



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

October 2025 Hwisulenuhw
"The time when leaves are shaken from trees"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

Did'ja kill a shark?

The Unknown Swimmer

It was an odd way to start a conversation, but as I was in the water and he was on the dock, maybe my swimming style does look a little unorthodox. Sure, I splash a bit, but not like "fighting-a-shark" splashing, so I thought I should confirm what I heard:

"Did I kill a shark? No, I just swim that way."

Laughter erupted from the man on the dock, his family, and friends.

"No, I said, do you want a tequila shot?"

I had to say yes. They seemed so friendly. And that, strangely enough, is how I decided to swim the entire length of Shawnigan Lake, from creek to creek, without touching the bottom or a dock along the way. Many of you will agree that tequila often contributes to irrational decision-making.

It wasn't that I made the decision while under the influence; I'd been considering it for several years. During Covid, I started swimming in the West Arm, from my dock to one near the Lakehouse and back. About 250m each way, so a round trip was enough. But as Covid dragged on, I kept swimming further and further, eventually setting the goal of completing the full West Arm loop, about 3km. By August I could manage the circuit, passing kids on inflatables, families enjoying the evening sun, overhearing bits of dockside conversations. They probably wondered why I was doing it. Let me tell you a secret: when you're staring into the water for over an hour, you wonder why too. Still have no answer, but it helps pass the time. So do song lyrics and a goldfish-like attention span.

Eventually I invested

in neoprene buoyancy shorts, a high-visibility swim buoy, and a GPS tracker. With weekly distances adding up, I thought maybe I could swim the whole lake. I set the goal of completing the task before my 55th birthday in September.

But I chickened out.

And the same thing happened the next year.

As August slipped by, my grand plan felt less like an adventure and more like a chore, like cleaning the gutters, something you'd rather pay the kids to do.

So after that tequila shot with the folks on their dock (ask them about their waterside wedding and the spider invasion), I splashed, or sloshed, off to finish my evening swim. Funny thing: the lake tastes better with tequila in you. And somewhere between strokes, staring into the depths, contemplating why, I decided this year I wasn't going to make

excuses. I was going to do it.

Scouting a few locations to access the lake at the south end, I met Dave on Orme Road, who didn't even blink when a complete stranger asked if I could jump off his dock to reach the creek mouth. So many thanks to him to make the journey possible. My plan was to hug the east shore, stop a couple of times for Gatorade and snacks from the buoy pouch, and get it done before turning 57 that weekend. Friday came. I had the day off, my wife was working in Victoria, and the lake was mine. But then work called, so much for my 8 a.m. start and by the time I had dealt with things, it was 11 a.m. when I hit the water.

From Dave's dock, across to the creek mouth at the south end. Quick photo, "ready steady go" text to my kids, start the clock and off I swim. A bit of headwind but not too bad, the worrying thing is that I keep veering into shore and close to the docks there, forcing me to sight more often to avoid hazards, which upsets the rhythm and just makes it less smooth. I adjust my distance from shore to account for the poor navigation, keeping 10m off shore instead of 5m.

Past Memory Island, a boat pulling an inner tube cheers me on. Thanks, folks, that gave me a boost. Really going well now, one hour and five minutes in, 2.5km done. Head down, breath steadily and plow on. Suddenly, I encounter something I hadn't planned for. Boats, jet skis, float planes, I knew how to deal with those. This, I did not account for.

Breathing right, I hear a noise onshore. Next breath, a splash but I assume it was fish jumping. But soon, with every breath, I hear it

coming closer. Then something nudged my foot. Oh my god. What was that? I'm near Lakewood / Cliffside Road and I'm being chased by a small black-and-brown blur. It's sleek, fast and relentless. I try swimming faster, but it stays with me, I try changing direction, zig zagging, splashing it away. Nothing helps.

We are about 200m from where I first heard it, and now I hear the dog's owner shouting from his dock, calling it back. Fortunately it turns and starts to go home. I continue on my way. Big mistake, this is fun for the dog and it starts to chase me again, tagging my feet like it is a game. Now I see the owner is swimming out, encouraging the dog to return home, so I tread water until the dog decides to go chase him. (Hope they both made it back safe, as we were near Verlon Rd by this point?)

