



The Shawnigan Basin Society is a non-profit organization, started by Bruce Fraser, that was incorporated in October 2012. We work to promote a holistic approach toward environmental solutions, community (including the MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation and QUW’UTSUN’(Cowichan) Nation) engagement, and local stewardship in the South Cowichan Region. Below are some of our accomplishments:

1. Commissioned Herb Hammond to prepare an “Ecosystem-based Conservation Plan for Shawnigan Lake Watershed”. This report is on our website: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/ebcp.html>
2. Commissioned a mapping of the Shawnigan lake Community and Biophysical mapping of the Shawnigan Basin: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/community.html>
3. Commissioned Jenny Berg, an environmental scientist, to complete a Shawnigan Lake and sub-basins Foreshore inventory of Shawnigan Lake. This was done together with Grant Price: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/projects.html>
4. Mapped the Shawnigan Lake foreshore changes over time using remote sensing. This formed the MSc dissertation of Ms Mar Martínez de Saavedra Álvarez: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/vegetation-changes.html>
5. Conducted a Foreshore Restoration workshop run by David Polster: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/natural-edge-program.html>. We are continuing helping residents to restore their foreshore through a Natural Edge program in partnership with Watersheds Canada.
6. Helped fund the Ecosystem-based Assessment of the Koksilah Watershed: https://www.koksilahwater.ca/_files/ugd/19441a_a84d132bca364222afe5636fc4579673.pdf
7. Mapped the distribution of Eurasian watermilfoil in Shawnigan lake in 2015 and 2018 and will do another mapping this September: <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/milfoil.html>

8. Prepared a summary of what is known about the chemical and physical properties of Shawnigan lake by Linda Gregory, one of our Directors:
http://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/uploads/2/4/3/7/24371226/dr._linda_gregory_sl_report.pdf
9. Examined Water Quality in Shawnigan Lake and Upper Shawnigan Creek
 - Reports prepared & submitted to Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)
10. Prepared a Watershed Characterization for the Shawnigan Creek Watershed Report for the CVRD that included Recommended Future Sampling Program
11. Instrumental in the CVRD adapting and then amending a Soil Deposit Bylaw. Prior to this bylaw there was no regulation in depositing large amounts of soil anywhere within the CVRD resulting in nutrient-laden sediments entering the waterways and the lake, thereby promoting algal and Eurasian watermilfoil growth.
12. Prepared for the Cowichan Watershed Board a Report on the Lower Cowichan and Koksilah Basin Water Quality Attainment Study 2022 study- this study examined the water quality of the Lower Koksilah River and its tributaries, the streams that directly flow into the Cowichan Estuary as well as marine waters of the estuary
13. CVRD All Candidates Meeting to address the topic of Balancing Growth with Environmental Health on October 2, 2022.
14. Established Refreshment Station for annual **Q'ushin'tul Ancestors Walk stop at West Shawnigan Provincial Park in 2022 and 2023.**
15. Hold annual Medicine Plant Walks led by Cowichan Elder Della Rice Sylvester.
16. Held a Public Forestry Forum on Indigenous Perspectives on Forests with Four Coast Salish speakers on April 13, 2023.
17. Write about ecological matters for the monthly edition of the Shawnigan Focus paper.
18. Conduct monthly tours of the watershed to determine if there are visible environmental problems.
19. Respond to citizen concerns about local environmental issues.
20. Participated in the 6PPD Quinone survey organized by the BC Conservation Foundation and Vancouver Island University of the local streams this past spring and will do so again this fall. Also participated in the 'Protecting Salmon from Tire Wear Toxins – 6PPDQ Workshop, April 29 & 30, 2024.
21. Received a Lush Community Charity Pot grant to develop five signs describing the Shawnigan Creek watershed in three languages: HUL'Q'UMI'NUM', SENĆOŦEN (Saanich) and ENGLISH.
22. Received a Pacific Salmon Foundation Community grant for surveying Coho and Kokanee spawning grounds in the Shawnigan Creek watershed.