

T.A.N. - 43 YEARS SUPPORTING TEXADA

In 1982 Texada faced a critical challenge when the Greater Vancouver Regional District proposed dumping city garbage on our island. With virtually 100% citizens' opposition to this plan a response group, Texada Action Now (TAN), was quickly formed to fight back.

The interesting and exciting story of TAN's and Texada's success was told in the April 2016 issue of *Expresslines* (to be reprinted here next month by request).

TAN was established to be a voice for Texada. Its initial achievements encouraged the committee to continue as a watchdog for issues that affect the island.

All Texadans are automatically members. There are no regular meetings. If something comes up "...we will deal with it quickly, get rid of it and go to sleep till the next issue arises," says Chuck Childress, one of the founders.

TAN has intervened in many concerns facing the island over the last 43 years. In most cases the community has "come out of the woodwork" to rise to the occasion. For TAN to take up a cause there has to be "overwhelming community support," says Chuck.

When the Ministry of Forests planned using herbicides to kill bracken ferns at Pocahontas Bay, TAN bid on the contract. Their "goofy idea" was simply manual clearing. The project inspired dozens of volunteers of all ages to turn out to slash the ferns.

In 1986 with TAN support Texada passed a referendum banning use of herbicides and pesticides on public lands - a first of its kind in BC!

In 2008 the proposed LNG terminal at Blubber Bay prompted TAN to fly in reporters for a media tour of Coho Point. TAN helped mobilize several environmental groups and the project was cancelled.

In 1982 TAN lobbied the Regional District to set aside land to create the Marble Bay Bluff Park. It supported our high school when closure was threatened and lobbied BC Ferries for the triangular ferry route to Comox (cancelled during Covid). More recently in 2021 TAN demanded TELUS restore cell phone service to parts of the island.

Chuck says, "TAN is there for you." Its influence over the years has been an affirmation of Texada's independence and values in the face of continuing pressures from "the outside world."

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society