

## TEXADA NAMES REVEAL LOCAL HISTORY

We live surrounded by reminders of our local history. Many familiar places are named for real people from Texada's past.

One example is **Andy's Corner** named after Andy Van Vianen who used to provide fresh milk from his dairy farm. Or, **Heischolt Lake** named by a convivial gentleman who worked for Blubber Bay quarries in the 1960's. **Sanderson Road** was named by Dr Roy Sanderson, a principal of Vancouver's King Edward High School, who subdivided his beach properties.

A popular picnic site is **Erickson's Beach** the name adopted from the Swedish schoolteacher, Eric Erickson, who lived on his boat in Van Anda Bay. He became famous for building the nearby smelter.

Hugh Kirk was a coal miner from Nanaimo who "struck it rich" on Texada (the Gladstone Mine) in 1889. In the spring of 1894 - at forty years of age - Kirk met an unfortunate end. His skeleton was discovered next to a rifle near his cabin at **Kirk Lake**. It had been a brutal winter and nobody had been out to check on him.

Van Anda's boat harbour is situated in **Sturt Bay** (AKA Marble Bay) near where British Navy Captain Henry Evelyn Sturt quarried marble in 1878. His operation lasted only a few months before the product was condemned by his San Francisco customers: "[it is] too much broken up to be of any value."



Some places were named for early prospectors - Ezra Cook (**Cook Bay**) and Elijah Priest (**Priest Lake**) surveyed and staked claims on Texada before 1900.

Mine personnel were also honoured: Alexander Grant (**Mount Grant**) was a respected superintendent at Marble Bay Mine. Thomas Kiddie (**Kiddie Point**) was a top-notch metallurgist from New Jersey who was superintendent of Ed Blewett's (**Blewett Street**) Van Anda Copper and Gold Company.

Mine executive Alfred Raper's daughter, Emily, lends her name to peaceful **Emily Lake** (AKA Turtle Lake). William Stromberg (**Stromberg Falls**) was a Finnish lad who made his way to Texada after jumping ship in San Francisco. He later was in charge of the powerhouse at Van Anda mines.

These familiar Texada place names help to reveal our rich local history. Thanks to Heather Harbord's *Texada Tapestry* for details.