

Express Lines

Texada's Calendar of Events

March 2022

Thanks!

The Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the Texada Island Health Services Society (TIHSS). They have made it possible for us to develop a medical first responder program for our community.

TIHSS has provided an AED for our trained first responders to use. They also made it possible for Larry Dawe to contribute additional funds for a hard carrying case and infant/child pads for the AED.



HIGHWAYS CONCERNS

Do you have questions, comments or concerns regarding highways and highway maintenance on Texada?

If so, please come to an in-person meeting with MOTI local area manager Rino Parise Thursday, March 17 from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Legion.

At my invitation, Rino is coming here to meet directly with Texada residents regarding highways issues.

Please be prepared to wear a mask if current requirements remain in place. A vaccine certificate is required to enter the Legion.

- Sandy McCormick



RD DISCUSSIONS BACK

With the easing of COVID gathering restrictions it's now possible to resume regular in-person Regional District Discussions with director Sandy McCormick. Before COVID, RD Discussions took place twice a year to meet informally with Sandy and bring forward ideas, comments, questions or concerns.

Please join Sandy for the next RD Discussion Tuesday, March 15, 7 pm at the Community Hall. Please wear your mask if current mask requirements are still in effect. If you can't make the 15th, you can reach Sandy directly at sandyneleeti@gmail.com, or 604-414-3525.

It's been a while, so there's lots to catch up on. See you there!



TEXADA ISLAND HEALTH CENTRE

Hours of operation

Monday to Thursday

8:30 am to 11:45 am, 1:15 pm to 4 pm

Friday 8:30 am to 11:45 am

Phone Number: 604-486-7525

If there's no reply, please leave a message.

Emergencies: 604-414-9638. If there's no reply within 10 minutes, please phone 911.

Information – Nurses Hotline: 811

COVID changes:

- Visits strictly by appointment except for emergencies. We will try to deal with issues by phone as much as possible and give appointments when patients need to be seen in person.
- Lab tests by appointment only. Extended lab time: 8:30 am to 9:45 am.
- Masks and hand sanitizer compulsory on entering the health centre.
- If you are ill and suspect you may have COVID, please come to the back door marked COVID and follow the posted instructions.
- TAP forms can be picked up after 1:15 pm.

Please be patient with us. We have never been in this situation before either.



P.O. Box 160
Van Anda, B.C. VON 3K0
Telephone: (604) 486-7627
Fax : (604) 486-7280



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

qathet Regional District 2022 Texada Island Mowing Contract

The qathet Regional District is requesting quotes (RFQ) for scheduled mowing and trimming services for regional district properties on Texada Island. Commercial mowing equipment must be supplied by contractor. View and download the RFQ at qathet.ca/projects/bid-opportunities. **Deadline for quotes: 4 pm, Friday, March 25, 2022.**

For all inquiries, contact:
Patrick Devereaux, Manager of Operational Services at 604-485-2260 or by email at operations@qathet.ca.



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604-414-9811 604-486-7180
604-414-5232

Meetings: Wednesdays & Sundays at 6:30 pm at
the United Church



BINGO

Aaaaaaaaand we're back!! We seem to finally be getting back to some semblance of normality again — and we will be playing bingo again! Proof of vaccination and masks while moving around are still mandatory.

The first one back will be held at the Community Hall in Gillies Bay on March 4. Doors will open at 6:30, games will start at 7 pm.

Everyone is welcome!! Grab a friend and come on down for an evening of laughs, fun, goodies and maybe even win some money. See you all there!!

MEETING

With the loosening of restrictions, we will be holding our next meeting on March 14 at Mary Mary Café. Lunch at noon, meeting will start at about 12:45 pm. Members will be contacted. Anyone wishing to come and join or check us out can call Elayne (604-486-7457) to reserve your seat.

This meeting will also be our AGM and elections for officers will be held at the end of the meeting. Anyone interested in running for a position is asked to call Jane Waterman (604-413-0940).

Annual dues will be due at this meeting as well. \$5 per person.

CHOCOLATES

Remember to get your Purdy's Easter Chocolates order in by March 16. Catalogues can be picked up at Mary Mary Café or by calling Elayne (604-486-7457) or place your order online (fundraising.purdys.com. Join campaign 28828.)

Phonebooks

Please remember to get your phonebook additions and changes in. And businesses need to get their ad requests in. Both by March 20th, please.



