



Shawnigan-Showe'luqun Focus

Volume Sixteen- Issue Twelve

December 2025 Shts'ulwe'sum
"The time to put paddles away"

A Non-Profit Community Publication

The Shawnigan Lake Museum 2nd Annual Art Show

Featuring four talented artists



Russ Treloar

Based in his hometown of Victoria, BC, Russ is a realist painter, illustrator, and multidisciplinary designer. He is also an avid film-goer with a passion for movies, which have been a major source of inspiration for his art.



Ada Chung

Ada Chung is a realist landscape oil painter and a recent resident of Vancouver Island. Her work primarily focuses on capturing the distinctive energy of each region and its emotional resonance. Born and raised in British Columbia's interior, her work is deeply influenced by the encouragement of artist parents and her love of wild places.



Jon Gugin

Jon is a graphic designer and illustrator working on Vancouver Island. He has worked on branding and illustration projects for craft breweries, distillers, bands, and other businesses, locally and internationally. In the past 18+ years he has designed for all types of print and web projects, including but not limited to branding, packaging, clothing, websites, and poster art.



Sean Flynn Behnson

Since the very first crayon he picked up, and scribbled coloured nonsense to paper, Sean has wanted to be an artist. Throughout the years, he's spent his artistic time delving into unique mediums, trying to find his flair. His canvas types have included scrap wood, driftwood, vinyl records, discarded mirrors, and classic stretched canvas.



Friday, December 12 — 1 pm - 7 pm
Saturday, December 13 — 10 am - 3:30 pm

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Lori Treloar
Executive Director

In November, we held our third monthly seniors' soup social. It was a very lovely event. The last one for 2025 is December 18th. In the new year, soup socials will resume in February. There is a limit of 30 people for each lunch, and it is 'first come, first served' - people must sign up in advance. \$5 each.

Tuesday, December 2nd is Giving Tuesday, a "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world". If you believe in the museum, and its benefit to the community, please consider a donation to the museum.

December 12th – Check out the Second Annual Art Show at the museum. We have four very talented young artists (each with a Shawnigan connection) participating. It will be a great show, just in time for Christmas shopping. The event opens on December 12th and the art will likely stay up until the 17th. We encourage you to check it out.

A heartfelt thank you to our member Bernie Dinter who gave us a discount on a beautiful Dwarf Nordman Fir. This tree will fit into the dry riverbed landscape in front of the building. And, as a dwarf species, it won't outgrow the space.

Since the museum re-opened, after the expansion project, there has been

a steady flow of people through the museum. If you haven't visited yet, we encourage you to do so. The museum will be open until December 20th. After that, it will close until February 3, 2026. January is our time to reorganize; add new spaces and exhibits; do a thorough clean and prepare for visitors...and there are more surprises to come.

The museum has one paid staff – volunteers make up the rest of the team, and we have an amazing crew of volunteers! We couldn't do what we do without their help. Let us know if you are interested in being part of our team.

We wish everyone a happy holiday! season!

South Cowichan Library

Monica Finn
South Cowichan Library
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southcowichan@virl.bc.ca

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

Mon & Tue 10-6

Wed & Thu 10-7

Fri & Sat 10-6

HOLIDAY HOURS:

Dec 24: Closed after 1pm

Dec 25 & 26: Closed

Dec 31: Closed after 1pm

Jan 1: Closed

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 Dec 11 meeting will be about Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese.

Crafts for Kids is happening on Saturday, Dec 13, between 10:30am and noon. Drop in and create an art project or craft to show your family and friends!

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.

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.

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.

The library stocks donated period products in the washroom.