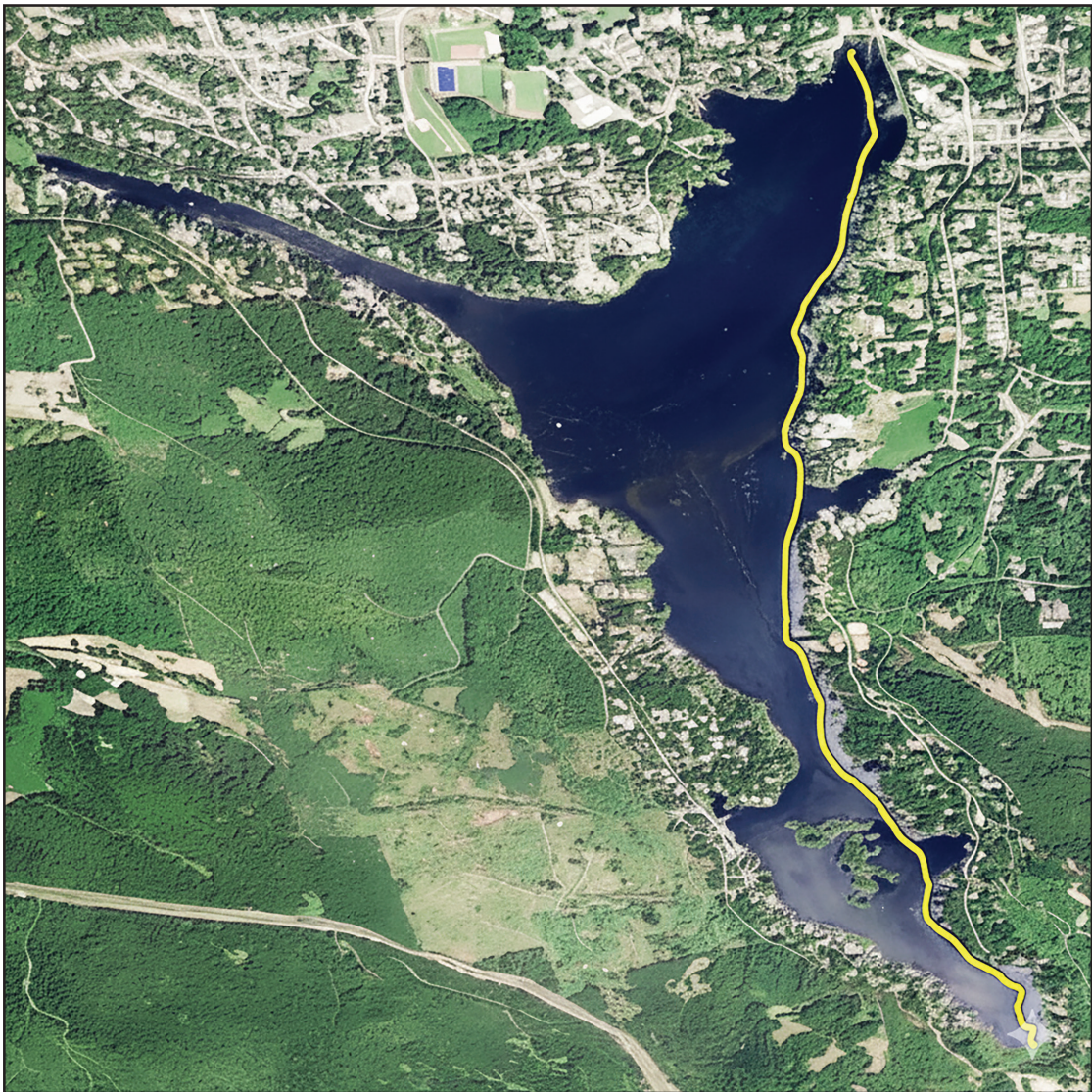
The rest of the afternoon was uneventful and anticlimactic, except for the pain setting in near Old Mill Park. I wanted to stop, but with Mason's Beach in sight, I (front) crawled to the enclosed swimming area and the outflow creek. Took a finishing photo, sent a message to the family: "Mission accomplished. Levelling up."

And then my wife called. Different story.

Oh, and since I started later than planned, it was three and a half hours of full sun on my back. Now I've got a sunburn, and thanks to my high-waisted swim shorts, the tan lines make me look ridiculous.

Has anyone else swum the lake end to end? Or want to try it next year? My inspiration was this Guinness advert from 2001:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6eu7SD5gP0>



South Cowichan Library

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

www.facebook.com/
VIRLSouthCowichan

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

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

Cell Phone Workshops with VIRL and Literacy Now Cowichan on 4 Mondays: Oct 20 & 27 and Nov 3 & 10, from 4pm to 5:30pm. Drop by or call 250-743-5436 for more information and to register.

