

## OUR MUSEUM – AN UPDATE

It's been an eventful year at the Texada Heritage Society – one marked by both an ending and a beginning.

Closing the Blubber Bay museum after 12 years was a tough decision. We felt our resources were better utilized in a single, larger building with space for storage and increased display potential. Our Van Anda location is central and more accessible to residents and visitors. Thanks again to Ash Grove Blubber Bay Quarry for the use of the historic Thacker House.

We are pleased to say that the renewal and renovation of the Van Anda museum is well underway. Painting (outside and in) is on-going as is the installation of special lighting that will help to preserve our displays.

In the new *Clarence Wood Room* Lorrie Pirart is using aged, seasoned lumber and materials generously donated by local residents to create a "turn of the century" feel. Visitors will stroll through 1900's Van Anda encountering an assay office, blacksmith shop and saw shop. Storefront windows will allow old town artifacts to be viewed. A shaft into a mine is in the planning stages. Thank-you to the Regional District, School District 47 and local islanders for their continued support.

This spring the Heritage Society joined with Texada Elementary School to assist in planning and teaching a unit of Texada history. Ten eager students (grades 4 to 7) learned about the role of their museum in the community. They are developing a timeline of Texada historical events and are set to interview seniors about their lives on the island.



In the meantime an energetic group of volunteers continues to meet every Wednesday morning to help record, label, photograph and accession the artifacts and documents that Texada citizens have generously shared with their museum. Donations of historical items, photos, or family stories are still greatly appreciated.

We will be seeking Texada students to host the museum openings this summer once again. Please watch for notices.

The museum is open for viewing each Wednesday morning after 10 am or by phoning Doug Paton, Pete Stiles or Ken Barton for a guided tour.

This year marks Texada Heritage Society's 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We look forward to seeing everyone at our season's opening in July.

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society