



SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

From The Head's Office: 1st March 2022 (St David's Day)

Project Future announcement: New Co-Educational Grade 8 Boarding House

Following on from our *Project Future* strategic plan, it is with great excitement that I – together with the Leadership Team and Board of Shawnigan Lake School – announce that a new co-educational Grade 8 boarding house will be constructed, starting in Spring 2022, by Campbell Construction. Building on the tremendous success of Stanton and Levien Houses, created in recent years as nurturing environments for Grade 8 girls and boys respectively, the two Houses will join together in a new and pioneering co-educational boarding space planned for September 2023.

This initiative, tailored to the particular needs of our youngest students and designed as a supportive springboard to our longstanding Houses, which are now home to students in Grades 9-12, will develop Shawnigan's position as a leader in the North American boarding school marketplace.

The new boarding house will consist of one wing for Stanton (Grade 8 girls) and the other for Levien (Grade 8 boys), with intentional gathering spaces in the middle, and will be named Samuel House in honour of Rhodri and Gaynor Samuel and their unstinting and exemplary service to our School.



"Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures"

Curiosity. Compassion. Community. Courage



SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

From The Head's Office: 1st March 2022 (St David's Day)

Gaynor and Rhod Samuel:

Gaynor and Rhod Samuel have dedicated their lives to Shawnigan for nearly 30 years. Before my wife Kathini and I arrived at Shawnigan, we were told that the Samuels embodied the true soul of Shawnigan – and so they do. Their leadership in our community is extraordinary and a role model for all, from their uniquely warm welcome and generosity of spirit to the memorable and heartfelt connections that they establish with everyone.

Over the past fourteen years, parent after parent has trusted Gaynor's judgement in her capacity as Executive Director of Admissions. She lives for the students and follows their journey with genuine delight from interview to Opening Day to Graduation and beyond.

Universally admired within and beyond the School and renowned for his essential humanity, Rhod has contributed in so many ways to our School: Biology teacher, House Director, 1st XV boys' rugby coach, Senior Master, Director of Alumni Engagement – and an inspiration to us all.

The double blue of Ripley's House runs in both of their veins. They led the House and provided trusted mentorship to their charges for 16 years from 1993 to 2009, with Rhod as House Director and Gaynor as 'House Mother' – as she called herself. The House motto, *Acta non Verba* (Actions not Words) was central to their leadership, and the boys loved the way the House was run. Their sons, Dafydd (Class of '08) and Owain (Class of '09) were both in Ripley's. In parallel, Gaynor also took on the House Director role of Renfrew, providing her unique brand of strong yet loving female leadership.

Gaynor and Rhod are tremendous supporters of co-education at Shawnigan and have worked tirelessly to support and contribute to the design of the new Grade 8 House and the development of the Grade 8 experience.

Samuel House

The School has chosen to name the new co-educational Grade 8 boarding house, Samuel House.

Gaynor and Rhod – after consulting their sons – have chosen to give the House a one word motto: **Cartref** (pronounced 'cat-rev').

Cartref translates from Welsh, their mother tongue, as 'A Loving Community' – a nurturing home-away-from-home for our Grade 8 students as they embark on their Shawnigan journey. It will greet every student who walks through the door of Samuel House.

"Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures"


Curiosity. Compassion. Community. Courage



SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

From The Head's Office: 1st March 2022 (St David's Day)

Gaynor and Rhod, having grown up in a small coal-mining valley in South Wales, generously share their Welsh culture with the Shawnigan community, from the *Calon Lan* hymn that is sung with gusto and joy by generations of students to Rhod's storytelling and introduction to Welsh myths in Chapel. By choosing a Welsh motto from their homeland, Rhod and Gaynor speak to the cultural diversity that is our strength here at Shawnigan. It is fitting that the School has chosen St David's Day (1st March) to make the announcement.

The symbol of the House will be a dragon, steeped in Welsh history and literature, and the Stanton and Levien students' colours will form a combination of pink and brown  when they are representing Samuel House at School events. The main foyer will highlight the service-mindedness of the Samuels – and the House Directors of the Stanton and Levien wings will educate our youngest students in the values of humility, compassion, and community that Gaynor and Rhod represent at Shawnigan.

The Samuel House hymn will be *Calon Lan*, which was first introduced at Shawnigan by Rhod many years ago.

As Rhod and Gaynor have welcomed so many of us in their inimitable way, so will our new and pioneering co-educational Grade 8 boarding House greet, guide, nurture and support all who enter our School from so many regions of the world.

And never fear: Gaynor and Rhod are not retiring anytime soon! They are looking forward to the next chapter of their story at Shawnigan, welcoming new families and reconnecting with the School's network of alumni, parents, staff and supporters both on and off campus.

Richard 'Larry' Lamont
Head of Shawnigan Lake School

"Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures"

Curiosity. Compassion. Community. Courage



SHAWNIGAN LAKE SCHOOL

From The Head's Office: 1st March 2022 (St David's Day)



"Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures"

Curiosity. Compassion. Community. Courage