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.

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 October 9 meeting will be on The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich.

Online Human Rights Book Club for Adults: the book for October is Universal: Renewing Human Rights in a

Fractured World by Alex Neve. The book club meets online on Monday, Oct 27, 2:30-4pm. Call or drop by for help registering.

Intermediate Conversational Spanish meets 5:45 to 6:45pm on Thursdays. Drop in to practice Spanish in a casual setting.

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

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.

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — September 2025

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

	Sept Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Butler Road		Discovery School		Museum		Shawnigan Average	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Average High	20.5	23.0	21.9	23.0	21.8	23.0	21.8	22.9	22.1	23.0	21.9
Average Low	9.3	12.2	11.0	9.5	8.4	11.5	10.4	12.6	10.9	11.5	10.2
Extreme High	34.0	30.1	33.5	29.5	32.8	30.5	33.7	29.5	33.5	29.9	33.4
Extreme Low	-3.9	6.9	4.5	3.6	1.6	5.5	3.9	7.8	4.0	6.0	3.5
Precipitation	33.3	41.7	70.6	24.8	56.5	32.7	50.8	30.7	55.2	32.5	58.3
Days w precip	8	6	9	6	9	6	10	6	8	6	9
Year Precip	716.1	724.5	937.4	582.1	785.3	540.5	711.1	496.7	706.6	586.0	785.1

Rank since 1914: warmest ever, 52nd driest

	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28
Lake Temperature	23°	22°	21°	18°
Lake Temperature 2024	22°	23°	22°	20°
Lake Level	115.90	115.86	115.83	115.80
Lake Level 2024	115.99m	115.98m	115.91m	115.86m

Comments

September 2025 continued the long stretch of sunny, summer-like weather from the previous 2 months. It was the warmest September ever, since recording started in 1914.

The hottest day was on the the 3rd, with temperatures hovering around 30°. The daytime temperature never fell below 20° until September 25th. The coolest night was also on the 25th with temperatures approaching 6°. There were 9 days when the temperature reached 25° or more.

With half the number of normal rainy days, the monthly total was still near average, due to the heavy rain on the 29th. So far, the yearly total for rainfall is running about 80% of normal — well below last year's total at this time of the year.

The lake levels are still being controlled by the weir just north of the end of the lake. The lake level is running slightly below long term averages at the beginning of October, and is continuing to drop about a 2cm each week. The level of the lake usually bottoms out by the end of the month when the fall rains return.

Daylight hours are decreasing by about 3½ minutes per day. Sunset on October 1st was at 6:52 pm. It will decrease by nearly an hour by the 31st to 5:55 pm.

Daylight Saving ends on November 1st.

Shawnigan Focus Team

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Shawnigan-Showe'luqun
Focus
October 2025 36 issues a year
"The time when leaves are shaken from trees"

Volume Sixteen- Issue Ten
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The Unknown Swimmer

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"Did I kill a shark? No, I just swim that way."

Laughter erupted from the man on the dock, his family, and friends.

"No, I said, do you want a requia shot?"

I had to say yes. They seemed so friendly. And that, strangely enough, is how I decided to swim the entire length of Shawnigan Lake, from creek to creek, without touching the bottom or a dock along the way. Many of you will agree that requia often contributes to irrational decision-making.

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in neoprene buoyancy shorts, a high-visibility swim buoy, and a GPS tracker. With weekly distances adding up, I thought maybe I could swim the whole lake. I set the goal of completing the task before my 55th birthday in September.

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So after that requia shot with the folks on their dock (ask them about their waterside wedding and the spider invasion), I splashed, or skoshed, off to finish my evening swim. Funny thing: the lake tastes better with requia in you. And somewhere between strokes, staring into the depths, contemplating why I decided this year I wasn't going to make excuses. I was going to do it.

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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 third of a series of excerpts from this book.

NO DOUBT AUTUMN of some sort comes to other lands, but it has belonged especially to Canada by unwritten title and historic squatters' rights ever since the first settlers at Quebec, twenty-eight Frenchmen, watched the last ship float down the St. Lawrence and leave them alone on an unmapped continent where starvation and scurvy would kill more than half of them before spring.

