

# ***SHAWNIGAN LAKE FORESHORE INVENTORY 2015***

## ***WEST SUB-BASIN***



# Shawnigan Lake Foreshore Inventory 2015 : West Sub-Basin

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*Our purpose is to establish a model of participatory  
ecological governance of the Shawnigan Community  
Watershed.*



## Summary

The Shawnigan Lake foreshore inventory was conducted during June and July of 2015. The foreshore inventory was initiated, by the Shawnigan Basin Society, as a baseline study to assess the current state of the foreshore. As the society works towards a watershed management plan, one of the pieces to water quality is the health and integrity of riparian vegetation along the foreshore. Around the lake we encountered a spectrum of conditions, from robust and intact riparian zones to significantly altered shorelines. Images for this inventory were assembled and coded as a means to capture the total lake circumference and it's associated riparian state. Over 500 pictures were stitched together and coded to visualize the current state of the Shawnigan Lake foreshore. The various categories of impacts to riparian habitat along the shoreline are identified and explained in the following pages. In total five sub-basin 'neighbourhoods' were delineated and they are represented as individual documents in the Shawnigan Foreshore Inventory Sub-Basin Series.

Over 500 pictures were stitched together and coded to visualize the current state of the Shawnigan Lake foreshore.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank and acknowledge Grant and Corrine Price for their contributions to supporting the lake photos, without their help much of this study would not have been possible. Furthermore, a special thanks to the support and guidance of Kelly Musselwhite and Bruce Fraser. As well as the support and feedback from the Museum and the Focus, an extended thank-you to Lori Treloar.

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## How to use this document?

For the use of home owners around the lake, (1) start by identifying which sub-basin ‘neighbourhood’ you reside in. Refer to the Sub-basin classification map and index below.

Village Sub-Basin
East Sub-Basin
Shawnigan Creek Sub-Basin
West Sub-Basin
McGee Creek Sub-Basin

(2) Select the corresponding sub-basin document in the foreshore inventory series. (3) Review the coding system outlined in the introductory. (4) Reference the closest waypoint on your specific sub-basin map to locate the image roll that contains your property, or simply leaf through the entire image roll to better understand your sub-basin ‘neighbourhood’.

(5)The appendix includes background and supplementary materials to incorporate your findings and support Shawnigan lake water quality for the future.

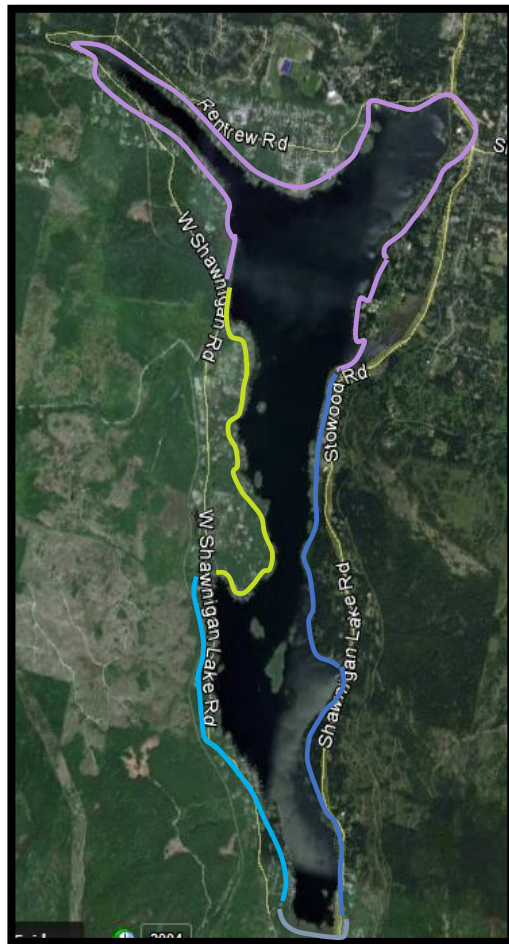


Figure 1. Sub-basin classification  
(image source: google maps retrieved July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015)



# Foreshore coding

The following pages outline the five categories used to colour code the foreshore. They are presented in increasing level of impact; where an ecological resilient riparian zone is the ideal ‘or natural’ state. *Theses categories were used to assess shorelines but no measurements were taken to identify these categories.*

The areas for which human impacts remained lowest are coded in green, we further distinguished this into two categories of green, vegetated and sparse vegetated, bright green and light green, respectively.

## Vegetated

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### Level of Impact - none

Vegetated or ‘bright green’ includes shorelines that exhibit healthy riparian vegetation. Examples of this include common overhanging foreshore shrubs such as Sweet gale and Hardhack, as well as emergent vegetation such as, Bulrush and Cattails that mitigate wave erosion.



