

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR OCTOBER 06

We closed the museum on Monday 4 September, entertaining fourteen visitors that afternoon and that gave us a total of 330 for the period from mid June to Labour Day. As they say in Royal circles “We are pleased”. We are considering changing our summer hours to eleven thirty to three or three thirty thus taking better advantage of the ferry arrivals and departures. We will decide that next spring. In the meantime we have prepared a list of some thirty five projects that we will work on over the winter.

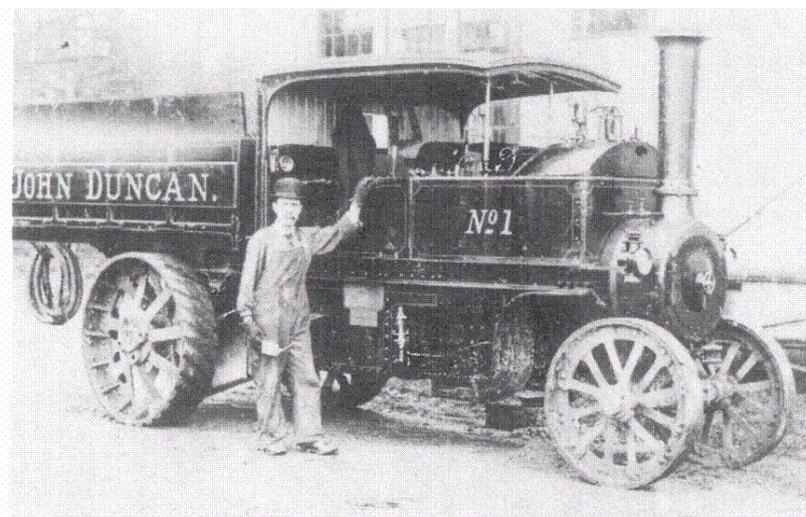
The very first of these was to set up a display at the Credit Union to help celebrate their fifty years on the island on 18 September 06. We acknowledge the forward thinking members of the community who established this organisation including Keith Johnson, Mike Zaikow, Henry Liebich and Len Diggon among others. Our display will be in that location for a few weeks and you are invited to drop in.

One of the next projects will be to move the display to the Old School in Gillies Bay and establish it in the Seniors Centre where many more will be able to see it particularly those attending Friday lunch. Since the museum will be closed all winter our aim is to bring special displays out into the community and change them periodically. We will soon be placing a new display in the Community Hall where you can view it when you go to community events.

Our historical photograph this month is of a steam driven truck called a Foden built in England and introduced into BC in the early nineteen hundreds. According to the Old English Car Club of BC, who are interested in finding one of these vehicles, one of these trucks was barged to Texada Island in 1913 to haul logs into Gillies Bay. The museum has no record or knowledge of such a vehicle but would be very interested in receiving any information that anyone out there might have. Our history book, “Texada”, by Bill Thompson states that a Ross Shields from Bellingham Washington was logging in the Gillies Bay area at that time but gives no further information.

It is time to put away the summer toys and prepare for the fall and winter so until next time take care of each other.

Norm MacLean



Oil can in hand and wearing a brand new pair of coveralls, John Duncan poses “proud as punch” alongside his gleaming steam-powered truck in Victoria, B.C.