Nowadays, Canadians are protected from such misery, and by mid-September autumn's radiance penetrates the duller among us. Nothing can dilute its colour, sound and scent. Nothing changes its pungency, bittersweet. No adjective in the language describes it and none is needed when all Canadians see it with their eyes, smell it with their noses and feel its rough male kiss. The clock tells us that the days are dwindling as the planet's northern flank turns southward on the smooth autumnal hinge. The thermometer records the drop in summer's heat, and we know, by a sixth sense, that, like the year, our lives are winding down.

English poets did their best

to paint autumn from the limited palette of words. They produced great literature, but Keats's female figure dozing on a granary floor, tipsy with hard cider and poppy fumes, is not the autumn of Canada. Nor do Canadians cower and bleed, like Shelley, in his wild west wind even if their own wind can be wild enough to shake town and wilderness. Few Canadians share Tennyson's idle tears while looking on the happy autumn fields and remembering the days that were no more.

Between the Maritimes and the Great Lakes, the eastern forest blazes in chilly conflagration, and the smoke of leaf fires perfumes the city streets. The prairies are gilded with stubble. Poplars spread their bullion across the Rockies for thousands of miles, each leaf fluttering and falling like a gold coin. The huge foliage of the Pacific coast maple turns gold, too, and the little vine maple and the dogwood crimson.

At this time of year our living was easy, our diet replete with corn, tomatoes, lettuce, beans, squash, cauliflowers, a second crop of tender young carrots, and until the neighbourhood was populated and small boys discovered our orchard, brimming with apples, pears and plums. We gathered the fruit, hung braided onions from the basement ceiling, filled the potato bin and kept the squash at the temperature prescribed in the garden books.

It wasn't much of a harvest, when Canada reaped grain and stored other foodstuffs in millions of bushels, and cattle fattened on the bunch grass of the Alberta foothills and the Cariboo ranges. Still, we enjoyed a figment of independence. Come what might, we would be nourished until spring.



linocut image by Marion Lea Jamieson

Well Done, Shawnigan!

Shelagh/Shemama Bell-Irving
Laketrust

300+ charcoal socks have left to various lakes and rivers on Vancouver Island. I'm just about out of my charcoal made in my 50 gallon barrel kiln so donations of garbage bags of dry fir cones are gratefully accepted. Email me for drop off.

I will start burning when it's safe to do so. I can also bring my kiln

to you for a donation and you can then use the charcoal however you like. Charcoal not only cleans water, but it also cleans air and soil, it can be soaked in a liquid fertilizer to become biochar for your gardens and hold 70% more water so you water less. Charcoal can settle your tummy. Charcoal can clean your body of toxins when eaten in small amounts. Charcoal can absorb Glyphosate

and is being used in forest fire areas to absorb the PFAS from the fire retardant.

First Nations did understory burnings to reduce fire fuel and create charcoal that grabs nutrients from the rain and keeps the forest floor damp to prevent fires. Smart. Quamichan lake Art Mann Park is algae free and I can see the bottom of the beach in 7 weeks. Amazing. Thank you to the people who donated, I will be printing up pamphlets

that explain charcoal and its uses. Rains will be coming soon, and pretty little hydrocarbon (oil) rainbows will be showing up. I sprinkle charcoal on the rainbows and within minutes the rainbows are absorbed and the charcoal is heading down a drain to gobble up more drippings from our cars.

Socks are available until I run out of charcoal, from the road at 1784 East Shawnigan or out on my log boom wetlands across from

Memory island. Charcoal is one solution to our pollution. It takes a village to clean Shawnigan Lake.

Thank you for being my village.

laketrust@shaw.ca
<https://youtube.com/@shemamabellirving2671?si=Lg4ma1j3Fh6v8I5>

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Shawnigan Focus

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.

September 2025 Report

Department Members Attended
22 Incidents in September

- Monday, Sept 1 – Smoke in House on Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Friday, Sept 5 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Sept 6, - 1st Responder off Treit Rd
- Monday, Sept 8 - 1st Responder off Sooke Lake Rd
- Monday, Sept 8 - 1st Responder off Carlton Rd
- Thursday, Sept 11 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Sept 11 - 1st Responder off Terrace Rd
- Friday, Sept 12 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Sept 12 - 1st Responder off Wallbank Rd
- Saturday, Sept 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Sept 13 - 1st Responder off Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Saturday, Sept 13 - 1st Responder off Jersey Rd
- Tuesday, Sept 16 – Alarms Activated on Sherburn Rd
- Wednesday, Sept 17 - 1st Responder off Elford Rd
- Thursday, Sept 18 - 1st Responder off Silver Mine Rd
- Friday, Sept 19 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Monday, Sept 20 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Monday, Sept 20 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Sept 23 - 1st Responder off Gregory Rd
- Tuesday, Sept 23 - 1st Responder off Deloume Rd
- Tuesday, Sept 23 - 1st Responder off Northgate Rd
- Wednesday, Sept 24 – Assistance on Meadowview Rd

