

TEXADA MUSEUM GOING STRONG!

Your Texada Museum has had a booming summer season! With over 1,000 visitors (a new record!) our greeters were busy full-time as islanders and summer guests were warmly welcomed. (Covid-19 protocols in effect)

Thank-you to Joya Muma and Charlie Boulet for their gracious and dependable hosting and a special thanks to the 14 community members who volunteered to fill in to keep the museum open during posted hours.

The museum received great support from all our summer guests and one visitor was so impressed with the displays that she donated several items from her personal collection of antiques. (photo) Thanks to Susan Sharkey and Lorrie Pirart for collecting and transporting them. Now begins the task of "accessioning" (describing, cataloguing, photographing) the numerous items.

This season's activity at the museum will involve planning and preparing the first room (Mr Lock's old classroom) for a future display area. The room's former contents (building materials and extra supplies) have been relocated to the 40-foot storage container while the workshop has been moved into the former outdoor covered area.

In other news, our official blue "BC Museum" sign has been erected at the Van Anda crossroads. In addition, we hope to move the outdoor equipment from Blubber Bay to Van Anda soon. They will be displayed in the area adjacent to the museum, to be enclosed by chain link fencing. Plans are under way, as well, to resume school liaison visits in the new year ("Covid willing").

On a personal note, this month marks the start of my 11th year writing these articles. I am grateful for the appreciation expressed by many readers and for the opportunity to share Texada's history.

A personal thank-you to Doug Paton who has researched and provided the great photos that have accompanied my articles. Further thanks to Heather Harbord (author of *Texada Tapestry*) and Bill Thompson (author of *Texada Island*) whose comprehensive books on Texada's history have been inspiring sources of well-researched information. It is a pleasure to work with so many enthusiastic and dedicated people who have a commitment to valuing and preserving Texada's colourful past.

The volunteers at your museum wish everyone a happy holiday season and best wishes for the new year.

(Winter hours: Wednesdays 10am to noon)

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society

