

EVEN MORE TEXADA HISTORY FUN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW

... the rock terraces visible at the south end of Davie Bay were constructed by teenagers in the 1920's?

The Devaney family (mother Mary and her 7 children - the oldest 15 years) moved into old loggers' bunkhouses in 1924 and proceeded to clear 5 acres, dig out 52 stumps and build numerous terraces on which they grew vegetables, planted fruit trees and tended flower gardens.

Rich soil was packed down from a swamp 1/2 mile uphill and water was carried to the beach in buckets where they boiled their laundry in tubs set atop beach fires.

These stories of Texada's pioneers make it hard to complain when our high-tech appliances quit working!

... in the 1920's a visitor to Gillies Bay beach could witness logs careening down a 1/2 mile chute into the bay?

Alberta Logging Company used a steam-powered donkey engine to help pull cut logs down the chute which was formed by simply laying 3 logs along-side each other. These were butted end-to-end and greased.

Most of the lovely sandy beach was occupied by log booms waiting to be towed.

... after numerous fund-raising projects (dances, bake sales, raffles, etc) and hours of volunteer labour, in 1951 the new community-built schoolhouse at Davie Bay was removed from its site, winched onto a log raft and floated north to Gillies Bay? (Photo) "Population dynamics" had changed. Many of the families needing the school had moved to the new Gillies Bay townsite when Texada Mines opened. Better jobs beckoned. The relocated building became Gillies Bay's first school.



... Texada was once served by

"fast ferries" that could move passengers and freight to Vancouver in under 5 hours!

Decommissioned WWII naval vessels (*Gulf Wing* and *Gulf Stream*) with 400 hp diesel engines made trips from Van Anda, Blubber Bay and Powell River in record time.

A coffee bar, staterooms and mens' and women's lounges were enjoyed by passengers.

The service came to an end in 1951 when the road was completed to Earls Cove and the Blackball Ferry service made vehicle connections easier.