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

Shawnigan Focus Weather — November 2025

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

	Nov Normal	Cigarmaker's Bay		Discovery School		Butler Road		Museum		Shawnigan Area Average	
		2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Average High	8.5	9.2	8.3	10.2	9.2	9.4	8.8	9.9	8.9	9.7	8.8
Average Low	2.6	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.6	2.7	2.8	4.5	3.8	3.7	3.5
Extreme High	20.0	13.5	13.1	14.4	14.9	13.4	13.8	14.5	14.2	14.0	14.0
Extreme Low	-15.6	0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.8	-0.8	-1.4	0.8	-0.8	0.0	-0.8
Precipitation	182.7	206.1	213.4	152.7	181.9	204.2	198.0	139.0	187.4	175.5	195.2
Days w precip	22	24	24	24	24	24	22	24	22	24	23.0
Year Precip	1056.2	1132.8	1379.0	837.1	1067.6	970.7	1177.3	738.1	1048.2	919.7	1168.0
Precip since Oct 1	340.1	383.1	427.4	276.5	339.7	360.9	378.1	253.9	340.6	318.6	371.5
Rank since 1914: 22 nd warmest, 56 th wettest											
		Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30					
Lake Temperature		11°	10°	10°	9°	7°					
Lake Temperature 2024		11°	10°	9°	8°	7°					
Surface Elevation		115.95	116.07	116.13	116.12	116.38					
Surface Elevation 2024		116.16	116.24	116.61	116.66	116.66					

Comments

November 2025 ended up being fairly typical, compared to the long time averages.

The warmest day was on the the 9th, with temperatures hovering near 14°. The daytime temperature exeeded 10° on 10 days. The coolest night was also on the last day of the month with temperatures hovering just above or below freezing.

With close to normal number of rainy days, the monthly total was very close to average. There were 4 days when just over 30mm was recorded in some areas. So far, the yearly total for rainfall is now running about 90% of normal - but stil below last year's total at this time of the year.

The lake levels have started to rise, but sstill about 28 cm below the long time average. The weir does not control the lake level in November. Increased flow in the outlet has allowed for the salmon transported above the falls by the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society to move into the lake and up the tributaries to spawn.

We now enter the “dark time of the year. Over the next 3 weeks the daylight hours hover close to 8 hours and 20 minutes . Sunset moves to the earliest times of the year for 8 days starting on December 7th when the sun goes down at 4:18 pm.

Check out the Focus Website!

Easy to navigate.....read past issues!

ShawniganFocus.ca

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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.*

While inland Canadians, long hardened to ice and blizzard, envy our genial climate and believe that it spoils us, few of them have seen its cranky moods. Few Victorians, indeed, can remember the historic winter of 1916, when the city was paralyzed overnight, the school closed, the youngsters enraptured by three feet of snow. Disaster on that scale did not occur again, but we seldom escaped snowfall of minor, manageable depth.

Not long after our mighty oaks fell, we were shovelling a narrow path from the house to the lane and brushing snow off our shrubs before it could break them. Its quality was much inferior to the continental variety - so adhesive, so filled with moisture and so heavy that, shovelling it, we risked cardiac arrest. On the other hand, it soon melted and then, in a week of frost, ponderous icicles hung from branches above our reach and

tore them from the trunks.

Snow might fall even before Christmas, and once the thermometer registered zero Fahrenheit in October. Four of our apple trees were killed. At the December solstice, when the planet began to turn its northern flank southward, I wondered, absurdly, how long its inhabitants could rely on this convenient routine, which, after all, had sometimes changed in the past, with spectacular results. But

lengthening daylight by mid-January reassured me.

