

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR MARCH 2009

The week of 16 February was designated as Heritage week in BC and we decided to concentrate on education as our focus for that week.

To help us celebrate we installed a new display in the Old School in Gillies Bay. Please come to a Friday Lunch and gaze through our old window into the past where we have gathered a number of photographs of schools and students. You might see yourself there!

There have been many schools on Texada and our photo this week is of the cairn at the Oasis which commemorates the Marshall School which stood near this site from 1913 to 1924. Enrolment averaged 6 to 8 pupils who were mostly children of miners who worked in a mine at Paxton Lake. Apparently it was not uncommon when the school inspector was visiting to borrow a student or two from some other location or to insert one or two who may have been under age, to satisfy the minimum number required. Bill Thompson's history, „Texada Island”, has a good chapter on Texada schools.

Education in modern times can take different forms. Some of our members will be participating in a course being offered by Elder College at the Powell River campus of the Vancouver Island University (formally Malaspina College). The course is titled “A History of Powell River and Area”. Our members will be presenting Texada history on Thursday 12 March.

As part of heritage Week in BC the Heritage Society together with the Van Anda School sponsored an open house on Friday 20 February. The kids who attended our My Island-My Home-My History course gave oral presentations of their experience of the course and displayed written samples of their recollections. The museum was open and tea and “goodies” were served.

We are very pleased to announce that Clarence Wood has been awarded the Partnership In Learning Award by the BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association for his outstanding work in developing and presenting the My Island-My Home- My History program. Congratulations Clarence!!

Till next time take care of each other and remember to think and act green.

Norm MacLean

