

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR OCTOBER 2010

The fall season has happened rather too quickly for me this year. One day kayaking and the next canning. There is one group on the island who know exactly when fall starts however and that is our students. The history of education on the island is a most interesting one. I refer you to a book by Barbara Lambert of Powell River entitled "Chalk Dust and Outhouses" There is a chapter on Texada schools with many fine photographs of buildings, kids and teachers. We have a copy in the museum.

The first school was the Van Anda Elementary School started in 1898 in the Honeymoon cottage which was the home of Olive and Harry Treat the manager of Texada Mines. There have been a total of 12 schools on the island at one time or another spread from Blubber Bay to Anderson Bay. The old schools were never put to waste. Take the Davies Bay School which was established in 1948 and served for two years in that location. In 1952 the original school was moved by barge to Gillies Bay where it again served as a school until Peggy and Albert Atkinson bought it in 1964. They lived in it for twelve years until building the home that Peggy still occupies. When the new home was completed they demolished the old school and used the lumber to build their garage and part of the fence that still surrounds the property. As the saying goes, "Waste not Want not".

The Texada Heritage Society has lost another of its members with the passing of Nora Hughes nee Woodhead. Nora was an enthusiastic and tireless supporter of the Society particularly of the museums and we offer our heartfelt condolences to her husband Keith and to their family. Our photo today is of Nora standing on the left with Joe and Barbara Kempe all in period costume at the grand opening of the museum in Blubber Bay.

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

Norm MacLean

