



Shawnigan Basin Society

Five Year Plan: 2019-2020

Shawnigan Basin Society

- Established in 2012 and arose from the Shawnigan Roundtable to promote holistic water stewardship
- Our mission is to protect and secure the long-term health and safety of the Shawnigan Lake Community Watershed specifically and the South Cowichan region generally, particularly the drinking water these watersheds provide
- Previously funded as an Area B Function
 - This function is now at \$0 funding
- There is Community support for the Basin Society
 - Since June we have raised more than \$15,650, gained more than 70 new members plus we have received \$2,000 in donated computer and printer equipment

2019 Is Year Of Change

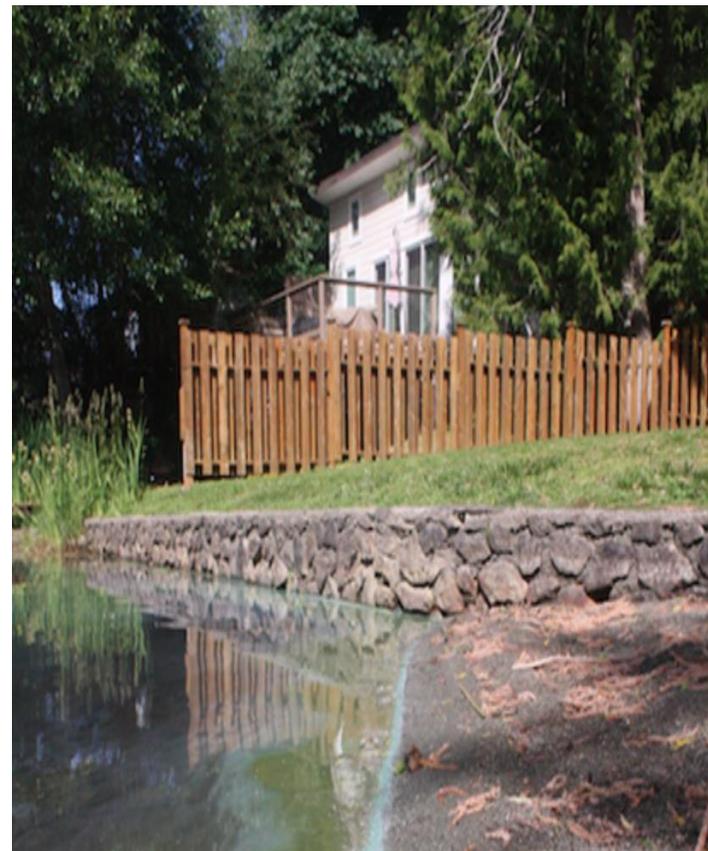
- Dr Bruce Fraser resigned – David Munday is now President
- Function 488 Funding set to \$0 also \$0 Grant in aid
- Executive Director contract not renewed
- Many new Directors joined the Basin Society
- Considerable contemplation and discussion on where we are going and how best to continue serving community

Building Upon Major Accomplishments Of The Past

- The Silva Ecosystem Consultants' Report: "Eco-Based Conservation Plan for Shawnigan Lake Watershed", which is available online at <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/ebcpc.html>
- Facilitated the Koksilah Watershed Society's ecosystem-based conservation plan for the Koksilah Watershed
- Facilitated the study of the vegetative changes over 30 years of the Shawnigan Lake Watershed: this study formed the MSc dissertation of Ms Maria Del Mar Martínez De Saavedra Álvarez
- Established the Ecological Design Panel that oversaw foreshore restoration projects.
 - The Panel is comprised of a group of senior technical experts in land use, water resource management, forestry, ecology, ecosystem restoration, and public health. Their function is to provide objective advice on basin management to the Basin Society, land developers, the Shawnigan Advisory Planning Commission, and the planning staff of the Regional District.

Example Of A Foreshore Restoration

Using Nature's Design - Assisting Natural Systems to Achieve Ecological Integrity and Resiliency
SBS has coordinated & completed four similar restoration projects



Major Accomplishments Continued

- Collaborated with TimberWest to create the Shawnigan Community Map and the Shawnigan Basin Bio-Physical Map, both can be viewed in the SBS Office
- Dr Linda Gregory prepared “A Summary of the Available Information on Shawnigan Lake with an Emphasis on Water Quality” which is available online
- Commissioned a study of the Lake foreshore that was carried out by the biologist Ms Jenny Berg
- Surveyed the extent of Eurasian watermilfoil invasion of the Lake. Vetted & collated a vast body of pertinent information which available to the public online at <https://www.shawniganbasinsociety.org/milfoil1.html>

