

A GOOD CUPPA COFFEE

Texada has never had a Starbucks but somehow one could always get a "good cuppa coffee"

In Blubber Bay in the 60's Gramma Johnson's Arbutus Cafe shared space with the post Office in the old wooden-floored General Store building.

In Van Anda the large sign: "Colonel Carson's Northern Fried Chicken" marked the site of Mary's Cafe (now TACT Centre). Joe and Mary Carson's popular restaurant started as a take-out stand above the ballpark (see photo). Hand-cut fries and soft ice cream became favourite menu items.



Uphill from the Van Anda Post Office coffee was "on" at Rob and Helen Thoburn's. Down on Sellentin Street Jack and Verna Sellentin's take-out specialized in breakfasts. Across from Verna's was Olga Akre's Doghouse Cafe which sported a sign: "No alcohol allowed on premises". The large book exchange was popular with her sober clientele.

A coffee shop (managed by Gee Sue Lang) opened in the new Texada Arms Hotel in 1962. On weekends it served coffee and Chinese food till 2 am when the bar closed.

Baked goods and coffee were available at Macauley's Cafe (next to Texada Food Market). This site later became Arnie's Ripoff in the 1970's, named by the school kids when teacher Ron Arnold opened a pizza place there. It featured 13 flavours of milkshakes and, of course, coffee.

Driving west from Van Anda in the 1960's one could stop at Sylvia and Ray Duker's restaurant (Priest Lake) which served great meals.

Past the top of Priest Lake hill Bert and Fran Clarkson's small cafe (east side of the road) was open for coffee lovers.

Further down the highway in the 1970's Dave and Becky Johnson's Oasis Coffee Shop boasted pizzas.

In Gillies Bay residents often met at the long coffee counter in the Texada Mines Commissary (now the RCMP site). The adjacent cookhouse became the Seaview Inn (1974) then later Gillies Bay Inn and Sand Dollar Inn then finally the Old Cookhouse Restaurant (1983).

More recently one might remember having a coffee at M & M's, Smokey's, Golf Course Cafe, The Cabin or Murphy's. Getting a "good cuppa coffee" on Texada" was never in doubt!

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