, Oct 16 – Assistance off Gregory Rd |
| • Friday, Oct 3 – MVI on Meadowview Rd | • Friday, Oct 17 – 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd |
| • Monday, Oct 6 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd | • Friday, Oct 17 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| • Monday, Oct 6 – 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd | • Tuesday, Oct 21 – Smoke in House on Cameron-Taggart Rd |
| • Monday, Oct 6 – Alarms Activated on W Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Wednesday, Oct 22 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| • Tuesday, Oct 7 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd | • Wednesday, Oct 22 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| • Wednesday, Oct 8 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Friday, Oct 24 – 1st Responder off Coleman Rd |
| • Thursday, Oct 9 – Mutual Aid 1st Responder w/Malahat Fire | • Saturday, Oct 25 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| • Friday, Oct 10 – Hazmat on Steinway Rd | • Sunday, Oct 26 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd |
| • Friday, Oct 10 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Sunday, Oct 26 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd |
| • Friday, Oct 10 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Sunday, Oct 26 – 1st Responder off McKernan Rd |
| • Sunday, Oct 12 – 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Sunday, Oct 26 – Alarms Activated on Pinder Pl |
| • Sunday, Oct 12 – 1st Responder off Colman Rd | • Monday, Oct 27 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| • Monday, Oct 13 – 1st Responder off W Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Tuesday, Oct 28 – 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd |
| • Monday, Oct 13 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Tuesday, Oct 28 – MVI on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd |
| • Tuesday, Oct 14 – 1st Responder off Inn Rd | • Tuesday, Oct 28 – 1st Responder off Lavinia Rd |
| • Wednesday, Oct 15 – Burning Complaint on Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Wednesday, Oct 29 – 1st Responder off Thain Rd |
| • Wednesday, Oct 15 – 1st Responder off S Shawnigan Lake Rd | • Wednesday, Oct 29 – Alarms Activated on Shawnigan Lake Rd |

Thank you to all of
our advertisers and
contributors
for supporting
this local publication!

Head of Shawnigan Regatta Returns November 23

Jennifer Parfitt
*Head of Rowing
Shawnigan Lake School*

The Head of the Shawnigan Regatta will take place on Sunday, November 23, with racing starting at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

This annual event used to take place in February. However, unpredictable weather meant we decided to change it to November.

This regatta features time-trial-style racing, where boats start one at a time and the fastest overall time determines the winners.

Racers start at the south end of the lake and race all the way to the government docks along the east side of the lake. We have some novice crews starting by the red day marker, racing 3K total to the government docks in the morning flight.

The regatta will welcome youth and masters rowers from local clubs across the region. It's always a highlight of the rowing season (when it runs) and a wonderful opportunity to see athletes test their endurance and skill on beautiful Shawnigan Lake.

We are deeply grateful for the respectful support of the Shawnigan community, whose thoughtful cooperation makes this event possible. Spectators and supporters will be gathered near the Government Docks and beach area, to cheer and where timers will also be stationed.

Because many of our competitors are youth rowing in delicate racing shells, we respectfully ask boaters on the lake to keep their wakes down during race times. Even small wakes can swamp or



damage these lightweight boats.

Thank you to everyone who helps make the Head of the Shawnigan a safe and spirited community tradition!

Rowing Canada Aviron national team women's 8+ lines up beside Shawnigan Womens varsity 8 on beautiful Shawnigan Lake!

Shawnigan Lake School for Remembrance Day ceremonies



Kevin Rothbaur
Shawnigan Lake School

The entire community is invited to join Shawnigan Lake School for Remembrance Day ceremonies, which the School will observe this year on **Wednesday, November 5.**

This year, in addition to remembering the 45 alumni and staff from the School who were lost in the Second World War, Shawnigan will be honouring Private Horace Leslie Ravenhill. Private Ravenhill was killed in action at Ypres, Belgium on April 24, 1915, aged 25.



SHAWNIGAN
LAKE SCHOOL

Private Ravenhill's parents owned a farmstead at the north end of Shawnigan Lake. A year after his death, they sold that land to C.W. Lonsdale, and it became the site of Shawnigan Lake School.

Private Ravenhill is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres – Panel 28, and in the Ravenhill Cup, which was introduced in his name in 1917 and remains a major student award at the School. A plaque in his honour is being installed in the School Chapel this year.

Ceremonies at the School cenotaph on November 5 will begin at 1:30 p.m. Guests are asked to please arrive at 1:15 p.m.

Counting Crows

(a look back to Nov 2012, from an article by Dave Hutchison)

The waning light of a grey November day can provide a remarkable experience as crows prepare to roost for the night. In years past, the towering old growth forest on Worthington Point was an intermediate destination as countless squadrons arrived from the east. Fans of Alfred Hitchcock could be unnerved as thousands of these ominous black creatures noisily regrouped prior to a final flight towards the hills behind Camp Pringle.