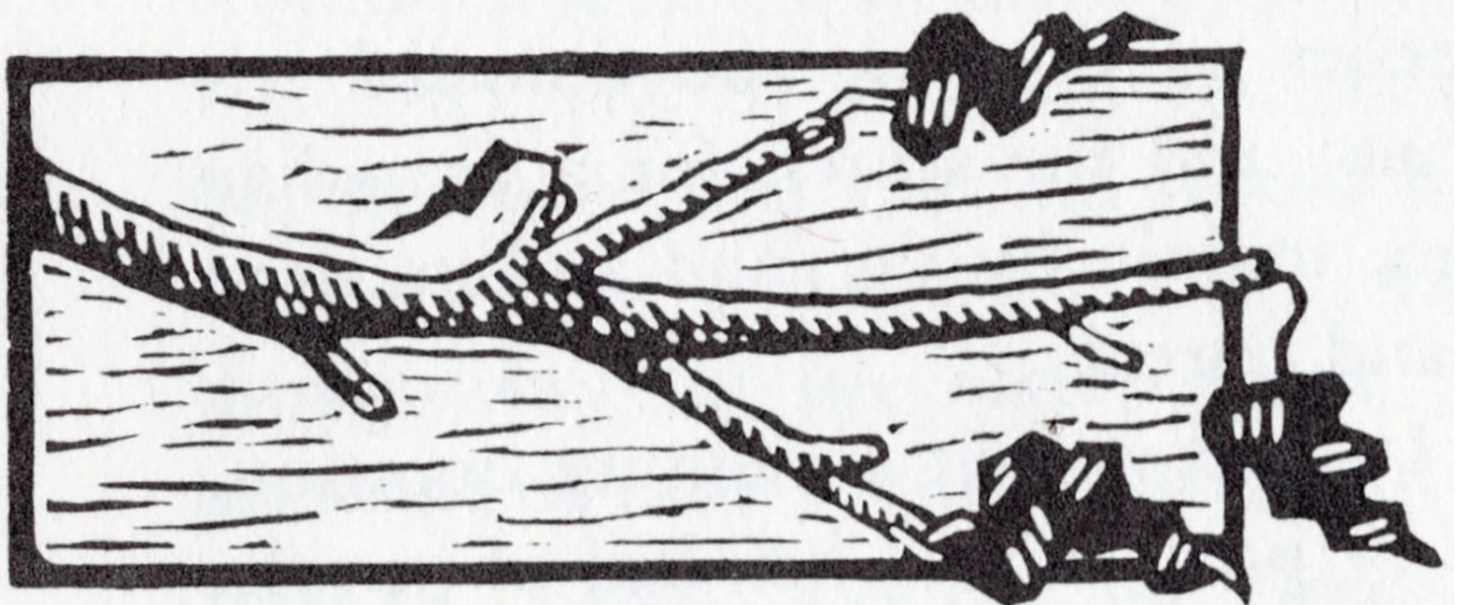
In our young days we welcomed the occasional visits of Canadian winter. They made us appreciate our unearned coastal privileges. Between the plum trees of the Rogers orchard - a challenging hazard - we rode sleighs downhill, our young children on our backs, and we skated over the frozen swamp at the bottom of the lane. The countryside, dressed in white,

looked as beautiful as the rest of Canada, the sun radiant, every twig bejewelled, tree shadows cleanly printed on the snow.

But our enjoyment of the national climate was always brief. Unlike the inlanders, we preferred the mild, damp, misty atmosphere of the seacoast. Then, at night, we heard the fog horns of Juan de Fuca Strait groaning like wounded marine animals on the graveyard of the Pacific where many good

ships had perished. What vessels were now struggling through the narrow gateway to the continent? Some of them, even with radar equipment, were likely to shatter against the Island rocks.

Our fogs, said Rawling, could not be compared to the real peasoupers of his native London, but "they're good enough," he added, with giggles and dimples, "for a poor little colony like Canada." Anyhow, they were thick enough for us.



Linocut by Marion Dahl

*Christmas
is not as
much about
opening our
presents as
opening our
hearts*

*~Janice
Maeditere*



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It's true

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Join us in our annual
Shawnigan Lake Volunteer Fire Department

SANTA RUN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
6 pm to 9 pm

Santa & his team will be spreading holiday cheer throughout the community - & with a little holiday magic, he'll begin his journey in three locations at the same time!!

- Beach Estates: Starting at Ceylon Road, Santa makes his way to Linden Lane.
- East side: Santa begins in the Village, down to Wallbank Road, south to Galland Road, then north to the Burnum Park area.
- South end: Santa starts at Shawnigan Station then over to the salt shack in Cougar Ridge.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD & CASH DONATIONS
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What is Your Safety Letter to Santa Saying...?

Dear Santa...

Sarah Davidge-Cardinal
Executive Director
South Community
Policing Advisory Society
(SCCPAS)

RCMP – Santa recommends for the safety of your home, lock your doors, garage doors and include the inside access door to your home. Lock Out Crime - Lock your vehicles and remove all valuables, so thieves cannot steal your Christmas joy.

RCMP/Fire/EMT – Give the Gift of Safety, put a Visible Reflective House # Sign on your Christmas List – Get a free medium Pizza for yourself or to share from Panago Pizza, Mill Bay. Be Visible Be Found.

