

## THE MUSEUM IS OPEN!

It's great to be back in the museum! In addition to appreciating the new acquisitions, a year away allows us to view the old exhibits with fresh eyes.

For example, one marvels again at the beautiful pot-bellied stove in the corner of the "Chinese room." It was rescued from a railroad station as it was being demolished in the BC "ghost town" of Walhachin. This wood stove no doubt witnessed the embarkation of the town's young men in 1914 to fight overseas for "King and Empire."

A few steps away one notes a new acquisition - a 1930's "Westinghouse 89" model floor cabinet radio. Its insides are crammed with glass tubes but it's missing its dial knobs.

The familiar oak display case full of Jack Leslie's model ships hosts a new occupant. Recently donated by Jack's daughter, the stately *Elizabeth Regina* joins her sisters in this impressive presentation.

Turning left one encounters the Post Office display with the newly-exhibited letter scales that were used in Blubber Bay for as long as anyone can remember.

Just ahead a new collection of intricately-woven West Coast First Nations baskets complements the older basketry in the lower cabinet.

Glancing above one can't miss the two stuffed eagles originally discovered locked in sky combat and seen falling to their unfortunate deaths on the ground below. With appropriate Fish and Wildlife permits (1973) they were sent to a taxidermist and now have been recently donated for display.

Another new item is the doll bought from Joe Kempe's Vananda Store over 70 years ago and gifted to a Texada family in appreciation of their kindness.

Over the past months volunteers have been busy re-organizing our storage areas and converting the former museum workshop into new public display capacity. It's exciting to think of the future possibilities.

A visit to the museum brings back memories and helps us understand how the past has influenced us today. The donated artifacts, keepsakes, photos, medals, flags, crafts, clothing, etc tell the human history of Texada.

We invite you to renew your acquaintance with the memories captured in your community museum.

Our summer hosts are eager to greet you and your guests at the door.

Open Thursday to Sunday (and holiday Mondays) 11am to 4pm  
Wednesday (10am to 2pm) through September 6

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society

