

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 07

The museum will have closed for the season by the time this report graces the pages of the Express Lines. I do not have attendance figures as yet but they are up considerably over previous years and that is gratifying. We now face the challenge of maintaining the interest that has been generated this past year particularly by the Blubber Bay Centennial celebration that was held on 30 June.

In 2008 British Columbia will be one hundred and fifty years old and the province is planning appropriate celebrations. We will be making our plans this fall and submitting them for approval and hopefully some financial support early in the New Year. Any suggestions that you may have will be carefully considered

Our photo today is of a silo shaped lime kiln that was erected in 1908 or so on what was known as the Fogh property by Fogh, Cox and Johnston. How long quarrying took place is not known. In 1928 Western Lime Products worked the property for one or two years. Again in 1931 Coast Quarries/Petrie Lime worked the property. This property is now part of the Blubber Bay quarry. Recently this kiln was taken down because it had become a danger to the quarry workers. Regardless of their historic significance structures of this nature must be removed when they become a hazard.

A new local history book has been published recently by Heather Harbord of Powell River. The book is titled Desolation Sound-A History and tells the story of the early settlers in that area. The book is dedicated to Maria Zaikow, past resident of Texada Island, who now lives in Powell River. Maria grew up in Desolation Sound as did Mary Gussman and the late Joe Christenson both of whom are mentioned in the book. Heather will be showing slides and talking about her book on September 23 at the Seniors Centre from 2 to 5 PM. We are hoping to have both Maria and Mary come to the reading. Tea and coffee will be served.

I am very pleased to announce that Doug Paton has taken over as curator of the Texada Museum. He has made a significant contribution to the museum already and I have no doubt that he will serve the museum well. If there is such a thing as "curator-emeritus" that is what I hope to be for the foreseeable future. I want to thank all those who have worked with me over the past years and made my tenure a very happy one.

Until the next time take care of each other and remember to think green.
Norm MacLean

