

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR JUNE 2010

The 15th of May 2010, marked the one hundredth anniversary of the Girl Guide movement in Canada. Five members from Texada, Sydney Rairie, Gemma Gordon, Quinn Lowden, Holly Braak, and Jordan Wilson made the trip to Vancouver to celebrate this event with 8000 other girls in the Coliseum over the 15/16 May weekend. They were led by Linn Rairie and Deirdre Braak.

The inspiration for the creation of the Guides on Texada came from a remark made at a Boy Scout 'Family Night' in 1953 that it would be nice to have something for the girls on the island. After discussions with the Parent Teachers Associations the first Texada Brownie Pack was formed on 8 June 1954 with Vera Liebich as Brown Owl. By February of 1955 a Guide Company had been formed and the movement has been active ever since. It is estimated that at its height there were over one hundred girls enrolled. Phyllis Soles reports that they used to charter the entire ferry, "Atrevida" (remember the 5 car ferry?) to transport them off the island for trips.

Our photo today shows a group celebrating the 75th anniversary of Guiding in Canada in 1985. The island owes a debt of gratitude to the many women (and some men) who have contributed to the success of this organisation.

Over this past winter we have enjoyed many visits at the museum from Heather Harbord, a well known Powell River author. Heather is gathering material for a book about Texada and her people. Heather now knows more Texada history than any one person has ever known. She made a presentation to the Texada Seniors at a potluck dinner held in the Seniors Centre in Gillies Bay on May 12 and displayed her detailed knowledge of our pioneer families and of historical events that have shaped our heritage. Heather is planning to publish her book in the not to distant future and we are all looking forward to it.

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

Norm MacLean