October Events at The Malahat Legion

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion

It's a busy and meaningful week at the Malahat Legion in Cobble Hill, running from October 19th to 26th

On Wednesday, October 22nd, the Legion will hold a ceremony at the Cobble Hill Cenotaph at 11:00 a.m. to honour soldiers who lost their lives in non-combat situations. This moving tribute remembers heroes like Corporal Nathan Frank Cirillo, who was tragically killed while on ceremonial duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa.

The following evening, Thursday, October 23rd, is the annual Veterans Dinner. Around 80 veterans and guests will enjoy a delicious roast beef dinner with dessert, catered by the South Cowichan Seniors Group. All veterans are welcome, and Malahat Legion Veterans will receive their invitations by email.

On Friday, October 24th, the monthly Friday Night Dinner brings a fun Kitchen Party with Tom Morrison and his band. Guests can choose from beef stew or four-cheese meat lasagna, served before the music begins. Everyone is welcome



L-R: CORPORAL NATHAN CIRILLO, ORGANIZER BOB COLLINS AND COLOUR PARTY MARCHING TO THE CENOTAPH

- just register through the region's website.

To wrap up the month, Friday, October 31st marks the start of the National Poppy Campaign. Volunteers will help prepare about 6,000 poppy envelopes for the local community. As a thank-you, the Legion will provide a free sandwich lunch for all helpers.

Free lunch followed by Poppy Stuffing starts noon, October 15th. The Malahat Legion invites everyone to come out, connect, and support these community events. Membership isn't required—just bring your friends, your appetite, and your community spirit! For more information or to register, visit the [Malahat Legion Website](http://MalahatLegionWebsite)



TOP: YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, BOTTOM: L - SAMPLE POPPIES STUFFED IN ENVELOPE. 6,000 ENVELOPES READY FOR POSTING

Shawnigan Lake CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Fall Festival & MARKET

Shawnigan Lake Community Centre
Sunday, October 19th 11:30AM-3:00PM

FOOD * GAMES * CSAG STORY TELLER
FACE PAINTING * BOULDERING WALL * INFLATABLE FUN
FUN FOR EVERYONE !!

ADMISSION BY DONATION FOR FOOD BANK

Visit our Market where 18+ LOCAL VENDORS offer seasonal items including crafts, gifts, baked surprises and more!



Free Draw
DOOR PRIZE

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www.shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca
info@shawniganlakecommunityassociation.ca

Hosted by the SLCA - Shawnigan Lake Community Association

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Updates from the Shawnigan Basin Society - Your Community Watershed Group

Marcy Fenske
Shawnigan Basin Society

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is your local non-profit environmental stewardship group. Founded in 2012, our mission is to protect the long-term health and safety of the Shawnigan Lake Community Watershed and the drinking water it provides. Our office is located in the heart of the village.

Here are some of the projects we are currently working on:

Invasive Aquatic Plant Species: Conducting cold water (<10C) Watermilfoil removal trials and drone surveys to map dense colonies. Summer clearing is not recommended as it proliferates growth and spread.



Shawnigan Basin Society

30x30 Watershed Goal:

Following the principle of Ecological-Based Watershed Planning, SBS aims to protect 30% of the upper watershed by 2030. We are actively collaborating with our MLA Dana Lajeunesse, CVRD staff, Malahat Nation, and other major stakeholders in the watershed and updating GIS and property boundary data to support this work.

Monitoring & Salmon Health: Monthly weir and inflow creek inspections show clear, cool waters with Coho Salmon fry present - a sensitive species. Lake and weir levels have been healthy this summer

with sufficient downstream flow. We are investigating turbid water entering South Shawnigan Creek at the West Shawnigan Lake Road bridge.

Water Testing: Partnering with CVRD to sample three lake sites. Results (available on [CVRD's Water Quality webpage](#)) show fecal coliform levels in the lake are above Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines, suggesting septic system failure contributions. Wildlife sources may also play a role.