Community Policing – Hello and how are you today? Spreading Christmas care – Free Friendly Phone Call - daily between 9:00-10:30 a.m. from our volunteers 7 days a week. Ring Ring, yes, it's that easy to join up.

Fire Department and



Fire Fighters - Remind everyone to give water to their thirsty indoor live Christmas Tree and keep all plugs away from water sources. Enjoy beautiful candles, and the light they give, but remember to extinguish them before retiring for your long winter's nap.

Community Policing Speed Watch - Remind those speeding to the next red light or traffic jam, that it's costly to travel faster than Santa's sleigh, how can you enjoy the ride... leave time...less stress and safer roads for all. It is good to give, so if you want to, join us and Volunteer in 2026 stop by our office and sign up to support road safety.

ICBC Campaigns– Drunk Driving Awareness- celebrating over the Holiday Season? Where's your car? Oh, at home parked safely waiting for my arrival by taxi or a designated driver. Santa says; Thank you for making the roads safer.

Distracted Driving - Make the call before you drive or take a break, pull over, so you don't have to get pulled over. Let us all have a Safe Holiday Season.

Block Watch - Please give all the dedicated Leads and Co-Leads a special gift of "Thank you" in their stockings for actively participating in keeping their neighbourhood, and our community, safer where we live, work and play. It takes a community.

RCMP Scams and Fraud Awareness Division – The grinch wouldn't do that at Christmas? oh yes, they will, safeguard your credit cards, and personal information. Reminder to be aware that during the Holiday Season all those offers that seem to be too good to be true, definitely are. When in doubt check it out.

Shopping Centre and Store Owners - Everyone is hustling and bustling, highly motivated to get that last parking spot, that perfect Christmas present and all the trimmings. Kindness gets you on Santa's Nice List. Naughty gets you a lump of coal.

Community Policing would appreciate being on your New Year Resolution List – Join us to Volunteer and get active in your community.

I heard him exclaim as he drove the speed limit out of sight... A Safe Christmas to All and to All A Safe Night

Merry Christmas and have a Safe Holiday Season from all of us at Community Policing in the Cowichan Valley. All the Best for 2026 - Happy New Year...!

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.

November 2025 Report
Department Members Attended
36 Incidents in September

- Saturday, Nov 1 - 1st Responder off Malta Rd.
- Saturday, Nov 1 - 1st Responder off Galland Rd
- Saturday, Nov 1 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Nov 2 - 1st Responder off Sylvester Rd
- Sunday, Nov 2 – Burning Complaint on Deloume Rd
- Sunday, Nov 2 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Sunday, Nov 2 – MVI on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Monday, Nov 3 – Chimney Fire on Carlton Dr
- Monday, Nov 3 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 4 – Vehicle Fire on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 4 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 5 – MVI on W Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 6 – Hydro Lines on Burnham Rd
- Friday, Nov 7 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Sunday, Nov 9 – Alarms Activated on Berger Rd
- Monday, Nov 10 – Alarms Activated on Fitzgerald Rd
- Monday, Nov 10 – Alarms Activated on Fitzgerald Rd
- Monday, Nov 10 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 11 - 1st Responder off Renfrew Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 11 – Burning Complaint on Cameron-Taggart Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 12 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd
- Thursday, Nov 13 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Thursday, Nov 13 – MVI on Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Friday, Nov 14 – Alarms Activated on Sherburn Rd
- Saturday, Nov 15 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Nov 15 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Tuesday, Nov 18 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Wednesday, Nov 19 – Burning Complaint on Lampman Rd
- Friday, Nov 21 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Nov 22 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd
- Saturday, Nov 22 - 1st Responder off Ingot Dr
- Saturday, Nov 22 - 1st Responder off Silvermine Rd
- Sunday, Nov 23 - 1st Responder off Shawnigan Lake Rd

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this local publication!
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Remembrance Day: A Century of Tribute and Tradition

