

## Museum Musings for March 2011

### A Tribute to Norm McLean

The members of The Texada Island Heritage Society are sad that Norm, and his wife Peggy, will be leaving Texada. He has been an enthusiastic and energetic worker on behalf of our society for more than twenty years.

Norm Mclean was not one of those people that demands attention. He is just there, always ready to help, supremely competent. If he says he will do a job, then the job will get done. The name I associate with Norm Mclean is gentleman. A true gentleman.

The McLeans purchased Dr. Sanderson's home in Gillies Bay in 1980. Dr. Sanderson was one of the pioneers in the development of Gillies Bay having built his house in 1925. The house had been through a number of hands, but Norm and Peggy were able to rebuild it into a comfortable home for their retirement on Texada.

A few years after retiring on Texada Mrs. Kay Hagman suggested to Norm that he might be interested in joining the Heritage Society. He attended the societies' meetings and found a true interest.

I spoke to Norm in their house recently. He reminisced about the Heritage Society and the members he had known and worked with: Peggy Atkinson, Nora and Keith Hughes, Nan Johnson, and so many more. All people with a powerful enjoyment of the history of this place. He helped open the Blubber Bay Museum, and then years later helped to open the VanAnda Museum.

Norm became curator for the Society in 1998 and continued in this capacity until 2006. He moved from curator to Heritage Society's documentary photographer and held this position until he left the organization.

Norm is going to live Courtenay where he can look east and see Texada on most days. He has plans to join the local Heritage Societies, and they will gain a significant new member on their roles.

Goodbye from us to a true Texada gentleman.

Peter Kenny

Texada Island Heritage Society