Community Education: Sharing stewardship information at lakefront mailbox centres to encourage septic system servicing, nutrient reduction and shoreline restoration. SBS Directors also received training for Watersheds Canada's

Natural Edge Program this summer to better assist homeowners with shoreline restoration of native vegetation.

Youth Outreach: Working with local schools to increase awareness and inspire youth to learn about watershed issues and the growth of our community through classroom visits and field trips.

Interested in volunteering?

SBS is 100% volunteer-based and we could use some help. We are at an exciting stage and welcome community members with skills or interest in:

- Administration Support
- Web Management & Media
- Fundraising & Membership Drives

- Forestry, Conservation, Watershed/Aquatic Health Expertise

Support SBS

Since CVRD funding ended in 2018, dedicated Directors and community members have sustained SBS through grants, fundraising, donations and memberships. A return of some CVRD funding in 2024 has been helpful for a portion of annual needs.

Community support is essential to SBS, allowing us to continue advocating for watershed protection and drinking water safety on behalf of everyone who depends on it. Memberships are \$20/year, and donations of any size are deeply appreciated. Visit shawniganbasinsociety.org to learn more, connect or contribute.

Veterans' Remembrance Cross Placements 2025

Mike Bieling
Coordinator

The volunteer groups who organize the Cowichan Valley's annual Veterans' Remembrance Cross placements in our local cemeteries have released the schedule for their 2025 commemorations, starting the last weekend of October.

Setting up small white crosses, decorated with a cedar sprig and lapel poppy, on the graves of veterans interred in local cemeteries, and delivering each a smart salute by a uniformed cadet or Legion member, is a Cowichan tradition going back to the early 1950's. It began at Mountain View Cemetery in North Cowichan, but since the early 1990's, nearly all of the churchyards and public cemeteries have begun holding their own remembrance cross placements.

Cross placements in most of South Cowichan's cemeteries will begin on Saturday, October 25th, at St. Andrew's Churchyard in Cowichan Station at 11:00 a.m.

That will be followed by Shawnigan Cemetery at 1:00 p.m., the Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery (the Heritage Museum) at 1:50 p.m., and St. Francis Xavier Church in Mill Bay at around 2:00 p.m. Two veterans' graves at Cobble Hill's James Dougan Memorial Cemetery will also be marked. In all, 178 crosses will be set up by

volunteers from the Mill Bay/Malahat Historical Society, members of Malahat Legion Branch 134, and Air Cadets from 744 Squadron

The cross placements at Mountain View Cemetery and St. Mary's, Somenos, Churchyard are set for Sunday, October 26th, immediately following the Poppy Flag raising at Duncan City Hall at 1:00 p.m. Members of the 744 (Cowichan) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, supported by the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Admiral Mainguy, St. John's Ambulance Youth Brigade, and other volunteers will meet by the Legion Section at Mountain View Cemetery to honour the almost 600 veterans identified there, and march to St. Mary's for the

83 veterans there.

The next group of veterans' crosses will be set up at All Saints' Churchyard in Westholme at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 1st. Members of Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Admiral Mainguy and the Westholme community will honour their namesake, Vice-Admiral E. Rollo Mainguy, and 56 other veterans including his father, BCPP Cst. Daniel Wishart Mainguy. Piper Joel Bailey of Chemainus will be present to conclude the ceremony in Westholme's little riverside churchyard

St. Peter's Church, Quamichan, in Duncan will have parish volunteers set crosses on the plots of 281 veterans on Friday, October 31st at 10:00 a.m. This year, St. Peter's will again host their popular Cemetery Tea and Tour, and possibly an exhibit about the remarkable military men and women interred in this historic churchyard, starting at 2:00 p.m., November 11th.

St. John the Baptist Church in Cobble Hill (250-743-3095) places over 100 veterans' crosses in their churchyard as a parish



Members of 744 (Cowichan) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron placing Veterans' Remembrance Crosses at St. Francis Xavier Church, Mill Bay, B.C. (Photo: M. Bieling)

activity, following the 10:00 a.m. Remembrance Sunday service on the Sunday before Remembrance Day, which falls on November 9th this year.

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 191 (Chemainus) (250-246-4532) places crosses on 152 veterans' graves at St. Michael and All Angels/Chemainus Cemetery in Chemainus each year. The Legion office can provide further details regarding their plan for this year.

