

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR MARCH 07

We trust that we have survived the worst weather that is going to be thrown at us this winter. It's wonderful to see the snowdrops, crocuses and primroses popping up in our garden.

We are happy to report that we are getting some response to our web site. One ten year old girl in Vancouver e-mailed for some information to help her finish a project in school. Don't forget to look at texadaheritagesociety.com once in a while. You will now find links there to other interesting sites as well.

We have reorganized our oral history program and now have several teams carrying out informal chats with island residents and recording those talks in digital format. These materials will be catalogued and stored in the museum and will be available to anyone who has a interest in our history.

Heritage week was celebrated across BC from 19 to 24 February. The theme this year was vernacular housing which can be loosely defined as housing that reflects local or individual influences. It seems to us that the island has a good deal of housing that could fall into this category! Together with the Powell River Museum we mounted a display in the Town Centre Mall in Powell River on Saturday 24 February. The display included photographs of “vernacular” housing and material related to our upcoming celebration of one hundred years of limestone mining operations at the Blubber Bay Quarry.

Our photo this month is of the honeymoon cottage which still exists in Van Anda. If not “vernacular” it is of great interest for how often do you see a two storey log cabin? It was built for Harry Treat and his bride circa 1895. Mr Treat was the first managing director of the Van Anda Mines. From 1898 to 1904 the cottage also served as the first school in Van Anda before what is now the Elks Hall was built as a school.

Until next time please take care of each other and start thinking green.

Norm MacLean