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

**INVITATION TO TENDER
CONCESSION CONTRACT
- SHELTER POINT PARK -
2022**

The qathet Regional District is seeking tenders to operate a food concession at Shelter Point Park for the 2022 camping season. The Invitation to Tender document may be viewed and downloaded online at BC Bid (bcbid.gov.bc.ca) and on qathet.ca under *Projects - Bid Opportunities*. Hard copies are available at the Regional District main office and Community Services office. Please submit Appendix C: the Registration of Intent to Respond form as soon as possible. Tenders must be received no later than **4 PM on Friday, March 25, 2022.**

For all inquiries contact: Patrick Devereaux at 604-485-2260 or operations@qathet.ca

LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

Texada's own "little free pantries" are available to everyone on Texada with food insecurities. Please feel free to pick up or drop off some much needed food. Locations are at the Food Bank in Van Anda and in front of 4758 Cedar St. (between Oak and Ash) in Gillies Bay. Sponsored by the Community of Texada and the Texada Food Bank. "Take what you need; leave what you can."

THANK YOU for all the anonymous donations of food that have been left in the pantries! If you see a cooler under the pantries, you may take or leave produce, including excess from our gardens.



LETTER TO VAN ANDA RESIDENTS

We understand that many of you are concerned about the increased rates. The rates were determined at several meetings in October & November by the usual process of creating a budget to cover the next year's expenses and adjusting Tolls and Taxes to provide the needed revenue. We minimized everything possible. It was a shock to see the final figures and a notice was placed in the Express Lines to warn of the increase. The proposed amounts are vetted and approved by the Provincial Government.

We recognize that previous boards have done the best they could; through the years, volunteer boards have spent many hours doing their best to provide quality drinking water at reasonable rates. Unfortunately, the aged infrastructure is failing; from last year and into the future we have/will have to make urgent repairs to continue provision of water for households and firefighting.

One area of increase is Wages. During 2021, we responded to residents' concerns to pay the Water Operators at rates equivalent to similar organizations. All job descriptions were updated, and employee evaluations performed. Labor hours budgeted for are based on previous years hours worked, with consideration of the frequent new leaks requiring immediate repair, as well as extra maintenance needed at the Water Treatment Plant caused by climatic extremes' effects on the lake water.

Once we are no longer dealing with frequent repairs and leaks then these costs will decrease and so possibly may the rates if the board at that time makes that decision. However, given the amount of deteriorated infrastructure, we do not expect it to be soon. Last year we applied for a grant to replace the worst areas of piping only and our cost estimate at that time was \$490,000.

Obtaining a loan to complete the necessary work to bring the infrastructure up to

standard is a possibility. Proceeding with this will require a special public meeting that is not part of the AGM. If a similar failure to that of summer 2021 should reoccur, we will need a bank loan to pay for the necessary work, in which case it would make sense to include all needed repairs and replacements.

As always, residents are welcome at the monthly meetings, and we are open to comments and suggestions. If you or anyone you know would like to be involved this kind of decision making, there will be at least one Trustee position available at the coming AGM on April 9.

— *Sincerely,*
Board of Trustees,
Van Anda Improvement District

PS: A friendly reminder that 2022 Water Tolls and Taxes are due March 15. Payment plans are available. Contact the office for more info: contact@vananda-id.ca or 604-486-7035

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604-414-7764

vacw@twincomm.ca

 **VAN ANDA CUSTOM WORKS**

qathet Regional District 2022 Youth Summer Positions

The qathet Regional District is accepting applications from youths ages 15 to 30 for three (3) summer positions.

- Shelter Point Regional Park:** to start May 14
- Haywire Bay Regional Park:** to start May 14
- Powell River Cemetery:** to start May 17

All positions end Labour Day 2022. Wage rate is \$20.00 per hour. Positions are covered by a union contract under CUPE Local 798. Work schedule: 7 hours per day, 5 days per week, with 2 consecutive days off. Park employees **must** work weekends and holidays.

Applicants must be physically strong, familiar with basic maintenance tools and equipment, capable of physical work in an outdoor setting, and be good with the public. Applicants must also have their own transportation to and from work.