Three Veterans' Remembrance Crosses are also placed informally at the Queen Margaret School

Chapel for school co-founder Norah Denny, her sister Iris, and their mother, Emily Barclay Denny, and three more for members of the Aitken family resting at Maple Bay's Pioneer Cemetery.

We invite the public to attend these commemorations, or visit a community cemetery between Remembrance Day and late November to see the crosses set up. To add the name and burial location of any Cowichan Valley veteran to the list to receive a white cross, contact Mike Bieling at 250-748-5031 or oldcemeteryian@shaw.ca.

Garth Harvey

Ed note:

When Garth Harvey wrote this article in 2011, he was 90 years old. He and his wife, Gladys, were long time volunteers in Shawnigan, publishing the Shawnigan Community Crier; serving on the board of the Shawnigan Lake Historical Society

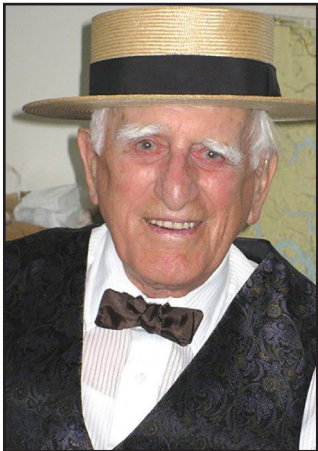
and were very involved with establishing and volunteering with the Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society. Garth continued to be a volunteer at the Museum until his passing in 2018. Garth was a volunteer in the community for 36 years.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

has written, "It is one of the beautiful compensations of life, that no man sincerely try to help another without helping himself." To me this is a win-win situation. Our philosophy reflects our belief that people form a whole as a community, are nourished by the interdependence that comes from sharing

their gifts and strengths, and by what they can give away.

Marshal McLuhan says, "There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew." H.E. Luccock says, "No man can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it." No one can do it alone. We need each other. Have a gift day.



Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

In August, there were over 700 visitors to the museum! It was a great opportunity for us to show off the expanded space. We continue to re-organize and enhance...

We are also 'testing' programming, and capacity. We held our first Seniors' Soup and Social, in September, which was very successful. We plan to hold these once a month and it will be 'first come, first serve' sign up, as we will limit the number to 30 for these events. Watch our facebook and web page for more details.

On October 17th, at 1pm, Lois Thompson will give a tea and talk

about 'Dunty the Ghost'. The speaker is Lois Thompson, a Shawnigan local. The talk will be roughly 20 minutes. Let us know if you would like to attend. Attendance is by donation. Email: museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com

If you are a teacher, we will be ready to offer school programming, again, in the spring of 2026. Please reach out if you wish to book a class visit.

If you are looking for a great place to volunteer, let us know. There is a variety of ways that you can help...some examples: give a talk; interact with visitors; help on soup days. The museum is all about community.



Museum Visitors check out some of the books in the Community Living Room

Museum Items for Sale

At the completion of the Museum Expansion (Project Impact), there were a number of items that were not used that are now for sale.

These items are brand new. Listed price is based on wholesale cost. Offers are encouraged. To view these items, contact museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com or call 250-743-8675. The Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 - 3:30.

- Soffit (16"x144") 50 @ \$20.00
- Feminine Hygiene Disposal Units 2@\$50.00
- Pot lights Fixtures 6@\$108.00
- Juno connector 6@\$50.00
- Trim 6 \$60.00
- Door Sweep 36" brush 4@\$23.00
- 84" rubber 8@\$25.00
- Steel Door 1@\$671.00
- Steel Door Frame 1@\$135.00
- Aluminum Vents 9" 2@\$65.00
- 12" x 14" 6@\$75.00
- Armstrong T-Bar 48" 9@\$6.55
- DKPS-2A Power Supply 2@\$264.26