- The collective name for a group of crows is called a "murder". Two crows perched together might be considered "attempted murder."
- Our Northwestern Crow (*Corvus Caurinus*) is slightly smaller, but otherwise very similar, to the American Crow.
- Crows reach sexual maturity around the age

of 3 years for females, and 5 years for males. Some crows may live to the age of 20, and the oldest known American crow in the wild was almost 30 years old.

- Crows are monogamous birds. Mated pairs form large families of up to 15 individuals from several breeding seasons that remain together for many years.
- Crows are omnivorous, and their diet is very diverse. They will eat almost anything, including other birds, fruits, nuts, molluscs, earthworms, seeds, frogs, eggs, nestlings, mice and carrion.
- The term "scarecrow" is thought to have come from the 1719 novel *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe. In attempting to keep crows away from his corn, Crusoe remarks, "...I could never see a bird



near the place as long as my scarecrows hung there."

- Despite attempts to drive away or eliminate these birds, they remain widespread and very common. The number of individual American Crows is estimated by Birdlife International to be around 31,000,000.
- Crows are remarkably intelligent and can reason how to combine tools to achieve a goal. Researchers placed a snack in a hole too deep for the crows to reach. To get it, they needed to fish it out with a long stick which was also placed out of reach. A shorter

stick was placed within reach. The creative thing the crows did was to use the short stick to get the longer one which they then used to retrieve the meat. Three of seven crows

- that were tested figured it out on the first try and all eventually learned within 25 tries.
- Counting Crows? They are one of only a handful of species to possess a sense of number. An 18th century anecdote tells of a nobleman who wanted to shoot a crow that had built its nest on his tower. Whenever the man approached, the bird flew out of range, waited for him to depart, and then returned to its nest. The man asked a neighbour for help. The two hunters entered the tower together and later only one of them came out. The crow did not fall into this trap and carefully waited for the second man to come out before returning. Neither did three, then four, then five

men fool the clever bird. Each time, the crow would wait until all the hunters had departed. Finally, the hunters came as a party of six. When five of them had left the tower, the bird, not so numerate after all, confidently came back, and was shot down by the sixth hunter.

- More on Counting Crows: Augury is the practice of divination from auspices or omens. For centuries, diviners have made predictions by counting the number of crows hanging about. Various rhymes help with remembering.

*One for sorrow,
Two for joy
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy
Five for silver,
Six for gold
Seven for a secret never to be told.*

This is the version used in the song "Murder of One" by the Counting Crows, and undoubtedly where they got their name.

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

For me, Shawnigan is where my best memories have been made. For many of you, this may be your experience as well. I have had a passion for Shawnigan ever since my Grandmother bought a summer cottage for the family in the 1960s. It is my heart place. I know that some people are not as fortunate as I have been – growing up with the lake and now living full time in Shawnigan. And, sadly, for many reasons, families can't always keep their property at the lake over multiple

generations, but their heart connection remains. The museum is a place where everyone one can visit to reminisce, to share memories, to express their love for Shawnigan and to embrace their past. Shawnigan has a big story. It is, and was, much more than just a summer destination. It has a significant history of people, places and events. With the expansion, the museum tripled in size and created a comfortable and inviting space to visit. We encourage you to check it out, get involved or learn more about your community.



c Early 1900s at Shawnigan Lake

Join Our Team at the
Shawnigan Lake Museum!

Are you a motivated and enthusiastic individual looking to gain experience in a vibrant and engaging workplace? The Shawnigan Lake Museum is seeking a Part Time Museum Assistant who is passionate about community, storytelling, and connecting people with local history.

Download here for details and/or to apply:
<https://tinyurl.com/3ces2vnh>



Charity Bingo Night to Support the CMS Food Bank
— Friday November 14th at the Malahat Legion

The Malahat Legion, in partnership with the Young Seniors Action Group Society (YSAGS) and the Mill Bay Community League, is hosting a Charity Bingo Night in support of the CMS Food Bank on Thursday, November 14th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Community members of all ages are invited to enjoy an evening of games, prizes, and local food — all to help families facing food insecurity across the Southern Cowichan Valley.

Location: Malahat Legion, 1625 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd, Mill Bay, B.C.
Parking: Free onsite.

Admission: By donation of food items or bingo buy-in at the door. All proceeds go directly to the CMS Food Bank
Malahat Legion (250) 743-4621

Prizes, Food & Draws

Guests can win cash prizes, gift cards, and locally donated items from community sponsors. A 50/50 draw will split proceeds between one lucky winner and the food bank. Pizza from Moo's Pizza and refreshments from the Legion bar will be available for purchase.

