



# SAMUEL HOUSE

Grade 8 Co-educational  
Boarding House



*Changing the world one student at a time*

## Introduction

Shawnigan's Five-Year Dinner is a cherished pre-graduation tradition each year, celebrating "lifers" who are completing a five-year Shawnigan Journey. Attendees, who all started in Grade 8, usually include a multitude of Prefects, Heads of House, sport captains, award winners, and colours recipients. It's no coincidence that Shawnigan "lifers" contribute so strongly to the School community.

Building a positive School culture starts in the earliest days of a student's Shawnigan experience, as we set out from Day One to inspire the best in each to create the best for all. The Shawnigan Journey is an intentional and progressive educational, social and emotional experience, and students that participate from the impressionable Grade 8 stage are positioned to gain the most from the experience.

It is for this reason that we have developed a nurturing program for our 12-14 year-old Grade 8 students, providing a supportive springboard into the wider Shawnigan community. Rather than being immersed in senior boarding houses right away, our Grade 8s begin their Shawnigan Journey in specially-designed Grade 8 Houses with their peers: Stanton for the girls and Levien for the boys. Each House is run by a caring team of dedicated staff, and these houses work in tandem to foster a safe co-ed grade culture characterized by close friendships that shape and support students' onward journey at Shawnigan.

The success of this approach has been so remarkable that a new co-educational Grade 8 boarding house, built with one wing for girls and one for boys, has become Shawnigan's top priority to fully harness the benefits of this valued program.



### OUR PURPOSE

Inspire the best in each to create the best for all

### OUR MISSION

Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures

### OUR VALUES

Curiosity, Compassion, Community,  
and Courage

## Samuel House

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The School has chosen the name “Samuel House” in honour of Rhodri and Gaynor Samuel and their unstinting and exemplary service to our School. Rhod and Gaynor have dedicated their lives to Shawnigan for nearly 30 years and have come to embody the true soul of the School.

Universally admired within and beyond the School, Gaynor and Rhod have provided leadership and trusted mentorship in a variety of roles throughout their time at Shawnigan. From Gaynor’s roles as Renfrew House Director, self-proclaimed “House Mother” of Ripley’s House, and her current role of Executive Director of Admissions, to Rhod’s roles as biology teacher, longtime Ripley’s House Director, 1st XV boys’ rugby coach, and his current roles as Senior Master and Director of Alumni Engagement, they have been an inspiration to us all.

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. And never fear: they 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.



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*“I have goosebumps over the decision to call the Grade 8 boarding house Samuel House. I LOVE IT!” - Past Parent*

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*“We are so thrilled for our parents and for the generations of young students who will get to experience Samuel House. Having grown up on campus, we witnessed first hand our parents’ dedication, passion, and love for the School and its community, and we cannot thank SLS enough for honoring them in this way.*

*As most staff, students, and alumni will know, Welsh culture has been and remains a strong influence at Shawnigan. Many will recall the hymn Calon Lan, which was always sung with gusto. Others may remember the story of Gelert the legendary dog, a St. David’s Day reading that teaches us not to act in haste. Parallels can also be drawn to Shawnigan’s tenured success at the sport of rugby, which is a religion in Wales. Most important, however, is the fundamental Welsh belief that there is nowhere as special as home. Our parents have sought to instill that sense of home in every student at Shawnigan, and we certainly hope that Samuel House will do the same for years to come.”*

*- Dafydd Samuel '08 & Owain Samuel '09*

## Nurturing Our Youngest Students

By creating a nurturing and supportive environment that is focused on the particular needs of our youngest students, we set Grade 8s up for success. Dedicated Grade 8 boarding houses have allowed us to achieve this in myriad ways, and parents and students, current and prospective, are thrilled.

- Co-ed classes – the beginning of the five-year Shawnigan Journey
- Nurturing connection and relationships through team building games
- Nurturing an encouraging and supportive House atmosphere
- Nurturing life skills
- Nurturing a love of new sports
- Nurturing service to community
- Nurturing bonds with roommates and life-long friendships
- Nurturing House spirit and community through celebrations and gatherings
- Nurturing a love of the outdoors in the Shawnigan forest and throughout Vancouver Island
- Nurturing understanding through mentoring from older Shawnigan students

The objective behind the Grade 8 program is twofold: to allow students to have a positive start at the School, surrounded by peers who are at the same stage socially, emotionally and academically, and to build and foster friendships that will stay with them as they split into the Grade 9-12 Houses after their first year. With a dedicated staff to nurture them as they adapt to life at the School, these students not only have more one-on-one attention due to smaller House sizes, they also have parental figures on-site to guide them in life skills, allowing for a gentler and broader learning experience.





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*“Levien has been a wonderful experience for our son so far. He feels connected and included. It is helping him build confidence by learning all the many ways of Shawnigan in a safe and protected way, which is helping him get ready for next year. I am so grateful that he is able to build strong connections with all the Grade 8 boys before they get split up into the main Houses. We are very grateful for the care and interest that the House Director has shown in him. He’s in good hands.”*

*– current parent of a Grade 8 student*

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*“Strong friendships have been made that will last a lifetime; binding them after they disperse into their senior Houses next year. The boys have gently grown up, learning how to enjoy the roller-coaster life of Shawnigan whilst having their safe haven nestled in the forest.*

*This corner of the campus has been their sanctuary and playground, in which they carved out bike trails, built forts and battled with Nerf guns. If we’ve taught them anything, it is how to embrace everything the School has to offer.”*