Deliver a cover letter and resume to:
 qathet Regional District
 Attn: Patrick Devereaux, Manager of Operational Services
 #202-4675 Marine Avenue
 Powell River, BC V8A2L2
 Fax: 604-485-2216
 E-mail: employment@qathet.ca

Deadline for applications: 4 pm · Friday, March 25, 2022. For more information contact: Patrick Devereaux at 604-485-2260 or by email employment@qathet.ca

TEXADA WOMEN'S ISLAND NETWORK March Luncheon

Thursday March 10, 2022
 at the Texada Island Inn Pub.
 Doors open at 11:30 am, lunch at 12 noon
 and the guest speaker at 1 pm.
 Guest Speaker: Elke Sager

To reserve, please phone Moe at 604-414-7312 no later than Thursday March 3, 2022. If you have food allergies, please let Moe know when you make your reservation. If you can, please bring a non-perishable food item.

Please wear Mardi Gras colors: purple, gold, green or all of them and a mask.

Members not wearing name tags will be fined a loonie. If you are wearing your name tag, you will automatically be entered into our draw for a free lunch, to be drawn in June. Good luck!

Tickets for our Mother's Day Draw will be available from T.W.I.N. members and most local stores after the 10th of March. Please look for posters around the community.



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POWELL RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY- MARCH AT A GLANCE!

Spring Break Comic Camp

Virtual, 10 days: Monday – Friday March 14-18 & 21-25! Spring Break Comic Camp welcomes back graphic novelist Cole Pauls as our guest artist!

For Kids Ages 8-10: 10:30-11:30 am, contact szagwyn@prpl.ca to register

For Youth 11+: 1:30- 3 pm, contact edgar@prpl.ca to register

Kids, szagwyn@prpl.ca

Preschool Storytime: Anne Woznow Reading Room Wednesdays 10:30-11:00 am. Library Storytime. Drop-in up to 20 participants. Proof of vaccination required for participants 21+

Read to Dogs: March 9, 3:30-4:30pm – Willingdon Beach Pavilion. Young readers share stories with child-certified four-legged friends. Cuddles and tail wags abound. Sign up to book your spot!

Drawn Together: Kids 8-12, Thursdays 3:45-4:30 pm, until March 10 – via Zoom. Draw with artist Luke Ramsey. Registration required.

Far-Out Storytime: March 29 – Sunset Park, Wildwood Preschool Storytime visits outdoor locations in the qathet Regional District. To register, contact familyplace@liftcommunityservices.org

Portal to the Past: PRPL YouTube. Time travel with the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives.

Garden Storywalks: March 31, 10:30-11:00 am - VCH Hospital Garden. Storywalks in the VCH Garden. Registration Required.

Preschool StoryBytes: Released on PRPL’s YouTube. A virtual slice of storytime pie.

Teens, edgar@prpl.ca

Codespace: Youth 11 +, Virtual. Wednesdays 4 pm. Coding and animation with Tech Wizard Kieran Fogarty.

Young Writers Group: Youth 11+. Virtual. Fridays 4 pm. Talk writing, learn new techniques, stretch your skillset.

Totally Mature Family Book Club: Virtual. 11+. Date/Time TBD. Read, discuss, and connect.

First Dibs: Teens! Write reviews, get published AND get volunteer credit!

Adults, mmerlino@prpl.ca

Tech Savvy – Identity Theft: Friday March 18, 3 pm via Zoom. Learn more about the risks of identity theft and some strategies to protect yourself.

The Story of BC’s Undersea Technology: Saturday March 19, 2 pm via Zoom. Join maritime historian Vickie Jensen for a talk about her new book *Deep, Dark and Dangerous* on the little-known world of underwater work.

Write On: Fridays 2 pm, via Zoom. To register contact edgar@prpl.ca. Get creative and share writing in a fun and informal group.

See prpl.ca for detailed listings, or email info@prpl.ca.



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**TEXADA
ISLAND
INN**

**YOUR ISLAND HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM
INFORMATION CENTRE
604-486-7711**

Hello, Texada,
Warmish nights, beautiful sunny days. Spring is coming!

