

MUSEUM MUSINGS – AUGUST 2013

TEXADA DAYS – FIFTY YEARS AGO

In 1963 the Chamber of Commerce formed the “Texada Days Committee” to plan a programme for the July 1st weekend. After a parade and sports events at the Gillies Bay ballfield (including a women’s nail-driving contest) Carl Hagman’s orchestra played at the Elk’s Hall that night. Sunday at Shelter Point featured “mechanical rides” (barged from Comox), a talent show, water sports (swimming, underwater treasure hunt, log rolling, diving) and a barbecue. A swimming raft and concession booths that “will be at the park for use in the years ahead” were built. The event was successful with a profit of \$381.54.



L to R - Joe Kempe, Carl Hagman Sr., Selmer Olson, Jean Waldorf & Virginia Hagman

The next Texada Days in 1969 featured Powell River’s Highland Laddies Pipe Band in the parade from Gillies Bay to Harwood Park. Although rain cancelled some events, indoor celebrations continued with a talent show at the Van Anda school gym (winner Becky Gendron singing *Harper Valley PTA*), the crowning of Miss Texada (Marilyn Gresl) and a dance featuring West Coast Company.

Sunday at Shelter Point started with a pancake breakfast by the Catholic Women’s League (\$1; children free) and continued with kids’ rides and games such as Hoopla, Spill-a-milk and Panda Pitch. Water sports (races, tubing, canoe jousting) were sponsored by Texaquatics and Power Squadron.

Monday offered mining competitions (hand-mucking and drilling on Dick Island) and a salmon/beef barbecue (\$1.50) by the Rod and Gun Club.

The Texada Centennial Jamboree in 1971 was an even grander affair due to partial BC government funding. It featured logging sports, an open-air teen dance and fireworks! The Gillies Bay hall hosted a drama club presentation (*Comin’ Round the Mountain*) before the Queen Pageant. (Sample question: Do you prefer boys to open the car door for you?) Janice McKay was crowned Miss Texada and the Backwater Blues Band rocked the hall. Sunday’s barbecue sold 350 pounds of beef and salmon to 450 diners.

As usual on Texada in times past and future, the success of the event was due to “the hard work of all the people and organizations and companies involved.”

Next month: From Texada Daze to Sandcastle

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society