Figure A



Figure B

## Low Vegetated

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### Level of Impact - variable

Low Vegetated or ‘light green’ includes shorelines that contain vegetation, but typically not native vegetation. For example, lawns that approach the water line with little to no extended structures such as emergent vegetation or shrubs.



Figure C





## Rocky

### Level of Impact – variable

Grey coding denotes rocky shorelines, although this category includes natural features such as rocky outcrops and bluffs these areas are delineated from vegetated shorelines because rocky shorelines don't lend to surface water filtration or reducing runoff.

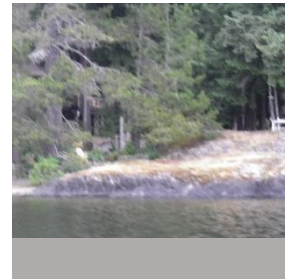


Figure D

## Moderately Altered

### Level of Impact – moderate (11-40%)

It's important to note that water levels change throughout the year. S.L.F.I. 2015 therefore is a snapshot time.

Moderately altered shorelines or 'yellow' can have low vegetation with a mixture of gravel or sand. These areas tend to be patchy and discontinuous, an attribute that is not present in areas with greater impacts.

Moderately altered shorelines also include shorelines that are predominantly sand or gravel.



Figure E



Figure F

## Very Altered

### Level of Impact – high (> 40%)

Very altered shorelines or 'orange' have continuous non-permeable shorelines generally, retaining walls. Buildings built on the shoreline also fall into this category of high impact level.

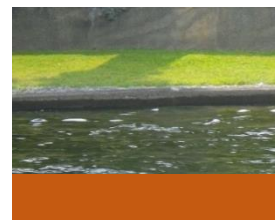


Figure G



Figure H



Figure 1: Blue arrows highlight the waypoints of the West Sub- Basin Foreshore .



10D



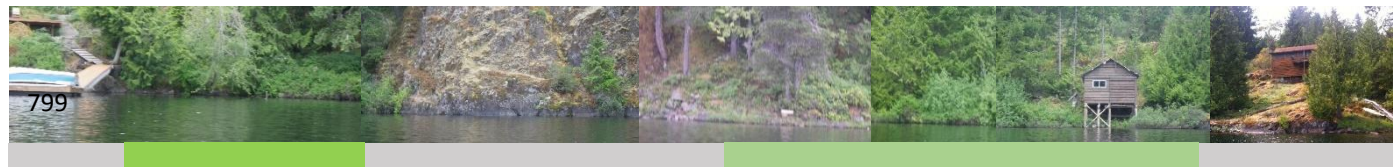
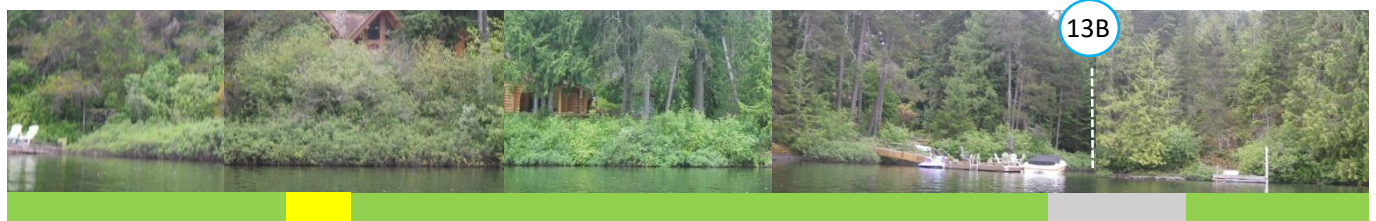
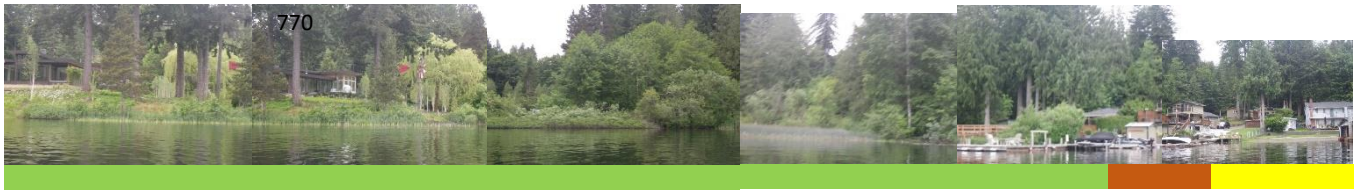
11B



12A











15B