- Although we can mingle at full capacity and dance, we still need proof of vaccinations to dine in and masks are mandatory. All our safety and sanitizing protocols are in place... Let's do this with grace and a smile.
- St Patrick's Day Thursday: Random shamrocks. Come see what that's about!
- We are accepting resumes for cooks and wait staff. Give us a call or drop off your resume.
- Fun Darts (soon) and we will now be doing "We Make You Bake" pizzas.
- Don't forget our talented artists - always new stuff. *Shop Locally, Buy Beautiful.*

NOW OPEN FOR BREAKFAST SUNDAYS ONLY—8 AM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Lotto Center • Gift Certificates • Bagged Ice • Island Information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-Shirts, Vests & Hoodies • Local Art • Ice Cream 	<p>Thank you, Texada, for all your love and support, <i>Cymry, Evan, and Kaitlyn</i></p>	<p>Bar Hours Mon - Wed: closed Sun, Thurs: 3 pm - 8 pm Fri, Sat: noon - 8 pm</p>	<p>Restaurant Hours Mon - Sun: Noon - 7 pm</p>
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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group has readily available funds for individuals on Texada Island needing additional financial support while obtaining treatment for their cancer. We are here to help and can provide up to \$500 per year per patient.

Forms can be picked up at either the Texada Island Health Center or my home in Van Anda. I can be reached at 604-486-7494. All inquiries are held in the strictest of confidence.

—Barb Egglestone

Texada Breast Cancer Support



Contact: Joan Martisca
604-483-6438

Udith Teuner
604-486-6744

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Call Chris : 604-346-6410 ,

TEXADA COMMUNITY POLICING

Next scheduled meeting: April 7, 2022
Community Room First Credit Union
Time to be announced

Report from Conservation on the 2021 hunting season: 25 files (both public and officer on patrol generated).

The most common complaints were: dogs chasing deer, discharge of a firearm in a closed area, hunting with the aid of a light, and hunting in prohibited hours (these are pretty standard complaints every year on Texada).

The most common charged offences were: hunting in wildlife closed season (x3); discharge of a firearm in a closed area (x2); licensing violations (2); discharge of a firearm on or across a highway; discharge a firearm from a motor vehicle.

The majority of the remaining files were either concluded unsolved or unfounded. The deer decoy operation involving several conservation officers successfully charged a few hunters in violation of the regulations.

In comparison, 2020 had 30 files and 2019 had 21 files both public and officer generated. Thank you to all who took the time to report violations. At this time when we have only one conservation officer in our area, public calls become even more important in helping conservation with enforcement.

Contact – Box 48, Van Anda, BC V0N 3K0
or phone Leslie at 604-483-8423

Personal Income Tax Service

Sole Proprietors are welcome!
By appointment only please
Call or email Danielle
604-578-8214
booksbydc@gmail.com

Basic Returns*:

\$45 Single or \$80 Couple filed together.
Returns include electronic filing (if eligible)

*Additional fees apply for special & business
schedules - call for details



COVID protocols
In place

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TIRC

The Texada Recreation Commission (TIRC) will be meeting on Wednesday, March 9th, starting at 5 pm. Those interested in attending the meeting or making requests to the TIRC should contact Ron Smith by email (ronsmith@tru.ca) or phone 604-578-1989 as the meeting will be held virtually.

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 232

Meat draws are back!

- On Saturday, doors open at 3:30 pm, first draw at 4:15 pm.
- On Sunday, there's trivia meat draw. You can buy tickets, but throughout the afternoon we will ask trivia questions. Be the first to answer correctly and win tickets as well. The doors open at 4 pm, first draw at 4:15 pm.

- Masks are mandatory when you are not seated. You will need to wear a mask to your table or if you get up and use the washroom or go to the bar.

Be kind. Be safe.

Upcoming Events

General Meeting: March 11 at 7 pm.

Bingo is back on the third Friday of every month; March's gathering will be on the 18th at 7 pm.

Fun Darts: please watch the Facebook Message Board for start dates.

We still have COVID protocols in place:

- As per the Provincial Health Order, proof of vaccination is mandatory.

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3887 Gillies Bay Road

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Catering, special orders, and takeaway

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and much more!

MUSEUM MUSINGS

BC'S METALLIFEROUS MINERALS ACT—1897

In the 1800s many Chinese workers were hired by BC's mines which became dependent on their cheap labour.

Working at half the wages of whites, they were used as strikebreakers as well. Often assigned the more dangerous tasks like transporting explosives, the Chinese were an easy scapegoat for two catastrophic accidents (1887/1888) at Robert Dunsmuir's Vancouver Island coal mines.

In response to pressure, the BC government enacted the discriminatory Metalliferous Minerals Act in 1897 which prohibited employment of Chinese underground. However, the lure of cheap labour remained.

