

## MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR APRIL 2008

I am pleased to report that we have signed a five year lease with Ashgrove Cement for the continued use of the Thatcher house as our museum in Blubber Bay. We thank Ted Thomson and his company for their continuing support of the museum. Without them we would have nothing. Negotiations are ongoing with the School Board for the use of part of the unused elementary school in Van Anda . We hope that we will be able to expand our display and storage space and in fact create a Van Anda branch of the Texada Museum.

As part of BC's 150th birthday activities we are planning a Van Anda celebration to take place in and around the school on 12 July. It will be patterned after the Blubber Bay event held last year and will concentrate on Van Anda's early life as a burgeoning mining centre. We hope to stage many of the same events such as museum displays including slide shows of our old photographs, opening ceremonies with the Clansman Pipe Band and various dignitaries, food and beverage stands, Toonie tours, silent auction, a parade and entertainment. Folks will be invited to come in costume and prizes will be awarded. Please keep the date open.

Van Anda has an exciting history particularly related to its heyday as a mining community. Van Anda was born in 1899. Right next door near Marble Bay, Texada City was established. The two were merged in 1943 to form Van Anda. In 1898 the lime kiln in Marble Bay was built, the Marble Bay mine opened, the Texada Hotel, later called the Marble Bay Hotel was opened and school classes started in the honeymoon cottage in Van Anda. In 1900 the church was built and sometime before 1900 the Texada Opera House was erected which later became the Van Anda Hospital. Clearly this was a very busy area. Our picture today is of the honeymoon cottage built by Harry Treat for his bride. This structure still exists.

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

Norm MacLean

