

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR APRIL 2007

It is only three days until the first day of spring and I am still gazing out at rain and fog with a temperature of plus 7 at 11 AM. The daffs are in full bloom however so all is not gloom and misery. The photo this month is of a fossil found on the beach at the end of the Dr Kay Garner Nature Trail at Shelter Point Park here on Texada. My geological friends tell me that the fossil should not have been there because of the type of rock that it is in but there it was at any rate. It has been identified as a crinoid or sea lily which is in fact an animal. They are like a feathery starfish attached to the top of a stem which is itself attached to a rock on the bottom like kelp seaweed is. What can be seen in the fossil are sections of the stem which consist of stacks of disks. We are grateful to Ron and Lynne Nott of Powell River for donating this fossil to the museum. Your scribe had the privilege of giving a talk to the Texada Island Women's Network recently and wishes to thank them for their kind reception. Museum members Doug Paton and Ken Barton presented a slide show to the Texada Island Community Society recently thus demonstrating our digital projector which TICS very kindly purchased for us. We are now in a position to give slide supported presentations to groups on the island and would welcome more opportunities to do that. Doug Paton while doing photo research came across a treasure trove of newspaper clippings from the Nanaimo Free Press for the period 1890 to 1894. These contain many references to prospectors travelling between Nanaimo and Texada with glowing reports of the riches to be found on Texada. We are going to research the Nanaimo Free Press archives for the period from 1874, when the paper was founded, and 1890 for more knowledge of that exciting period that led up to the development of Van Anda as a thriving mining town in the late 1890's. Until the next time take care of each other and remember to think green.

Norm MacLean