A Growing Need

“Our need is up for a variety of reasons familiar to many — rising grocery prices, inflation, fewer full-time jobs, and higher insurance costs,” said Michael King St. Clair, past President and current Board member of the CMS Food Bank. “Even potential international tariffs could impact Canadian food banks.”

The CMS Food Bank has seen nearly double the visitors compared to four years ago.

Join the Effort

This event offers a fun way for the Malahat, Mill Bay, and Shawnigan communities to come together and support local families in need.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

~Nelson Mandela



It's true, with us, mechanical problems melt away.



TIME TO CHANGE TIRES!

SHAWNIGAN GARAGE

250-743-2122

Maintenance Offer Book an appointment now.

shawnigangarage.com

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Would Pete win the 1928 Peden Cup?

Ross Carter

The Carter family has owned the former Robertson house since 1962

The six Robertson children were born in their Shawnigan Lake home between 1895 and 1908. They grew up at the lake and had all become strong rowers out of necessity. There wasn't a road on the west side of the lake where their lake-front home was so, to go anywhere they had to row. Their family rowing prowess was seen over the years at the annual Shawnigan Lake Regatta.

In 1921, Pete Robertson, the youngest sibling, won the boys single sculls at the Shawnigan Lake Regatta. His sister Anne also won in the mixed-double sculls with her future husband Sidney Samuelson. However, Pete was super impressed that his older brother Ted had won the men's single sculls one-mile race and been awarded the Peden Cup for his victory. Pete

vowed to himself that he would try to win that race one day and have his name also inscribed on that Cup.

One of Pete's earliest memories, when he was four years old, was seeing his eldest sister Bertha win some rowing races at the 1912 Regatta. Bertha married the next year, in 1913, and had died three years later in 1917 so his main memories of her were tied to her earlier rowing success. In 1915, his sisters Polly and Anne placed first and second place in the under-sixteen girls' single sculls. The family's 1921 rowing successes have already been mentioned, and sister Maude won a mixed-double sculls rowing race in 1925. All the siblings had won races over the years. Rowing was the bond that made the Robertson children feel connected.

In 1928, the twenty-third annual Shawnigan Lake Regatta was going to



1943. Pete Robertson, daughter Sonia and wife Kathleen sitting on the front steps of his parents Shawnigan Lake home.

be held. Peter was now twenty years old and finally ready to try and win that men's single sculls one-mile race (and trophy) like his brother Ted had in 1921. He had tough competition as Walter Elford had won the race and Peden Cup the two previous years. That was why Pete had been training extra hard all spring and summer.

However, great misfortune visited the Robertson family twelve days before the August 25th, 1928 race. Pete's older brother Ted was killed at Jordan River when a two-ton piece of pipe fell and crushed his head while they were loading the pipe onto a railway car. After Pete's initial shock wore off, he decided he would still race to honour the brother he had lost. Ted's death would either give Pete extra motivation, or the emotional toil would sap his strength. It was the latter as Pete ended up coming second, unable to replicate his brother Ted's 1921 triumph.

Regardless, it was a great effort so soon after the family tragedy.

Less than two years later, the Peden Cup would be destroyed in the 1930 fire that burnt down the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association Hall that housed the locally won trophies. In 1945, after being a home defence soldier during WW2, Pete was living in Strathcona Bay when he opened

a boat rental business called "Robertson's Dock". He sold it the next year, in 1946, to the Hamiltons who would expand the operation and call it the Shawnigan Lake Marina and Galley coffee shop.

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Victoria Daily Times-May 17, 1946



1943 Bertha, Ted's daughter, in the Robertson family clinker rowboat.



First garage in Shawnigan - note that it originally faced south



On October 25th the Davies family, owners of the Shawnigan Garage, celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The former owners were invited, and many were there to celebrate this amazing milestone. Congratulations to all!



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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**
LegislativeServices@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: ysagssl@gmail.com (web): blog.ysag.ca
- **South Cowichan Community Policing (SCCP)**
Contact: 250-929-7222(web): southcowichancommunitypolicing.ca
- **Royal Canadian Legion Malahat District Branch 134**
Events: (web) malahatlegion.ca/upcoming-legion-events
Contact: (web) malahatlegion.ca/contact-us
250-643-4621
- **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

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Last month's photo of a
mailbox on (the narrow
part of) Shawnigan Lake
Road near the Marina.

DYRDA BROTHERS Construction

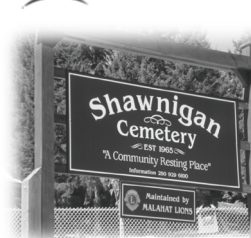
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