

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR OCTOBER 2009

Our museums closed for the winter on labour day. We are pleased to report that a total of 306 people have visited them over the summer months not including three tour buses which included us in their itineraries. We want to thank Dylan Gable for his good work at the Blubber Bay museum this last summer and also Cecilia Campbell and Doug Paton for manning the Van Anda museum for us. Don't forget that the Van Anda museum will be open every Wednesday morning on an informal basis over the winter.

We have been asked by the Texada Elementary School to repeat the Texada Island History program that we presented last fall and we are now preparing to do that. Last year the students titled the program "My Island - My Home - My History". We will let the new students decide a new title if they so wish and let you know what it is.

Reports have it that the whales are making a bit of a comeback in the Straits of Georgia after being almost fished to extinction in the late 1800's. Texada has a relationship with the whaling industry since Blubber Bay was the site of rendering operations prior to 1900. Our own Harry Trim who discovered the iron deposits which were later mined by Texada Mines, was also active in the whaling industry and may have lived for a time in Blubber Bay. All of this is merely to introduce our photo for this week which depicts a whale stranded on the beach in Gillies Bay in 1922. The teacher standing on the sand is Miss Fee. The students perched on top are from front to back, Vera Staaf, Elmer Staaf, Einer Palm and Nels Jacobson. Disposal was a problem and I am led to believe was solved by a local with a case of dynamite. Can anyone add to or corroborate the story?

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

Norm MacLean

