

TODAY IS TOMORROW'S HISTORY

History could be viewed as only in the past but on occasion one is faced with the sudden realization that history is happening every day as we live our lives.

Re-discovering the first edition of Texada's newspaper – *The Rock Island Lines* from April 1983 – offers an eye-opening glimpse into how time has slipped by us over 31 years.

In the high school library a dedicated group of volunteers conceived the 7-page, double-sided, photocopied publication “to keep islanders informed of local issues and events”.

What was hot news in 1983? TAN had just successfully repulsed Vancouver's garbage threat. Bill and Florrie Young celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. New campsites (\$6) were being developed at Harwood (Shelter) Point Park. The airport expansion was almost complete and Ralph Gorham and team were planning that summer's Texada Reunion.

Many 1983 events still live on – the Terry Fox Run (raising \$3000) and the TICS Christmas hamper campaign, for example. The Elks' Heart Fund raised \$2200 thanks to Joe Kempe's energy and a pancake breakfast at the Texada Arms Hotel.

Some things have changed. The Guides' tiny Thrift Shop was in Van Anda. The Scouts hosted a tea and raffle to raise money for their upcoming Kananaskis Jamboree. The OAPO sponsored weekly activities at the Gillies Bay Hall (darts, bowling, table tennis, dancing). The Texada Bowling League team Longshots edged out Close Encounters. The Curling Club's Alex Fielkowich rink won the Steelworkers Trophy. Texada boasted 5 youth soccer teams with the Hornets winning the Playoff Cup.

One could buy penny candy at Kempe's Van Anda Store or nails at M&M's. “Fine dining” was enjoyed in Gillies Bay at the Sand Dollar Inn or one could grab a hamburger at Vi Liebich's park concession. Get your hair done at Wendy's Family Hair Care and buy groceries at Wilsons' Texada Food Market.

Do you remember these island businesses? Ben Nicholas Propane, Nolan Electric, Bay Services, Zaikow Agency.

Finding the 1983 newspaper has rekindled memories and reminds us that every moment we live becomes history.



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Correction to May's article: The GB District School did NOT burn down in the 1930's. Who remembers the actual date?