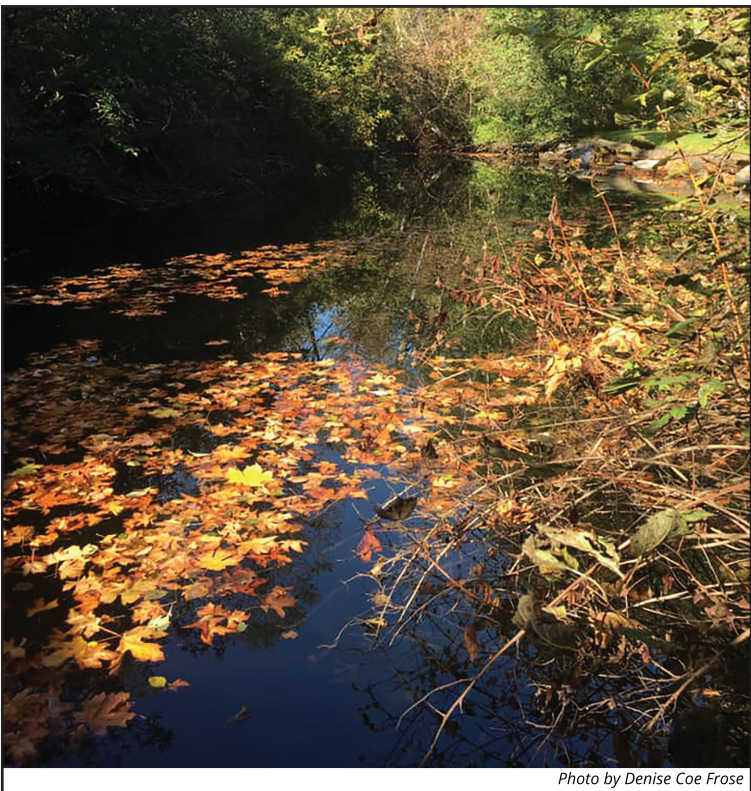


Photo by Denise Coe Froese

"If your'e going to get out there and not be prepared to fail, you're missing out in life."

Failure is half the fun."

Jann Arden



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Your Community will Significantly Miss You... Thank You Bill

Twenty-three years ago I was walking down the street that I live on. Approaching me was a dishevelled looking man me with his battered old bike. We introduced ourselves. When I asked him what his name was, he replied "William or I'm usually called Bill or sometimes Will." I asked which he preferred and he replied "Will". I thought that was so fitting, as Bill was such an ordinary name. And he was definitely not an ordinary person. From that day forward, Will it was.

As years went by, Will and his bike were seldom seen apart. He rode it everywhere, even regularly to Duncan,

What a long distance that was - but not for him. Over a period of time, he told me what his routine was - at least usually was.

On specific days of the week, he could be seen walking or biking around the lake gathering litter (his irritant), tins and bottles (his joy). Then Will would place what he found into one of the patched and repatched thin black garbage bags that he had hidden in the bushes. Then off to the next stretch of road and another bag waiting. Once a week, he would gather all of his findings into thicker (not always) and larger plastic bags. His magic shone through when he precariously

balanced his bags, full of his good intentions, on his bike with a strong pole attached across the handlebars and a rat trap on the back which held a box securely in place for more goods to carry. Any passers-by could only wonder how he kept his huge load stable! An unquestionably intricate sight to see.

Will always had time to chat, was kind to all, especially mother earth, his favourite, and had a heart as big as the sky. He was thoughtful to most everyone he knew. Will preferred to give rather than to receive. His generosity was first and foremost. Our community is a better place because he lived

here. I think he started "recycling" before there ever was litter or anything to recycle!

Before choosing Shawnigan Lake as his permanent home, Will completed seven years of education at the University of British Columbia to become a geologist. After that, he went on to obtain his teaching certificate. He was a brilliant man who continually kept on learning until his passing. His knowledge was endless on almost all topics.

Will had the memory of an elephant. Meet him once and, years later, he would greet you with your name.

When the festive days of the year arrived such as Thanksgiving or Christmas, Will would be welcomed to share a fine dinner at the home of his friend James. On these special occasions, other neighborhood friends would accompany him at the table. Also, on some warm summer days, he would occasionally join some of them in a delicious BBQ. James considered him a great friend.

Bill was a very kind and gentle man. A private, caring person but open to his good friends which were many. William was the greatest steward our community has ever had. He will be forever missed.



The Belted Kingfisher - This Bird Deserves Its Name

The Wild Side

Dave Hutchison (from 2011)



Photo by Teddy Llovet – Google Images

I don't know if these perky creatures reside here all year but they are commonly seen around the lake during fall and winter. Recently, I saw one sitting on a dock bench. The hungry bird held a wriggling fish in its beak that looked to be about half as big as it was. It was repeatedly belting the unfortunate fish against the bench rail. After about a dozen whacks the fish was subdued enough to be swallowed whole.



Photo by Dennis Ancinec – Google Images

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**
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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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.
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No Winner!

Last month's photo was the bridge over Shawnigan Creek on West Shawnigan Lake Road



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