Jeff Lydiatt
Malahat Legion



2025 Poppy Taggers: Left- Veteran Nora Smart who turns 100 in December Right-Daughter of Malahat Volunteer.

It’s striking how the Remembrance Day ceremony remains deeply rooted in tradition. Since the first Armistice Day observance in 1919—held on November 11th at 11 am—the essentials of the ceremony have changed little. To clarify, the historic Armistice that ended World War I was actually signed a year earlier, on November 11, 1918, in a railway carriage in the Compiègne Forest, France. The armistice was agreed early that morning and took

effect six hours later, at what has become immortalized as “the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month”. Early ceremonies centred on a solemn two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths, evolving over time into public gatherings expressing both mourning and respect for the fallen. Poppy wreaths, now a powerful Commonwealth symbol, represent both the eternal cycle of life and remembrance: their circular shape evokes eternity, while the poppy itself—enshrined by the poem “In Flanders Fields”—became a symbol of sacrifice after World War I. Canadian Legions, including our own in Shawnigan Lake, have adapted the ceremony to focus support on veterans and RCMP members

who have served our country, chiefly through the National Poppy Campaign. At the Malahat Legion, our annual tradition starts in October with community volunteers helping to assemble 6,000 envelopes containing poppies to raise funds for local veterans. This campaign culminates at the Cobble Hill cenotaph with a ceremony echoing traditions observed nationwide. A longstanding part of these events is the Veteran’s Dinner, where meal is offered to veterans, RCMP, spouses and caregivers. Integral to this dinner is the traditional Missing Man Table, known also as the “Fallen Comrade Table.” This symbolizes and honors those who are prisoners of war, missing in action, or have died in service. At its centre is a single empty chair, a powerful reminder that these

individuals are absent yet never forgotten—always with us in spirit. The National Poppy Campaign officially launches each year on October 31 and runs until Remembrance Day. As part of the campaign, veterans and community members join together in “tagging” the community—distributing poppies and gratefully receiving donations to support the Poppy Fund. This year, a touching moment was captured with one of our elder veterans tagging alongside the daughter of a Legion volunteer, both helping out at different times to keep the tradition alive. Local students are also involved, entering poster and essay contests with cash prizes; this year, \$1,350 was awarded to recognize their contributions. Early results indicate that this year’s donations to



6000 envelopes ready to mail

the Poppy Fund have surpassed all previous records. The Malahat Legion sincerely thanks everyone for their generosity and commitment to supporting veterans in need.



Fallen Comrade Table

December 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:

- Sunday, November 30th – Christmas Market 10 AM to 3 PM. Free for everyone.
- Saturday, December 13th – Our popular Hams & Turkeys meat draw 3-5 PM.
- Closed Week of December 28th. Open as usual Friday, January 2nd, 2026
- The Malahat Legion wishes everyone the best for Christmas and a happy New Year.
- January 23rd, 2026 – Start out the New Year with our 6-piece Country and Western Band and dinner.
- [Our event calendar](#)

More Legion events are available at
Upcoming Legion Events

Opinion

Eric J Ronse
Shawnigan Lake

Two letters regarding “rail restoration” with both pro & con.

The letter penned by Joe Harvey makes the argument that the rail system would require half a million riders. Rick Baker makes an excellent case as to why we ought to proceed now with the restoration.

I am swayed by Mr. Baker’s points, not only because I agree, but because it is self-evident that the line will be restored in the not-too-distant future (one generation).

Imagine living in Ladysmith and opting for rail rather than car. No more Malahat headaches, no more snow tires or chains during the winter months. The time spent on the train will allow the rider to focus on the workday ahead, or simply to enjoy the view.

Why are countries such as Belgium, Switzerland and Sweden fully integrated with train transport? It is not only because half a million people will suddenly ride a train.

Like all things new, there would be a period of familiarization. Think of the benefit of taking an ever-growing number of gas spewing cars off the road. This ought to be given serious consideration by our leaders. Unfortunately, no reply has been accorded to me by the provincial NDP member responsible for transportation.

I fear that absent a true commitment by the current government, the matter will simply be left to die and the coming generation will be saddled to replicate Vancouver’s model of the “elevated sky train”. Each “T Support” is needed there because no land was available. The cost? Prohibitive!

Let us take the reins and remediate the rail line.

South Cowichan Youth Outreach

John Robertson
*Director
Shawnigan Basin Society*

As your local non-profit environmental stewardship group, the Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) works to protect and advocate for the health and safety of the Shawnigan Lake Community Watershed and the South Cowichan region. Our organization puts a lot of effort into informing our community regarding issues that impact our domestic water supply and the ecosystems that provide it. Our monthly submission to the Shawnigan Focus is part of that work.

