THANK-YOU PETE STILES!

The Texada Island Heritage Society will miss our knowledge-keeper, inspiration, story-teller and friend - Pete Stiles - as he moves to the mainland after 58 years on Texada.

Pete was born in Trail, BC in 1929, his father the Chief Engineer for Cominco. Pete's first summer job was digging ditches for the company but he was fired for leaving early. His supervisor was cautioned, "You can't fire him. His dad is the boss." He was re-hired but greater things awaited.

After high school Pete attended Royal Roads College, then achieved a BSc in Mining Engineering at UBC in 1951.

In 1958 Pete married Monica Brown whom he knew in Trail when they were in school together at age 8. Their partnership lasted 59 years.

Pete worked 5 years at Britannia Mines then in Calgary, Port McNeill and Zeballos where he ran the mine which shipped iron ore to Japan.

In 1966 Stan Beale, Sr. offered Pete a job on Texada at his Beale Quarries (later sold to Ideal Cement) and Pete became Quarry Engineer for the company and, later, manager.

Pete says that he appreciated the "good working conditions" and had a "fun time" there. Everyone knew everyone, with 3 generations of Texadans employed. "I really enjoyed it."

Pete's life on Texada was not all about work. His cheerful, positive personality attracted many friends. He was involved in several community groups such as Texaquatics Diving Club, Chamber of Commerce, Legion, Power Squadron, Boy Scouts, Van Anda TV Association and, to our benefit, the Texada Heritage Society in which he was a founding member, later serving as Treasurer.

In recent years Pete became the "guru" of our Wednesday morning museum work sessions, dispensing knowledge with humour and always ready with a story.

Pete says, "The people of Texada have been so good to me and I've tried to return it. I like people. They are the most important thing in our lives."

We wish Pete a bright future in his new home in Powell River and thank him for his years of dedication to the island and to our museum.

We miss him already.

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society