

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR AUGUST 2010

Summer is finally with us here on Texada Island and up and down the Sunshine Coast. One can always tell because suddenly it is Sandcastle Weekend and the island sinks a bit under the load of visitors. This event was held this year on the 10th and 11th of July which corresponded to low tides thus facilitating the construction of sand castles. This weekend has been celebrated now for many years and has made a significant contribution to the heritage sinews that build and hold the island together. In a future article we will look at past. Island wide celebrations of this nature that flourished at one time and now form part of our history.

Both our museums are open until the Labour Day weekend and many people have taken advantage to learn more of our island history. The museum in Blubber Bay has a new exhibit featuring island sports history and military related artefacts. Come and see what the ball teams wore in years gone by. Our designer Clarence Wood has done his usual excellent job.

We are sad to report the passing of Ben Nicholas and we express our condolences to his family. Ben was a founding member of the Texada Heritage Society. Ben came to the island in 1938 to work at the Little Billy mine which was then in the process of reopening. He was deeply interested in Texada history and contributed many articles to the Texada Lines over the years. He was also a member of the Centennial Commission that compiled and published the book "Texada", a history of the island. He will also be remembered as the owner/operator of Ben's Water Taxi, a fleet of three fast boats that provided passenger service to Powell River before a ferry service was created. Our photo today is of Ben Nicholas with the Texada Lady Slipper at Van Anda.

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

Norm MacLean