Although the effects of climate change are largely reported on a global scale, the ultimate impacts are experienced most at the local level, disrupting communities

as citizens pursue their work, education, and recreation. The impacts of persistent drought through the summers or the deluge of atmospheric rivers through the winter season have lasting consequences to which our community must respond. Collectively we are responsible to act from an informed position, using analysis and critical thinking to support our understanding and decisions.

This month I would like to share with you our work in engaging with the youth of our community to promote understanding of conservation issues and encourage involvement with protecting water resources and natural ecosystems. The Shawnigan Basin Society believes that involving young people in our work is a critical component

of public advocacy and education. Our public education system provides effective instruction in environmental sciences and teachers strive to make sure the information in the curriculum translates to the lived experiences of young people as they grow and learn in our neighbourhoods.

The SBS currently works with educators and schools in South Cowichan through classroom talks, environmental camps, and individual mentorship and research support. They connect what students learn in class to the Shawnigan Lake community. Members of the SBS present information to students on the topics of natural history, fish and wildlife, watershed health and

protection, and the effects of climate change in our community. We have partnered with teachers from Frances Kelsey Secondary School, St. John's Academy, and Shawnigan Lake School. Most recently we participated in St John's Academy ECO Camp, where several SBS members provided instruction on the difference between riparian shoreline and mature forest to students from 4th through 8th grade. Drone demonstrations were also provided by One Track Drone Training, showing how drones are an effective research tool. Our professional biologist and president, Dave Munday, is supporting a St John's Academy student in researching

the relationship between watermilfoil and dissolved oxygen in Shawnigan Lake. Another member is meeting with the Sustainability Council at Shawnigan Lake School to share the work and perspective of SBS with students.

Reaching out to the youth of our community is an important aspect of the SBS and we are seeking ways in which to increase our involvement with them. One goal is to convene a youth ambassador council that meets semi-regularly to discuss ongoing issues and concerns in the Shawnigan Lake watershed. If you are a student, teacher or parent and would like to get involved or become a member please email us at admin@shawniganbasinsociety.org.



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New Year's Day 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM



St. John's Academy teacher Alex Slizys and student sampling water on Shawnigan



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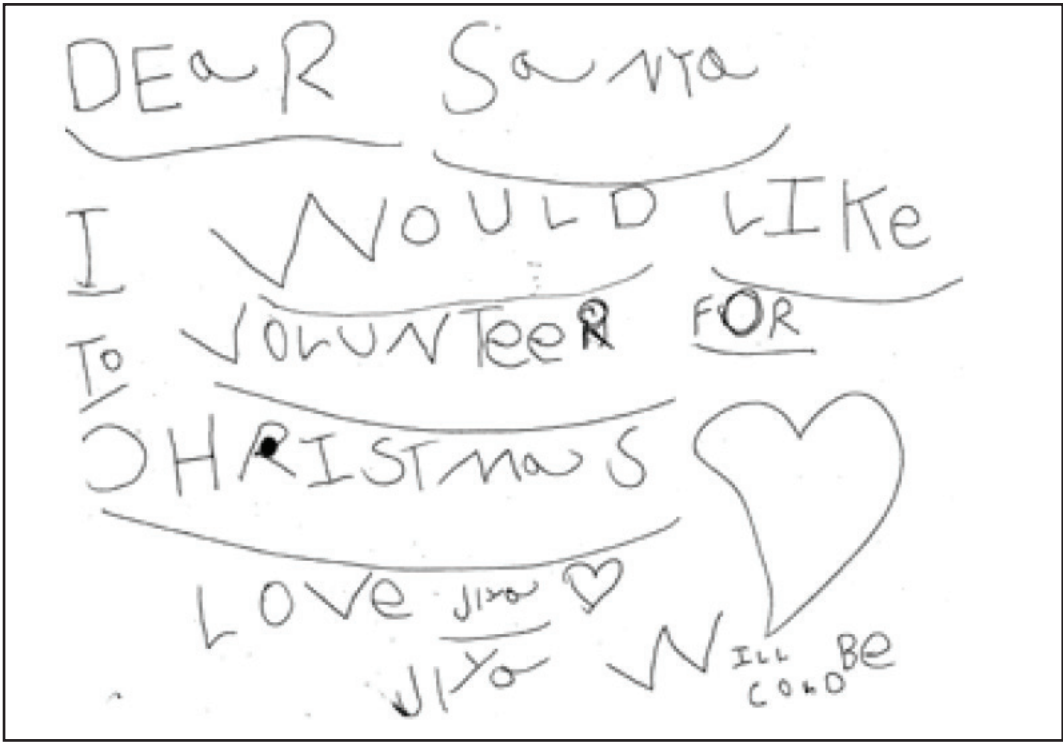
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Malahat Fire Rescue Receives Delivery of New Tactical Water Tender

