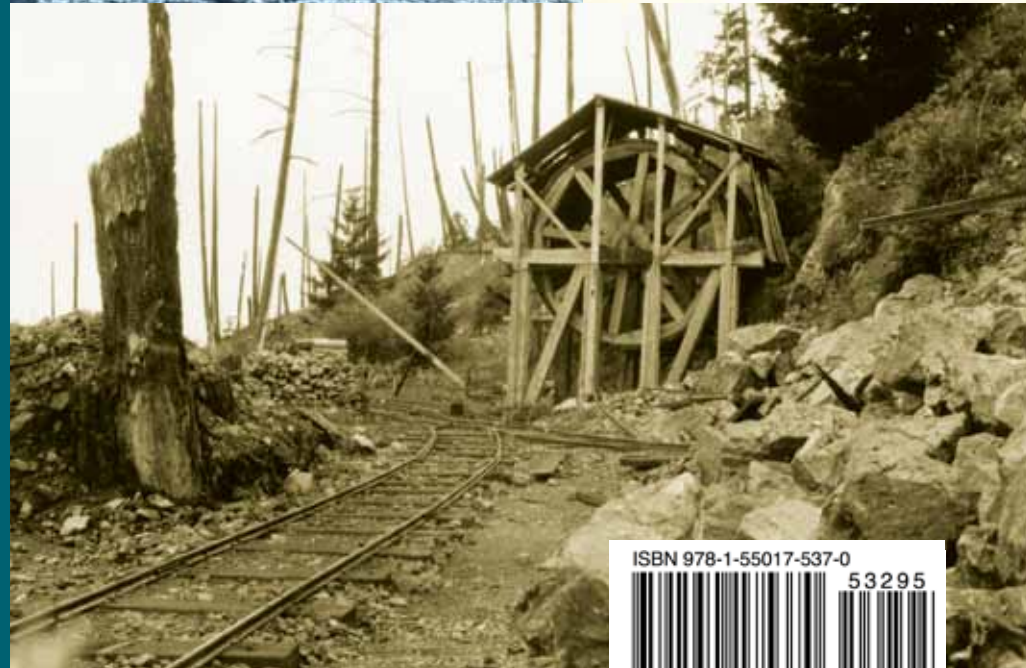


A captivating book full of unforgettable characters, humorous anecdotes and well-researched facts—a valuable volume on the history of the BC coast.



HEATHER HARBORD is a former Geology Librarian of the Royal School of Mines in London who has been exploring Canada's three oceans by sea kayak, Russian icebreaker and working boat since 1963. She has written four previous books including the British Columbia bestseller *Desolation Sound: A History*. She lives in Powell River, overlooking the island she has written about and kayaked around.



Front cover photo: Davie Bay (Courtesy Heather Harbord). Back cover photos: *City of Nanaimo* at Van Anda wharf, 1899 (Texada Island Heritage Society); Blanchard family picnic with friends, the Lowthers (Courtesy Maurice Liebich); Night shift mine crew, L to R: Gabriel, Hamilton, McKee, Hansen, Larson and Mike, 1951 (Courtesy Heather Harbord); Prescott Mine tramline and hand sheave, 1901 (Texada Island Heritage Society).

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TEXADA
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A History

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Texada is the largest island in the Gulf of Georgia, a long strip of granite and richly mineralized limestone dividing the upper gulf. A newcomer's first impression is of an idyllic place with sandy beaches, a Sunday farmer's market and a scant population of aging loggers, miners and farmers, but this belies Texada's intriguing history.

Although today Texada is better-known as the home of the illegal agricultural product called Texada Gold, it was once the focus of a real gold rush that lured no less a figure than cookie-tycoon William Christie. Later, Texada was the site of British Columbia's first major political scandal when squabbles over a rich iron ore claim forced the resignation of Premier Amor De Cosmos in February 1874. The rich mineral deposits in time gave rise to three booming towns—Gillies Bay, Blubber Bay and Van Anda, noted as the town with everything, including an opera house. Population ebbed and flowed with mineral prices and Texada went in and out of the news. Its association with illegal intoxicants dates back to 1928 when the biggest whisky still north of Vancouver was busted in romantic Pochontas Bay. The bitter Blubber Bay strike of 1938 put Texada in the news again as the Pacific Lime Company faced off against the IWA labour union in a bloody riot. This is also the feisty island that repelled the might of the Greater Vancouver Regional District when politicians wanted to dump metropolitan garbage in the abandoned pit of the once-famous Texada Mine.

Author Heather Harbord has dedicated years to research, including over a hundred interviews with locals and old-timers, to create a book full of unforgettable characters, humorous anecdotes and little-known facts, accompanied by dozens of previously unpublished photographs.