Map Of Eurasian Watermilfoil Distribution Around Shawnigan Lake

ATTENTION
Invasive species impact our waters



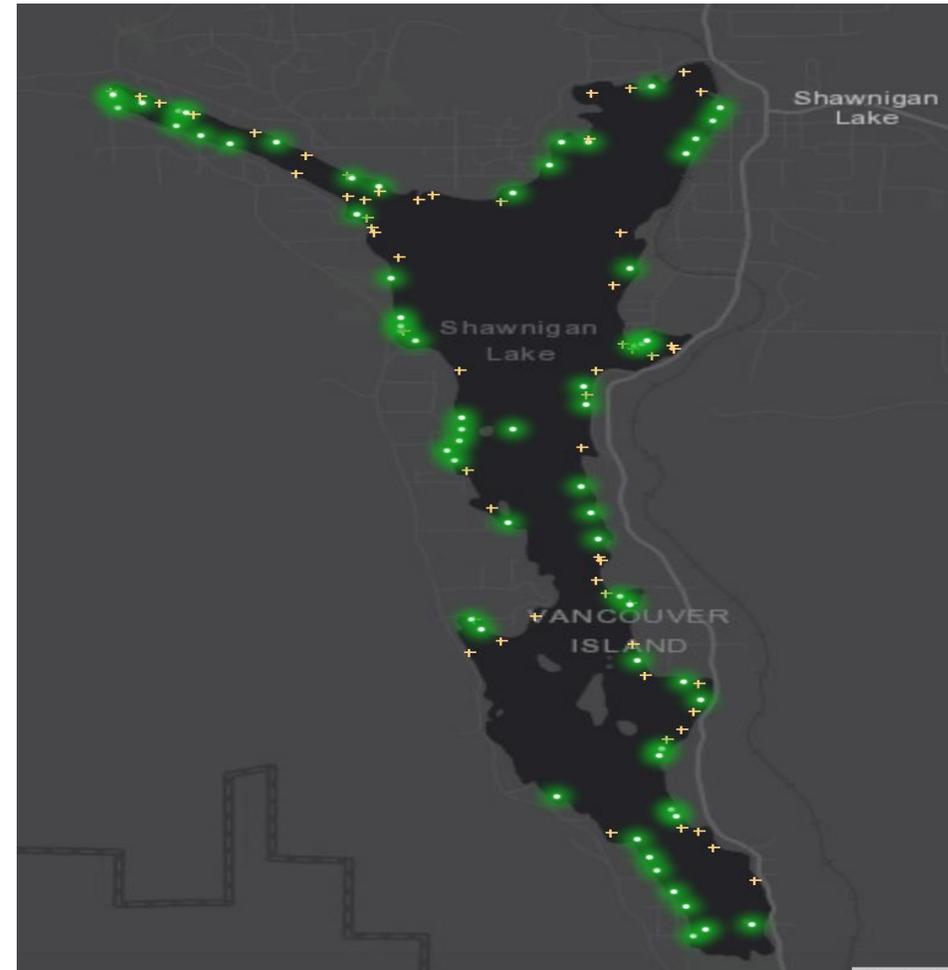
Once you leave the water...

CLEAN	DRAIN	DRY
plants, animals and mud from boat and gear	all water from boat and gear onto land	all parts of your boat and gear completely

 **CLEAN DRAIN DRY**

Report Zebra or Quagga mussel sightings to the **R.A.P.P. Hotline 1-877-952-7277**
For more information: CleanDrainDry.ca



The Current Board of Directors Has Individuals With A Broad Range Of Expertise

- Agrolology with contaminated sites remediation expertise
- Bioremediation - several
- Business
- Engineering
- Medical sciences - several
- Professional Biology background with specialization in water ecology and the environment - several
- Professional Forestry background - several
- Parks knowledge background - several

General Objectives

Governed by the idea that one of the most powerful ways to cope with the upcoming changes in our climate is to restore ecological balance

- To ensure that the water and sediment quality of Shawnigan Lake and the input and output streams remain within established guidelines and objectives
- To limit the silt and nutrient into Shawnigan Lake as well as the input and output streams
- To restore foreshore function using bioremediation approaches
- To increase the area of ecologically critical forest and wetlands under public trust
- To monitor sites designated by MoE as contaminated in order to protect the public's drinking water

General Objectives Continued

- To restore the hydrological integrity of upland forests
- To implement invasive species control
- To promote a more resilient & rational use of our aquifers
- To increase public involvement about decisions concerning land and water use of lakes and streams
- To assist the residents of the South Cowichan region in addressing local environmental issues



Specific Objectives – Will Focus On Only A Few

- To monitor the watershed
 - To assess changes in the water and sediment in the input and output Creeks as well as Shawnigan lake
 - To monitor activities that affect the ecology of the watershed such as landfilling, forestry and farming
 - To document the the lake and riparian biota
 - To document vegetative changes along the lake foreshore and along riparian areas
 - To act as a public resource for information on the state of our aquifers
 - To organize Public Education via talks and tours

Collaborations

- Close partnership with the Malahat Nation and Mosaic, with letters of support
- Koksilah Watershed Group
- Cowichan Watershed Board
- Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable
- Mill Bay & District Conservation Society
 - Health of South Shawnigan Creek is critical for their salmon program
- Invasive Species Council Of BC

CDD Partner new signage coming to Shawnigan in 2020

Collaborations Continued

- Working with the CVRD's Drinking Water and Watershed Strategic Initiative
- Working with the South Sector Liquid Waste Management Planning Committee
- Working with the Volunteer and Think Shawnigan initiatives
- Also engaged with APCs and the Soil Bylaw Officer

The Shawnigan Basin Society

- Provides a valuable public service
- It deserves support from the CVRD
- We are requesting two distinct budgets



Year 1 Budget Requests

- Budget for running of the Shawnigan Basin Society Office
 - Budget for rent, part-time administrative assistant, telephone, internet, website, banking fees, office supplies, postage, Directors' insurance, etc.: **\$32,038**
- Budget for the proposed water and sediment testing program
 - One-time purchase of YSI ProDSS multimeter probe plus 60 metre cable*, calibration solutions, water and sediment sample analyses costs, etc.: **\$38,470**
 - * a one-time \$15,463 cost

YSI ProDSS Multimeter Probe With 60 Metre Cable

- Measures temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, redox, conductivity/resistivity/salinity, turbidity, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, GPS coordinates
 - Can also obtain sensors with this probe to measure: ammonia, nitrate, total algae and blue-green algae
- Note that, if obtained, this probe will be made available to other interested parties in the CVRD if they have the expertise, otherwise a member of the Basin Society will assist such other interested parties

Value Added Activities

- The volunteer work of the Basin Society members easily adds up to \$75,000 annually
- Three members of the Board of Directors have extensive experience and success in applying to external granting agencies. We are confident that we would receive external funding at least equal to that given by the CVRD

