

## MUSEUM

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Shawnigan Lake Historical Society

February 24, 2011 - 7 pm  
Shawnigan Lake Museum

- AGM business
- Kinsol Trestle update & slideshow
- Refreshments

Everyone welcome!

Please consider attending the upcoming **Annual General Meeting**. It is important for our society status to have regular meetings with a reasonable turnout. Attendance at the AGM is of particular importance when we are applying for grants. We welcome your suggestions for speakers, activities and/or ideas for future meetings.

### Current Board of Directors

President:	Grant Treloar
Vice President:	Sally Davies
Secretary:	Robin LeGarff
Treasurer:	Lori Treloar
Director:	Garth Harvey
Director:	Diane Melville

A big part of our 2010 focus was the Kinsol Trestle. In partnership with the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives, we researched and then developed an online exhibit about the Kinsol Trestle for the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) website. Kathryn, from CVM and Lori from SLM conducted several interviews, wrote thousands of words and collected many amazing photos and great video footage to include in the exhibit. CHIN is currently reviewing the exhibit and we will advise when it has been published on the web. The exhibit covers many aspects of the Trestle including its history, survival, preservation attempts and rehabilitation. This project provided a \$5000 grant - split evenly between the two museums.



## EVENTS

Membership has its privileges...

Movie nights will resume in March for members, on a first come – first served basis. These are inspirational feel-good movies, many of them based on true stories. If you are interested in attending any or all of the following movie nights, [email](#) us with the details. Seating is limited. Admission by donation.

### March 29 - **Door to Door**

Based on the true story of Bill Porter, a door-to-door salesman whose achievements are nothing short of inspirational.

### April 26 – **Sea Biscuit**

Based on another amazing true story, this movie centres on an undersized racehorse, his trainer, his jockey and the money-man.

### May 31 – **Mr. Holland's Opus**

Mr. Holland teaches music to pay the rent while he works on his life's dream – to create a memorable piece of music.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**A group of local citizens is planning to establish a community newspaper for Shawnigan news and views. The first monthly issue should fly off the press before May 2011. This will be a volunteer run, community driven non-profit endeavour. If you want to be involved in the production or provide content, contact us.**

## PLACES

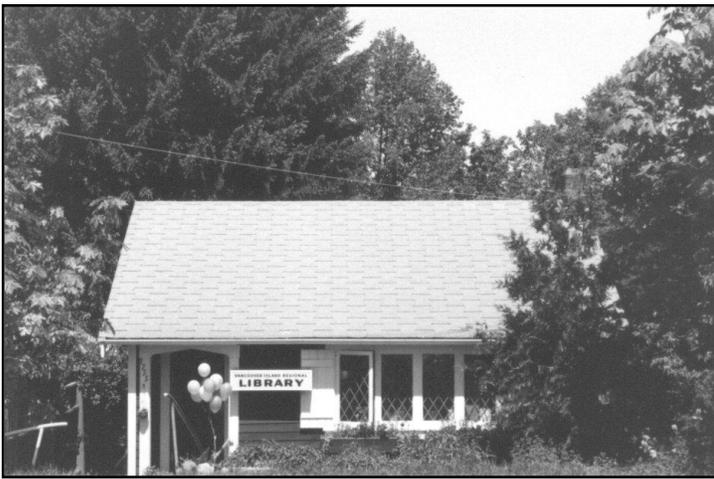
### **A Library at Shawnigan Lake**

by Lori Treloar

Early records indicate that the Women's Institute ran a library at Shawnigan Lake for a short time in 1919 but there is also evidence that a local library was in existence prior to that. The Shawnigan Lake Library Association, mentioned in the 1925 cash books for the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association, ran the library in the basement of the original hall. Apparently, the library housed a well-stocked permanent collection and received a regular influx from the Provincial and Victoria libraries. It is interesting to note that the 1929 annual report shows over 3500 visits to the library with a circulation of over 5000 books.

The library and its collection were destroyed in the village fire of 1930. Within a week of the fire, the library re-opened in a temporary location with shelves full of donated books. In the fall of 1930, the library moved again to a building on the corner of Dundas and Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. Although built to house the library, the Association did not own the premises. In the spring of 1932, the Library association used their \$500 fire insurance money to buy a site, directly across the street, at 1755 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. The formal opening of the 500 sq. ft. Shawnigan Lake Library was held on May 10, 1932 with speeches from several locals and dignitaries. In 1933, the library reported a turnover of 500 books per month. A local plebiscite, in 1935, for the Union Library scheme was turned down. However, 10 years later the ratepayers voted to join the Vancouver Island Union Library (now the Regional Library). The Regional Library paid a nominal rent to the Shawnigan Lake Library Association. This

covered utility services and maintenance. As Shawnigan was unincorporated, there were no civic funds available for the library. The Centennial Committees of 1967 and 1971 donated the proceeds of the sale of the local history, *Green Branches and Fallen Leaves* to the library. This allowed the library trustees to install a furnace and make other improvements that would not have been possible otherwise. In 1976, the Shawnigan Lake library building was turned over to the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) and the local association was dissolved. The



Trustees felt that their decision ensured that the property would always be used for a library. Sadly, this was not the case. In 1985, the busy, little library had a circulation of over 34,000 but in 1987, the VIRL determined that a new library was needed to serve the increasing population in the South Cowichan area.

In September 1989, the South Cowichan Branch opened in Mill Bay making the Shawnigan Lake Branch redundant. Mill Bay residents were understandably delighted...but, after more than 70 years of library service, Shawnigan Lake residents were not.

*Wouldn't the Auld Kirk Gallery building be perfect for a library...?*

## REMINDER

A local history museum is a benefit to any community. The Shawnigan Lake Museum acts as a central repository for the artifacts and documents that record and support the story of the area. Therefore, it is essential to engage the community in the process of maintaining our museum to ensure its future. This can be done in many ways. You can volunteer on a regular basis or just for specific projects; attend any or all of the meetings; keep your membership current; encourage others to become a member; send visitors and neighbours to check out the museum; share the newsletter with a friend...or two

We thank our members (you) and the volunteers who are already involved and we encourage new members and volunteers to come forward. We welcome new ideas and new faces.

*"If not you, who? If not now, when?"*  
Talmud

Please share this newsletter with friends, family or anyone who might be interested in the history of Shawnigan Lake. If you would like to share a story for the newsletter or if you have any comments or corrections please contact us:

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