



MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR NOVEMBER 07

The “book reading” held 23 September at the Seniors Centre in Gillies Bay was very successful with a full house in attendance. Heather Harbord read passages from her book “Desolation Sound- A History” and showed slides of the area and the people who pioneered it many years ago. The book was dedicated to Maria Zaikow who grew up in Desolation Sound and provided Heather with many anecdotes of her time there. Another island resident who features in the book is Mary Gussman and we were privileged to have both Mary and Maria present at the reading. The photo shows Heather Harbord on the left with Maria in the centre and Mary Gussman on the right. Heather kindly donated a copy of her book to the museum.

We are pleased to announce that the Heritage Society has received a grant from the BC Gaming Commission for \$6000.00. The money will be used to carry out some renovation to the museum and to purchase some needed items of equipment. We are grateful to Rob McWilliam for his expertise in preparing the application.

Local 816 of the United Steelworkers of America celebrated their sixtieth anniversary recently. This union replaced the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers in Blubber Bay who we believe replaced a local of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union. Labour history on the island is of great interest and contains some very colourful and dramatic chapters. The year 2007 is the seventieth anniversary of the labour unrest at Pacific Lime Company in Blubber Bay which began in July 1937 and continued intermittently until February or March of 1939. This is also the one hundredth anniversary of a strike at the Marble Bay Copper Mine. The issue then was wages and the union involved was the Texada Lodge No. 113 of the Western Federation of Mines. We welcome any information the anyone has about unions on the island and particularly any photographs.

Until next time take care of each other and remember to think green.

Norm MacLean