Ed Taylor  
House Director  
Levien House



*“Beginning their Shawnigan Journey in Stanton is such a unique experience. I am grateful that these girls have had the incredible opportunity to live, learn and love together in this nurturing environment and have bonded with each other in a way that will stand the test of time.*

*Amazing friendships have developed this year and, as they prepare to head off into their senior Houses in the Fall, they know that they will always have each other. The bonds created during this year will not only be with them the rest of their five-year Shawnigan Journey, but for a lifetime.”*



Arden Gill  
Founding House Director  
Stanton House



## An Innovative Design

The next phase in the evolution of the Grade 8 program is the construction of a new and pioneering co-educational boarding house, with one wing for girls and one for boys. These two wings will allow each cohort to enjoy its own single-gender space while also offering regular opportunities for co-educational social connections through shared programming and common rooms to develop life skills and foster cohesion and lifelong connections within the grade group.

Planned to accept its first cohort of students in Fall/Winter 2023, the new boarding house will be the first of its kind for this grade level in Canada. Every detail of the design has been informed by Shawnigan's 106 years of boarding history and customized to the particular needs of our youngest students.

Students who are lucky enough to experience this Shawnigan "first" will be part of a loving community where students from all walks of life will learn the Shawnigan values of Curiosity, Compassion, Community, and Courage.

*"My favourite part about Stanton/Levien is the community. Everyone in each house is so close, to the point where you feel like siblings." - Ava*





## Donors Make Progress Happen

Shawnigan is blessed with an enviable legacy from generations of past Shawnigan Lake School donors and volunteers, offering an extraordinary opportunity for our School to step forward as a leader in preparing our youngest students for the challenges that lay ahead. Together, we can spark minds, kindle hearts, and forge futures that will be a powerful force for good in the world.

As part of the \$50 million "Imagine Shawnigan" campaign, we are now seeking donors to assist with the \$5M fundraising goal for our Grade 8 boarding house.

**Show your love for the Samuels and help us reach our goal. All donors will be recognized on the Honour Board in the Cartref Foyer.**

**Leadership naming options also available for:**

- common rooms
- staff residences
- games room
- study areas
- gym/exercise studio

Donors that step forward will be among the first to support Shawnigan's next era of progress. Our future as a school and a society will be defined by the healthy growth and development of today's students, and a Grade 8 co-educational boarding house offers an innovative and supportive approach to that essential task.

*As has been the case for over 100 years, Leadership and Major Donors will make important strategic progress possible for Shawnigan.*

Centennial Campaign total (\$38M)

- Jim & Kathryn Shaw Library donation (\$8M)
- Mitchell Hall donation (\$1.65M), Friesen Centre (\$1M)
- Frank Read Crewhouse renovation (\$1M)
- Marion Hall (\$4.3M)
- Hobbies Building (\$1.1M)
- Head's Residence (\$1M)



## Why Shawnigan?

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Education creates opportunities that lead youth forward to fulfilling lives and, by consequence, bring benefit to our society's collective future. Shawnigan strives to spark minds, kindle hearts, and forge futures through our School values of Curiosity, Community, Compassion, and Courage. By doing so, we equip our youngest members with the mental, social, and emotional learning that will form the basis of the world that we want to create. Shawnigan's purpose, to inspire the best in each to create the best for all, aims to achieve exactly that.

For 106 years, Shawnigan has fostered commitment to excellence, hard work, resilience, and service to one's community. Project Future, our recently launched strategic plan, articulates the essential role of Student Life Unparalleled in that unique Shawnigan value proposition. As the first step in that next era of Shawnigan progress, the Grade 8 co-educational boarding house rightfully demonstrates our commitment to the youngest students in our care.

We hope you will join us in forging their best possible futures.

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*“Our School continues to adapt in a rapidly changing and fast-paced world, developing our educational vision based on experiential, inquiry-based learning that is deliberate in fostering curiosity, critical thinking, agility and resilience.” – Fiona Macfarlane, Board of Governors, Chair*

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# SAMUEL HOUSE

Shawnigan's Pioneering Grade 8 House  
*in honour of Gaynor & Rhodri Samuel*

Nurturing our youngest students at the start of their  
five year *Shawnigan Journey*



One wing for  
Grade 8 boys  
**LEVIEN**


One wing for  
Grade 8 girls  
**STANTON**



  
supportive space for  
our Grade 8 cohort

  
6 live-in  
staff families

  
rooms & leadership  
opportunities for  
Grade 11 mentors

  
mascot: dragon  
colours: pink & brown  
hymn: Calon Lan

  
house motto: Cartref  
(Welsh for  
"A Loving Home")

Project Future launched with  
"Student Life Unparalleled"  
strategic pillar

FEBRUARY 2021



Research of leading  
co-educational and younger-  
grade boarding houses

SPRING/  
SUMMER 2021

Architectural design of  
custom co-ed Grade 8  
boarding house

FALL 2021



Samuel House announced  
at Chapel service in  
honour of Gaynor &  
Rhodri Samuel

MARCH 2022

Ground breaking  
ceremony on future site  
of Samuel House

JUNE 2022



Donor deadline for  
Samuel House Honour  
Board and room naming  
opportunities

JUNE 2023

Samuel House  
ribbon cutting and  
grand opening

FALL/WINTER 2023



For more on Samuel House and  
how to donate please visit  
[shawnigan.ca/samuel-house](http://shawnigan.ca/samuel-house)



**Funding goal:**  
\$5 Million

**Confirmed funding to date:**  
\$3.2 Million



Spark Minds, Kindle Hearts, Forge Futures