

THE GREAT EXPO TRIP - PART ONE

It may surprise many that 2012 marks the 45th anniversary of the "Great Expo 67 Trip". It started early on a Sunday morning in Blubber Bay - May 7, 1967. Sixty-six Texada High School students (38 boys / 28 girls) grades 7 to 12 with 12 adult supervisors (led by Vice-Principal Don Spragge) departed on the *Atrevida* for the "adventure of a lifetime". Excited parents unfurled a banner with "Bon Voyage Kids" emblazoned in large red letters. Their "babies" were off to Canada's world's fair in Montreal on what for many was their first time away.

Months of hard fundraising efforts had paid off. Students, teachers and parents held dances, soup sales, salmon bakes, raffles, car washes, carnivals, turkey shoots, fashion shows and popcorn sales. Generous donations from island organizations and businesses helped top-up the \$14,000 kitty for the two week trip. The Powell River News noted: "...this was a valuable lesson...that anything can be accomplished by cooperative effort."

Although the two bus drivers' ears were surely ringing after the song-filled trip down the coast to Vancouver, they reported that the Texada kids were "a very well-behaved group." After touring the city and SFU everyone gathered at the CN station for the 9pm departure.

Berths were assigned and the crowd was divided into three groups for the reserved dining cars. "The rules of the road were laid down to everyone," stated a student. "No passing between coaches after 10pm, lights out at 11 pm." Free time for shopping in Jasper and Edmonton was promised for the next day.

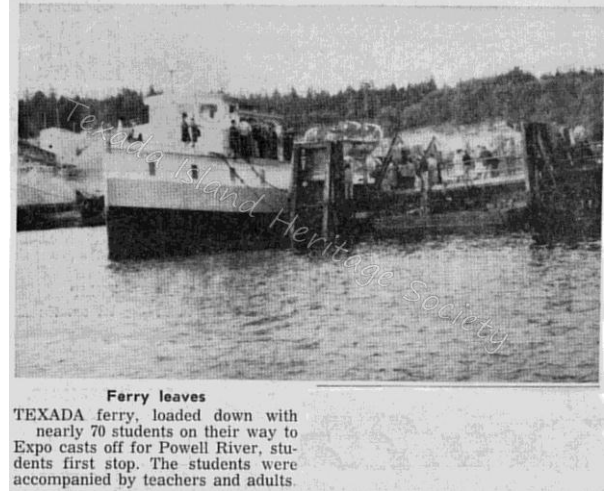
The rules were "modified" when a boy went missing at a later stop. After a half-hour's frantic search the train pulled away just as Mrs. Frieda Woodhead discovered the lad on the platform. A chase by taxi allowed them to catch up to the train at the next stop! Our student reporter noted later: "The law was more strictly enforced after that...everyone is now banned from leaving the train at any time."

Onward to Expo! (Part 2 next month)

Peter Lock Texada Island Heritage Society



Boarding
LAST minute check on suitcases, board the ferry for their trip to Expo. boxes and extras of all kinds is made by the Texada students as they



Ferry leaves
TEXADA ferry, loaded down with nearly 70 students on their way to Expo casts off for Powell River, students first stop. The students were accompanied by teachers and adults.