

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Texada's place names reveal the history of this fabled island.

Since ancient times the First Nations have called it Sah-yeh-yeen.

In the 18th Century European explorers imposed their own culture. The flavour of Spain is captured in the names bestowed upon the area by Captain Narvaez in 1791 - Favada, Lasqueti and Texada itself. Captain Vancouver (1792) introduced English into the mix naming Upwood Point after a childhood friend, for example.

Of course, people initially identified places based on their natural features. Crescent Bay, Long Beach, Shingle Beach, Shelter Point.

Early industries contributed to local names - Limekiln Bay, Blubber Bay, Marble Bay, for instance.

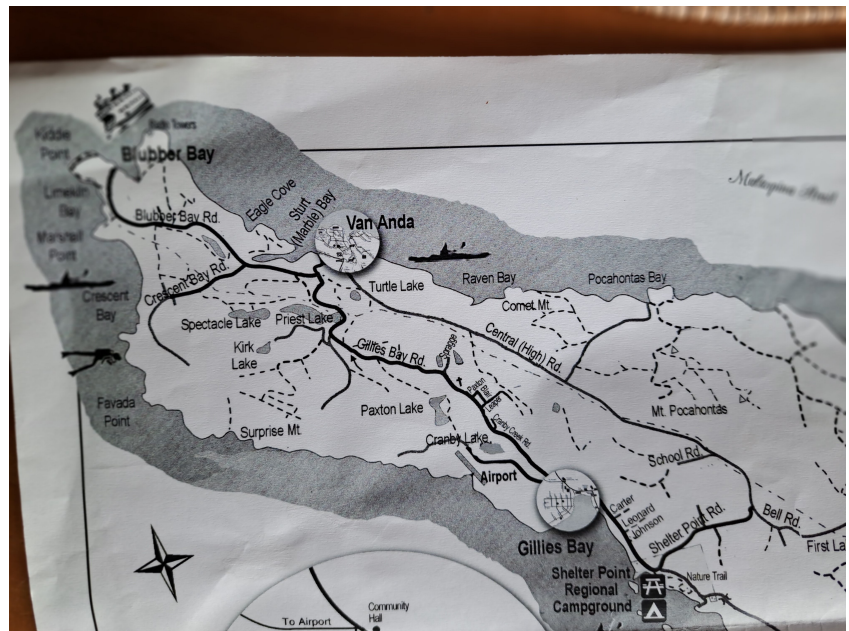
Some pioneer families lent their names to various geographical features - Van Anda (Carrie Blewett's family name), Sturt Bay (Captain Sturt's marble quarry), Priest Lake (after prospector Elijah Priest), Stromberg Falls, Kirk Lake, Erickson's Beach, Emily Lake, etc.

Some names have little directly to do with Texada's history. Mouat Bay is named for a Hudson Bay Company fur trader who operated through Hawaii. Harwood Point is named for a WWII British commander. Partington Point honours a captain whose ship exploded near Bella Bella in 1925.

The name of Pocahontas Bay always seemed out of place as it references a legendary American folk hero of the 1600's. Upon research, however, one finds that Pocahontas was the name of a ship that carried lumber on the west coast. Commanded by Captain Cyrus Sears (of Baltimore) it became famous for transporting a 175-ft Douglas fir spar around the Horn to London for the Crystal Palace Exposition of 1851.

Of course some local names may never appear on any official map - "Break-Your-Ass-Hill" for example. And who can guess the origins of names like Rumbottle and Whiskey Still Creeks?

Perusing place names on the map of Texada Island opens another window into its colourful past.



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