TEXADA ISLAND REUNION - 1983

The concept of a reunion of former Texada residents formed the seed of an idea that grew into a year-long project coordinated by the Texada Island Community Society (TICS).

Their enthusiastic president, Ralph Gorham, volunteered as "Homecoming" chairperson with spouse, Shirley, acting as correspondence secretary.

After Texada's win in the Vancouver garbage battle (see Expresslines - June 2025) there was a feeling of optimism. Support was easily garnered from all the service clubs, businesses and people of the island. The date was set for the long weekend at the end of July, 1983.

It is estimated that over 1000 people responded and the island was filled to overflowing. Many residents hosted visitors (BNB style) or allowed RV's to park on their properties.

"The participation was tremendous," Ralph reported.

Saturday opened with children's games at the Van Anda ballfield followed by lunch provided by Texada Food Market. A plaque naming the field "Jack Smithson Park" was unveiled and pioneers Joe Pillat, Glennie McLeod and Bill and Florrie Young were honoured.

Ball tournaments at both Van Anda and Gillies Bay fields were followed by a beef barbecue.

The day ended with a dance - two actually. The "old timers" cut a rug at the Elks Hall with Bill Campbell and friends blasting out the tunes. The "young timers" boogied at the Legion.

Sunday started with a pancake breakfast at Harwood Park (Shelter Point) and church services in the meadow (group site). A children's treasure hunt, loggers sports and quarryman sports filled the day. The Rod and Gun Club sponsored a salmon barbecue and beer garden. Events were capped with an old fashioned Tug-of-War between the Gillies Bay and Van Anda volunteer fire departments.

Monday morning farewells included coffee and donuts at the Harwood Park concession.

"What a party! It was a great success and drew the island community together," said Ralph Gorham.

Texada's "Reunion 83" was indeed a memorable event for both islanders as well as the hundreds who attended.