

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR NOVEMBER 08

Our Van Anda School program has now been running for a number of weeks with positive results. For week one Clarence Wood explained the program and toured the kids through the museum in Van Anda. For week two Doug Paton introduced the kids to the concept of collecting and classifying archival material.

Week three saw the group make a trip to the sample processing mill operated by Bob Duker. His mill takes ore samples, not by the ounce but by the ton, and reduces the rock to a fine powder which can then be tested for metal content. The kids were fascinated by the process as Bob led them through it. Thanks Bob for your excellent tour. Our photo this week is of our class examining some of Bob's equipment.

Week four involved an introduction to the mining history of this island. Pete Stiles and Peter Kenney escorted the kids on a tour which included the Cornell Mine, the Little Billie Mine and one of the original pits of the Texada Iron Mine. Over one hundred years of mining history is represented by these three mines sites.

Week five was a trip through the apple box factory lovingly maintained by Herb Staaf on the old Staaf homestead. This farm was settled by Peter Staaf, Herbs Grandfather, over one hundred years ago. The Staaf farm produced apples on a commercial basis and hence the existence of the box factory. Herb also let our students pick apples from some of the original trees that Peter Staaf planted. The kids enjoyed the trip immensely and we thank the Staafs for their kind hospitality.

The next part of the program is an introduction to the First Nations history on Texada. We will take the kids for a look at the rock fish weirs in Gillies Bay followed by a period in the museum examining artifacts and discussing them. We will have a member of the Sliammon First Nation to assist us. Until next time take care of each other and remember to think and act green.

Norm MacLean

