

HISTORY OF CLUBS ON TEXADA

It seems that finding “something to do” was never a problem on Texada Island. In fact, it was reported in 1900 that “scarcely is one notice torn down before another announcement of a dance, concert or other entertainment takes its place.”

Revelries commenced in the 1890’s with “gay parties at the lake” (Emily/Turtle Lake) in Harry and Olive Treat’s log cabin. Participants were the “would-be elite” - mine managers, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, etc. who were mockingly dubbed the “400 Club” by locals after the prestigious private club in London.

However this group did organize other events for the general community. James Raper helped establish the Texada Gun Club in 1910. Buying and releasing quail, extending the fishing season and building a fish ladder at Priest Lake’s outlet were hot topics.

Meanwhile the ladies were busy raising funds for the new church building. By March, 1901, the Ladies Aid Society had accumulated a large sum and was able to provide \$109 for the minister’s salary.

Up on the High Road 1905 saw the formation of the Farmers’ Institute with 32 members paying \$1 membership fee. Some of the funds helped establish a telephone system for the isolated farms in the area.

In 1928 the Blubber Bay Horticultural Association held its second annual exhibition. Top prizes were silver trays, one of which is currently on display in the museum.

Island activities were finally co-ordinated in 1930 by establishing the Van Anda Community Society (now TICS). The old community hall (near the present PO) hosted dances, card parties, bingos and “picture shows.”

Other venues for gatherings opened up in later years. The Royal Canadian Legion received its charter in 1949 and opened their “watering-hole” in part of a two-story building next to Van Anda Creek.

The Elks’ acquisition and renovation of the old school building in 1951 added another venue and dances were held twice a month with local musicians providing live music.

If one was lucky enough to afford a vehicle the Texada Island Taxpayers Automotive Association offered membership. They lobbied in 1945 for extra road workers and sought a gravelling programme as the roads were “one continuation of potholes and washboards.”

Part 2 next month.

