



WEEK OF JANUARY 18, 2010

Shawnigan Parent News



Photo: Signs of the Times! For more photos and stories, go to <http://www.shawnigan.ca/now>

House R.A.G.s (Random Acts of Green)

1. Duxbury – removed/pulled 5-6 bags of spurge laurel from around the gym and tennis courts area. **5 points**
2. Renfrew North – recycling old/unused clothes by passing them on to a charity organization. **3 points**
3. Strathcona/Lakes – grounds clean-up and sort of collected garbage. **3 points each**
4. Lake's – is officially unplugged with respect to cellphone chargers and any other adapters that aren't in use. **2 points**

Dark of the Moon – Morgan McLeod

Parents and the public are invited to *Dark of the Moon* by Howard Richardson and William Berney. The play runs **February 4 - 6, at 7:30pm** in the Wilkinson Studio Theatre. Admission is \$5 at the door. The play was written in 1945 and tells the story of a witch boy, John, who falls in love with a human girl, Barbara Allen. Those characters are played by Jon H. and Calli N., with 17 in the cast altogether. It is a challenging play—a supernatural take on two star-crossed lovers, struggling to overcome the intolerance of the townsfolk who are convinced that John is a witch.

Staff Interview – Ryan Panton '97, Alumni Relations

Where did you go to school?

I came to Shawnigan in grade ten, but unlike most of the kids here today, I was more or less forced to go against my will. Next to meeting my wife, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. I always tell people that going to high school at Shawnigan is just like attending any other school, except that you and your peers don't graduate as friends, you graduate as family.

After Shawnigan, I studied English at UBC and then Broadcast Journalism at BCIT.

What do you bring to your Alumni Relations job at Shawnigan?

I've always thought of myself as a good writer and communicator, and I think that those skills are important in this position. I think I'm a good listener, and I'm able to relate to people of all ages and from all walks of life, which is important with alumni since we deal with people who cover a pretty broad spectrum of ages and backgrounds. But at the end of the day, it's really all about passion. If I can help a grad reconnect with the School and reinvigorate his or her passion for Shawnigan, I think I'm doing a pretty good job.

Tell us about the boarding aspect of your responsibilities.

For my first year at Shawnigan I very much felt like I was on the outside looking in. Because I'm not a teacher, very few of the kids knew who I was and I really didn't know who they were, either. Being Assistant House Dir. of Ripley's allows me to get to know the kids on a much more personal level, and it also reminds me why Shawnigan is such a special place. The facilities and the faculty here are first-class, but it's the kids that make the School.

How does your interaction with students at Shawnigan and specifically, the boys in Ripley's, enrich your experience here?

I think that, as a fund raiser, it validates everything that I do here. I get to witness first-hand the way the kids benefit from the money we raise. It's also refreshing to see students who appreciate just how fortunate they are to be here—how supportive they are of one another, and of the entire community. The kids in the House really are like brothers—they might fight and yell and kick and scream at each other every now and again, but there's a real feeling of family

Upcoming Events:

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| Jan. 24 | Mt. Washington Ski Trip |
| Feb. 4-6 | Drama Production, <i>Dark of the Moon</i> |
| Feb. 7-12 | Ski Week |
| Feb. 12-21 | Mid-Term Break - for travel details go to:
www.shawnigan.ca/now/travel-information |

in the House that permeates everything they do. They're all in this together, and I feel so fortunate just to be a small part of that.

You also coach Fitness at the School . . .

Coaching is another opportunity to get to know the kids and have a (hopefully) positive impact on their time here. I think it's really important that teenagers learn about the positive aspects of being physically fit early on, because they are lessons that you can carry through your entire life. I look around at so many kids today who are sedentary and content with just sitting on a couch and playing video games. Those are the kids I want to reach out to, to get them active and involved and connected to physical activity in general. They might hate it today, but when they're my age, they'll thank me for it.

Is there anyone on staff who you feel has been a mentor?

There are so many people who have made an impact on me since I've been back here that it's tough to single any one person out. One of the great things about working here is that you get to be surrounded by exceptional people. I remember hearing that when I was a student here, but I think you really have to work here to understand what it means.

I think that, personally and professionally, Hutch (Advancement Dir., David Hutchison), has had a really significant impact on my life here. He's been a constant source of support and encouragement since day one, and his door is always open for a chat, whether it's about fund raising initiatives or cool looking goalie masks. He also shares my passion for financial aid, which I think is crucial to Shawnigan's continued success. In order to protect the diversity we pride ourselves on, we need to support financial aid to ensure that we can offer the "Shawnigan experience" to young men and women from all backgrounds.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Marita, is a registered nurse, one of eight children, and my very best friend. She left her dream job at Children's Hospital to follow me to the middle of the wilderness at a school she really has no connection to, and I'll never be able to repay her for that. I think she knows that this is a special place, though, and she has been welcomed with open arms by the entire community.

I think what sold Marita on Shawnigan, other than the people, was the experience of being married here last August. We had our ceremony in the Kaye's Gardens, and our reception in Marion Hall, and the entire day was just spectacular. Seeing the way the whole school came together and supported us was more than we ever could have hoped for.

My mom is the reason I have this association with Shawnigan in the first place. She was Head Girl at Strathcona Lodge School in 1967, and was on the Board of Governors for ten years. She has two brothers who are Shawnigan grads, and I'm pretty sure she knows just about everyone who has ever had anything to do with the School *ever*. Everything I am, and everything I have, I owe to her and my dad. I love them both to bits.