



"OVER THIRTY YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY"

# Museum Muse

Box 331 – 1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd  
Shawnigan Lake, B.C  
shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca  
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

September 2009

## Direct Access grant denied by the Provincial Government

*A Message from Shawnigan Lake Historical Society  
President Grant Treloar*

The Shawnigan Lake Historical Society, along with many other non-profit organizations, has had our Direct Access grant denied by the Provincial Government. We will not receive the \$5,000.00 grant that we have received for the past three years. This represents over 30% of our annual budget.

*A little history: In 1985, the federal government amended the Criminal Code to grant the provinces and their agencies the sole legal right to conduct or have conducted lotteries and games of chance. Thus in BC we have the BC Lottery Corporation (a Crown corporation operating under the Gaming Control Act of BC) and the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (a government bureaucracy regulating gaming).*

*Why did charities start getting gaming funds in the first place? Gambling, when the proceeds went to charity, created a societal legitimacy. The government(s) promised to distribute a large part of the profits to community groups. In BC, the total revenues from commercial gaming in 2008/09 were approximately \$2.61 billion. Net gaming revenue for the province was about \$1.08 **billion**. \$156.3 **million** was redistributed to charities (including arts organizations)..*

This freeze affects many groups (social service, school PACs, sport, arts, and culture) that are usually run by volunteers but that enhance our culture and society. Many of these groups rely on the financial backing from the grants to "keep the doors open".

The Shawnigan Lake Museum has made great strides over the past few years. Fortunately, for us, we are used to operating on a limited budget but unfortunately the budget cuts will hamper our continued progress!

If you are a museum supporter please consider how you might help. Also, please encourage friends and relations to visit the museum and/or consider becoming volunteers, supporters or members.

We are open to ideas on new ways to fundraise to supplement the lost grant. If you have ideas, contacts

and/or energy, please let us know. And remember donations are tax-deductible!

Last but not least, please let the following politicians know how you feel about this decision. Names and addresses are provided below.

*Grant Treloar,*

President

Shawnigan Lake Historical Society  
[shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca](mailto:shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca)

- MLA Bill Routley can be reached at [bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:bill.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca)
- The Honourable Rick Coleman, Minister  
Ministry of Housing and Social Development  
PO Box 9058 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2  
[EIA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EIA.Minister@gov.bc.ca)
- The Honourable Kevin Krueger, Minister  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts  
PO Box 9071 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E9  
[TSA.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TSA.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

## IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

On August 13, 2009 the E & N Railway celebrated its 123<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Although it was a drizzly day, several people made the trek to the Cliffside Cairn to meet the train. The train stopped and the well wishers sang Happy Birthday to the delight of the surprised passengers. Then, Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch founder, Mary Desmond, presented a small token of appreciation to the conductor. This is a fun, annual event and everyone is welcome. We are gearing up for the 125th in 2011. See you next year.



**Possible workshops:** please contact us if you are interested. If there is enough interest, we will arrange dates.

- Jig knitting workshops. Make beautiful scarves for gifts.
- Christmas wreath-making workshop.

• 2011 is also the projected completion date for the rehabilitation project on the Kinsol Trestle. There is currently a fundraising campaign underway by the Cowichan Foundation to raise the \$2 million that is still needed for the project. In total, the price tag will be approx. \$5.7million. More than \$4.1m has been raised to date. Western Forest Products has offered to donate the necessary trees and a local forest workers' union has will donate labour to process the timber. These gifts-in-kind represent a significant donation. If you are interested in donating to this project you can get details online at [www.kinsol.ca](http://www.kinsol.ca)

## SHAWNIGAN PLACES

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the residents of Shawnigan Lake decided that it was necessary to have a community meeting place for social functions and for organizations to gather.

To make this possible, Mrs. Kingsley, donated a piece of her land. Initially, there were fundraisers at Mrs. Kingsley's hotel but it soon became apparent that this method of collecting funds would take too long. Instead, they chose to establish a Shareholder's Association under the Companies Act. The new Company was called the *Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association*. The shareholders understood that buying SLAA shares was, essentially, making a donation and no dividends were expected. Shares were sold on an on-going basis with locals and Victoria residents responding generously.

## MUSEUM

### NEW • Movie Night Fundraisers

Entrance is by Donation. Popcorn included. Limited to 12 seats.

*Reserve your seat now for one, or all three, of the scheduled movie nights. Members have the first opportunity to reserve seats.*

**Sept 30 – Princess Bride:** *a comedy with a swashbuckling fairy tale theme*

**Oct 28 – Second Hand Lions:** *a comedy about a young boy who is left to live with his eccentric uncles*

**Nov 25 – Keeping Mum:** *a delightful English comedy*



The original hall opened in May 1910 with a big dinner and a dance. A special train was arranged to bring Victorians up to the celebration. The hall itself was a lovely building with verandahs overlooking the lake, rooms to house the library and a beautiful, polished wood dance floor. The hall was lit with gas lamps, mounted on the walls, until electricity was installed in 1930. A large boathouse and float was built to house the Company's racing shells.

The SLAA hall soon became the centre for the endless social and sports events in the community. Soon after the completion of the hall, a local rowing club was established and a 1 ½ mile rowing course was surveyed on the lake with a charter for the course given to the SLAA. Prestigious rowing events regularly took place at Shawnigan Lake and the very popular annual SLAA Regatta was established.

Every Saturday night there was a basketball game followed by a dance. This continued well into the 1930s. People came from miles around for these events. The Shawnigan Drama Club, established in the late 20s, was very active in the hall through the 30s.

Sadly, the original building was razed by fire in 1930, likely due to slash fires along the E & N rail line.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The new Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association Hall was constructed in 18 months and ready for use in Oct. 1932, but, strangely, it was built without a heating system!**

## **YOUR MUSEUM**

A history museum is a benefit to any community. However, it is essential to enlist the support of the community to ensure its ongoing success. We thank our members and volunteers who are already involved and encourage new members and volunteers to come forward. We welcome new ideas and new faces.

*Local resident Sheila Warneken is currently adding some new creative accents to our theatre entrance.*

*In addition, she has arranged for a donation of carpeting from Rona at Cobble Hill. This will add another great element to our lovely theatre.*

*We appreciate her talents and time!!*

***Please share this newsletter with friends, family or anyone who might be interested in the history of Shawnigan Lake.***

### **Contact us:**

**Email:** shawniganlakemuseum@shaw.ca

**Web:** www.shawniganlakemuseum.com

**Location:** 1775 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road  
Shawnigan Lake, BC

**Mailing:** Box 331, Shawnigan Lake, BC  
V0R 2W0

**Phone:** 250-743-8675

***“Sometimes the most important history is the history we are making today” Anon***