

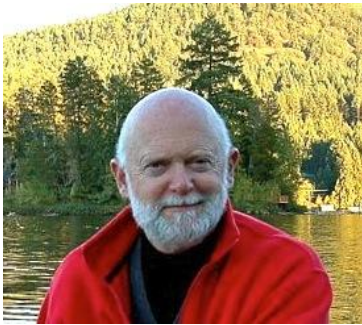
We Can Make Change Happen

Bruce Fraser, Candidate for election to Area B

Making change happen is much more difficult than describing the reasons why we should. Two of our core issues in Shawnigan are prime examples – proper stewardship of our priceless lake and its watershed and upgrading our busy but fragmented village.

SHAWNIGAN WATERSHED

The biggest difficulty in managing our lake and watershed is uncoordinated jurisdictions, each with a piece of puzzle and none with a comprehensive vision or mandate. Whether it is logging in the headwaters, motorized congestion on the lake or concern for water quality there is always an agency that can say “it’s not my jurisdiction” leaving citizens to search for someone who will take responsibility. We can fix this!



I propose that we in Shawnigan create a

Watershed Round Table, adapted to the unique character and circumstances of our area. We can draw experience from the one that has been operating for ten years next door and is earning successes in the Cowichan drainage. Their round table, with the support of the new Cowichan Water Board, brings together local people with the many agencies that need to collaborate to make sensible decisions and undertake projects. The Table harnesses the expertise, approval and funding sources of federal, provincial and regional bodies. I have asked the CVRD Environment Commission, where I am a member, to sponsor an opportunity for us in Shawnigan to meet with members of the Round Table and the Cowichan Water Board to discuss their experience with us to see if we can adapt it to our own needs.

SHAWNIGAN VILLAGE

We face a similar difficulty with Shawnigan Village. The CVRD, Highways, Hydro, Railway and Environment among others, are all potentially involved in any decision to upgrade the physical appearance and infrastructure of our central business area and its lakefront. Our village languishes as a result, with messy roads, lack of safe pedestrian walkways, a welter of hydro lines, chronically empty storefronts and an immensely attractive lakeshore that is lightly used. We can fix this too!

I propose that we establish an informal, but widely inclusive “**Village Development Council**” set up to promote a visionary plan for consolidation and beautification of Shawnigan Village. The Council could work with residents, merchants and the necessary agencies of government to design improvements and to do the hard work of fund raising and organization to get projects up and running. We can build on the efforts of our existing business and citizen associations and engage enthusiastic volunteers who want to make things better. We can make the idea of a welcoming, attractive and vibrant village a practical reality long before we solve the questions surrounding incorporation.

PAYING FOR PROGRESS

Funding is always the problem that trips up grand plans. I most emphatically do not want to see a rapid growth in taxes or public debt as the basis for watershed stewardship or village development initiatives. There are a great many things that can be done by volunteer efforts of the many capable people in our community. If we are prepared to shift for ourselves we can attract the grant and special program funds that are periodically available but require local contributions. Having a strong base of “do-it-ourselves” activity, a well thought out plan and a host of well-researched projects on the shelf is the way to be prepared for the quickly passing windows of funding opportunity. The Stolz Bluff stabilization project and the Rivers Day cleanup on the Cowichan River are good examples of what I mean. So are the recent improvements in Cobble Hill Village.

Let’s get moving!

shawnigantimes@shaw.ca



Factory Direct Clothing Outlet OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

We have Factory Direct pricing from t-shirts to ski jackets and on a variety of quality women’s, men’s and children’s clothing as well as eco and yoga wear!

Great prices on Adult & Children's Hoodies

STORMTECH  **JACKETS & VESTS**

If you are looking for that special gift or you just want to spoil yourself then we are the place to shop. Drop by and have a look at what we have to offer.

Monday - Friday 10 - 4 PM
Saturday 10 - 12 PM

We are located at :

#2 - 1340 Fisher Road
Cobble Hill, B.C.

250-929-1181

(right next to Creative Woodcraft)

www.harlequinnaturegraphics.com
(locally owned and operated)



Style Centre

Barber Shop

Experienced Barbers

No appointments needed

Kids Welcome

Open Monday - Saturday

Bill, Roy, Marian & Holly

Downtown Shawnigan Lake

250-743-7033

We now accept



Supporting our advertisers strengthens your community.