

## MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2010

When you live on an island your geographical heritage includes the ocean that surrounds you. The ocean that we see through our living room window is called Gillies Bay and it provides an ever changing panorama of sea life. Over the years we have seen seal, sea lion, orca, dolphin and porpoise, as well as many different types of birds. One species that we have yet to see is the USO or unidentified swimming object, also called Nessie or Ogotogo or Cadborosaurus depending where you live.

The subject was raised by friends of ours who were brought up in Powell River and now live in the Courtenay area. Kay told of how she once spotted a serpent like creature in the waters off Harwood Island in the summer of 1947. The story was reported in the Powell River News of May 28, 1947. She referred me to Bill Thompson's book Once Upon a Stump, which contains her story as well as a number of others.

Our photo today is taken from Bill Thompson's book and is credited to the Canadian Press. We would be very interested to hear of any Caddy sightings that any of you may have experienced. We are still a little bit sceptical but there have been a lot of sightings and there just may have been such a creature that has now gone extinct.

19 students from Brooks Secondary School in Powell River visited the museum in Van Anda on Jan 13. After an introduction they were divided into 3 groups and toured the museum exhibits, the cataloguing and storage area and the museum archives. After hot chocolate and cookies they were sent on their way with a memento in the form of a wafer of Texada lime rock sliced from a diamond drill core sample.

To celebrate Heritage Week February 15-21 our two museums will hold an open house on Saturday February 13 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please plan to attend.

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

Norm MacLean

