

Shawnigan Lake Residents' Association (SRA) is proud of the dynamic work and commitment achieved by its members and the public over the past several years. The 2012 - 2015 Strategic Plan set the direction for the SRAs work in accomplishing its mandate. During the coming months the SRA will review the plan to ensure its work is aligned with the community's current driving issues to ensure the association is responsive and effective in representing the needs of the community.

The SRA Strategic Plan recognized the need to:

- ensure effective communications
- support a vibrant community centre to improve a sense of community
- ensure water quality and manage watershed issues
- be mindful of the development and transition from a rural community setting to a bedroom community of Victoria and Duncan
- manage governance issues as a community within a regional district

The goals of the Strategic Plan reflected the above issues and focused on:

- Shawnigan Lake Community Governance
- Water Quality
- Water Levels
- Recreational Use of Shawnigan Lake, and
- Organizational performance

Over the past year, admittedly, water quality has been a major focus for the SRA as demonstrated by our community's overwhelming support of the SRA, raising over \$250,000 to fight the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) permit allowing 5 million tons of contaminated soil to be dumped in our watershed impacting the safety and security of 12,000 residents who rely on Shawnigan Lake as their primary drinking water source.

The issue has taken up much of our board's and community's time and energy and yet at the time of writing this report there is still no decision made and more fundraising will need to occur in 2015 to pay for legal counsel and experts to back our protest.

While \$250,000 was the estimated cost to fight the appeal, due to the nature of the hearings, costs have soared to \$629,000.

To remind you of how much work has gone on this past year in this one area alone - here is a recap on events.

- November 2013 the EAB “ruled that the matter pertaining to the Environmental Management Act regarding an appeal to Permit PR-105809 Cobble Hill Holding Ltd aka South Island Aggregates (SIA) would be conducted as a public hearing over a four-week period in March 2014.”
- The Shawnigan Residents Association (SRA) committed to raise the necessary funds to ensure that the appeal would be successful.
- On Christmas Eve South the SIA asked the EAB to lift its stay order and allow 40,000 tons of contaminated soil be dumped immediately on their property before the Board was to hear the appeal scheduled for March 2014. The SRA fought this decision.
- In January 2014 a generous donation was made that produced the SRA's infamous billboard to help get the message out to the public about SIA's contaminated soil dump and the threat to our drinking water.
- Later that same month a generous donation of \$30,000 from [Shawnigan Lake School](#) (SLS) was provided to support the SRA's legal action fund.
- But February brought disappointing and stunning news when a decision by the EAB was released that varied its earlier ruling and allowed SIA to dump contaminated soil into its landfill before the merits of the case were heard by the Board.
- Again, in February in the spirit to fight such injustice the SRA released a public service announcement with award winning Documentary Filmmaker Paul Manly. The film clip brought the issue to a new level, that contaminated soil dumping is not just about Shawnigan but a concern for all British Columbians. As stated “when the will of big business trumps science and common sense, we must stand up and do what we can to stop the efforts of SIA from turning Shawnigan Lake into BC's toxic soil dump.”
- Early in March the Nugent Family graciously sent out a challenge to the community asking people to [send in their contributions](#) to the SRA and that those monies would be matched dollar for dollar to a maximum of \$10,000! "
- Another public event took place on March 27th as the SRA along with staff and students from SLS and Dwight International School, and a range of community members and groups rallied on the Legislative precinct in Victoria to bring awareness to the state of affairs.
- In April the community and Shawnigan Lake School raised an additional \$45,000 for the legal battle.
- In May a successful Black and White benefit gala, organized by Anne Marie Thornton helped raise funds.

- All the while, the hearing dates were extended and concluded in July. But we are still waiting for a decision.

Congratulations! The goal to raise \$250,000 was achieved!

None of this work could have been achieved without the SRA's greatest asset which is its volunteers, giving time and resources to ensure a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community for now and the future, here in beautiful Shawnigan Lake.

This President's Report takes this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciative thanks the work of its volunteers.

The AGM of March 12, 2015 marks a milestone for our association to refresh its membership, align the boards responsibilities and committee terms of reference to continue the achievement of its mandate. We look forward to the work ahead in achieving these outcomes.

Calvin Cook

President

Shawnigan Lake Residents Association