Leah Waldron
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Regional District

250-746-2500 ext. 2653 or
leah.waldron@cvrld.bc.ca

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2025

Malahat Fire Rescue Receives Delivery of New Tactical Water Tender

Malahat, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is pleased to announce the delivery of a 2023 2,000-gallon Tactical Water Tender to Malahat Fire Rescue, received on October 12, 2025. A tactical water tender plays a crucial support role in firefighting operations, especially in areas where water is limited or unavailable.

The tender was purchased from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service Ltd., an Indigenous-owned and operated company based in Comox, BC that provides professional water services during wildfire season to BC Wildfire Service and provides services to local municipal fire departments.

The CVRD Board approved a contribution of \$100,000 to Malahat Fire Rescue for the acquisition of the tender. This funding was provided through the CVRD's allocation to Electoral Area A of the Community Works Fund, one of the funding streams of the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

"The delivery of the new tactical water tender represents a major investment in the safety and resilience of the Cowichan Valley," said Will Greaves, Member of Parliament for Victoria. "The tender will allow water to be delivered to where it is needed most and help ensure reliable and effective firefighting operations. We will continue to support projects that protect communities and enhance public safety across Canada."

"When local fire crews have the right tools, everyone in the community benefits," said Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities. "Our government is committed

to strengthening local



capacity and building long-term resilience, so crews are ready to respond to today's and tomorrow's challenges and keep communities safe."

CVRD Chair Kate Segall, who also represents Area A (Mill Bay/Malahat) joined Frank and Catherine Assu from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service, along with members of Malahat Fire Rescue including Fire Chief Tanya Patterson, to mark the delivery.

"This new Tactical Water Tender is a meaningful investment in the safety and resilience of the Area A community," said CVRD Chair Kate Segall. "Its ability to respond to rural fires, especially in areas with limited water access, will be critical during our increasingly dry and hot summer months. This tender not only strengthens Malahat Fire Rescue's capacity but also provides peace of mind to residents throughout wildfire season."

"We are greatly pleased to receive the new Tactical Water Tender, as it will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of CVRD Malahat Fire Rescue," said Fire Chief Tanya Patterson. "This custom-built unit is ideally suited to the geography and year-round weather conditions of the Malahat Fire Service Area. It is also fully equipped to support the Province of BC during wildfire season, should assistance be required."

Key Features of the Tactical Water Tender:

- Freightliner chassis custom-built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks in Winnipeg, MB
- Four-wheel drive (4x4)
- Darley Pump and Roll 500 USGPM pump (can spray water from turret and ground nozzles while driving)
- 2" front bumper turret, joystick-



CVRD Malahat Fire Rescue Tactical Water Tender with Area A Director Kate Segall, Frank and Catherine Assu from Lak'Was Wildfire Water Service, and members of Malahat Fire Rescue including Fire Chief Tanya Patterson.

- controlled from inside the cab
- Four 1" ground spray nozzles, one at each corner of the tender
- Includes all necessary

- equipment and hoses
- A children's book was published about the truck; "Adventures with "Bob": A wildfire

journey with Kiara and Nova", and Malahat Fire Rescue has officially named and labeled the tender "BOB"

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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. Thanks to Shawnigan House Coffee for their support!

Congratulations!

Sangeeta Parmar correctly answered last month's question: totem pole at the Shawnigan Lake School. It was donated/gifted by a student who helped create it. It stands for gratitude and reconciliation.



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