In Van Anda, Gold Commissioner Marshal Bray investigated the Copper Queen mine that year and reported that most of the work had been done by Chinese. Local miner Charlie Rabson attempted to lodge an official complaint that Chinese were employed "in defiance of the law".

However, Justice of the Peace A.A. Forbes refused to register the information and ordered Rabson out of his office. Forbes was residing in mine manager Blewett's house at the time and was said to be "under the thumb" of the manager.

"Such is the state of affairs in Van Anda," wrote Rabson to BC's Attorney-General.

Although Blewett later produced a cheque to cover the licence fees, the banks refused to honour it.

Member of Provincial Parliament, W. Wymond Walkem, joined the conversation. He cited dissatisfaction among Texada's white miners who were compelled to buy licences while the "miserable Chinese" escaped "scot free". The province was losing a "considerable sum" of revenue. Walkem labelled the company a "snide outfit... of little good to the country". These Americans "ought to be taught a lesson".



As the years passed on Texada, Chinese worked breaking limerock by hand and sorting ore (photo). They were gradually accepted and their exploitation became an issue of social and workplace justice.

At Blubber Bay in 1938, for example, striking white miners demanded "job security for Orientals". Chinese workers, many 20-year employees, had been forcibly evicted from their company housing. The union provided tents for them at Limekiln Bay and canvassed for donations.

It took 70 years for the government of Canada, in 1967, to repeal all laws based on race, ethnicity or national origin.

*Peter Lock
Texada Island Heritage Society*

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FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Texada Food Bank financial donations can be made at the First Credit Union or by mail to PO Box 233, Van Anda, BC V0N 3K0.

Non-perishable food donations may be put in the baskets at the Gillies Bay General Store, the Texada Market, and the First Credit Union in Van Anda. Thank you so much! Donation tins for cash are available at both stores (Gillies Bay Store and Texada Market in Van Anda) and the First Credit Union.

If you have any questions regarding contributions to the Food Bank, please call Pauline Fleming at 604-414-9590.

We are very grateful to everyone who makes regular anonymous financial deposits at the First Credit Union and for all the anonymous cash and food donations that are dropped off at the Gillies Bay Store, Texada Market, and First Credit Union. Our only request is that all food donations be intact and not previously opened.

The CARE (Compassionate Access to Resources for Everyone) cupboard can

be found on the front of The Texada Food Bank building in Van Anda. The CARE cupboard is supported by **LIFT Community Services gathet Regional District.**

The bottom compartment is for books and magazines; please feel free to give and take. The top compartment is for hygiene kits / harm reduction kits / Naloxone; take as needed.

If the box needs fixing, refills, or has issues, please contact 604-223-9487 or the email on the signs.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



Greetings, everyone,

The library has come a long way, since my husband and I moved to Texada in 2006. The Regional District began renovations to the Library in July 2008, which provided better lighting and more space. Volunteers built and painted additional bookshelves.

The Annual Book Sale each August provided funds to invest in new books. The library took on programming for the community, which involved Pre-school Story Time; Story Time at the Market with local author Deborah Zagwyn: author readings; and collaboration with Mark Merlino, PRPL provided us with his Tech Savvy Workshops.

In 2015, the library held a **Summer Reading Club** for children aged 6 – 12 years old. It was a great success culminating in a Pizza Party with prizes, games, and face painting. Quite an achievement on a limited budget!

The library now has an automated circulation system and an online catalogue. These changes were possible with assistance from the Powell River Public Library. The library catalogue can be accessed at: prpl.ent.srsidynix.net/client/en_US/texada/

With the help of one of our techy volunteers, the Library launched "**Friends of the Texada Library**" on Facebook, which displays new books, our mission statement, open hours, announcements, our logo, and library history files.

One of our volunteers took on the task of expanding the DVD collection.

All of these events have happened because of the dedication of our volunteers past and present and the community, which has supported the library initiatives and has donated books to the library.

Thank you to those volunteers who stepped up to keep the Library open during COVID.

BRAVO! The library has come a long way.

Pam Kenny

The Texada Island Library is a volunteer-staffed community service located in the Gillies Bay Old School: phone 604-486-6728, during open hours.

Library Open Hours:

Wednesday	noon to 2 pm
Friday	noon to 2 pm
Saturday	noon to 2 pm
Sunday	noon to 2 pm

For more information about the library, or about becoming a volunteer, please phone Anne Carney, Library Coordinator, at 604-486-7117.

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7241 Warner St.
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John Wick

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RCMP

March is tax season and with tax season comes an increase in fraud related files and reports. We would like to remind people that banks will never ask for your personal account information and if you are unsure about the legitimacy of a phone call from the bank, police recommend that you hang up and call your bank using the number on the back of your client card or credit card (all bank cards have customer service numbers on the back). Another common scam we have seen are arrest scams wherein the victim will receive a call stating that a family member has been arrested and that the victim needs to pay "bail" money for the family member to be released. This is a scam regardless of how convincing the person on the other end of the line sounds! Additionally, phone calls regarding shutting your social insurance number down and having a warrant out for your arrest issued if you do not pay are common scams around this time of year.

Other common indicators that someone is attempting to defraud you include anything that involves payment by bitcoin or some other crypto-currency and, more recently, gift cards. Anyone attempting to entice you to pay using gift cards (Google, Apple, Walmart, etc.) is attempting to defraud you. If at any point you are concerned that you have been a victim of fraud, please contact your financial institution and/or the detachment for assistance.

– Cst. SNIDER

**Gillies Bay
Internet Society**

For Wireless Internet from Spragge Road
to Shelter Point and up to Bell Road.
Call **1-855-767-4247**
or email **GBISoc@shaw.ca**
www.gilliesbay.ca/wireless



**qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT**



qathet Regional
Emergency
Preparedness

**GET READY
STAY READY**

**Wildfire Season
Starts April 1**

Extended warm, dry weather conditions increase the possibility of wildfires in the qathet region. If a wildfire threatens your home, you may receive an Evacuation Alert or Order. It's important to understand the difference.

**Know your
Evacuation Stages**

ALERT



Be ready to leave on short notice.

ORDER



**You are at risk.
Leave the area immediately.**

RESCIND



All is safe. You can return home.

TIP: Always keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full in case you need to evacuate on short notice.

*Don't wait
until it's too late*
emergency@qathet.ca



GARDEN CLUB NOTES

We are so lucky to live on Texada Island! Irene Kyle is a newer member to our community and in this article she reminds us of our good fortune.

The Joy and Wonder of My Gardens

There have always been gardens in my life. As a child growing up in Calgary, almost everyone in our neighborhood had vegetable gardens. We looked forward to the time in summer when we could have new potatoes, carrots, beans and peas, and when my mother picked bouquets of sweet peas. We couldn't grow roses because the Chinook weather during the winter would trick the plants into thinking it was spring and then wallop them with a killing blizzard. However, my parents' peonies were magnificent and the blue spruce in our front yard was a popular sanctuary for all kinds of birds. Later on, living in Toronto, my garden was much more luxurious with fruit trees, green and red grape vines, as well as the usual vegetables. Toronto weather was much more predictable and so our harvests were good.

Nothing, however, prepared me for the diversity and bountifulness of the flora in my Texada garden, which has been nurtured over many years. I continue to be amazed at the variety of trees that grow there. They include Douglas firs, balsam and cedar trees, a 100 year old arbutus tree, a monkey puzzle tree, linden, magnolia, ginkgo and larch trees, a curly leaf, a red maple, and a California lilac tree. I have added green and purple figs and a green gage plum tree. I have many interesting shrubs, bushes, and herbs. My garden can grow vegetables I found difficult to grow elsewhere including eggplant, broccoli, tomatoes, and corn. I haven't even mentioned that the flowers include roses, tulips, hyacinths, primulas, azaleas, peonies, geraniums, rhododendrons, hydrangeas and many more. It is truly a paradise that brings

with each season an amazing wealth of beauty and nourishment—for the body and the soul.

I made this yummy recipe using the eggplant, basil, and garlic from my garden. Enjoy!

Eggplant, Roasted Garlic and Provolone Pizza

Adapted from ricardocuisine.com.

2 bulbs garlic
8 to 10 thin slices medium size eggplant
Olive oil
Salt
pizza dough for 2 pizzas
1/2 cup pizza sauce
8 slices provolone cheese
Fresh basil

Preparation:

1. Slice off the tops of the garlic bulbs and drizzle with a few drops of oil. Wrap in a piece of foil and bake about 45 minutes.
2. In a skillet, brown the eggplant in the olive oil (be generous with the oil). Season with salt.
3. Roll out the dough for two 8-inch pizzas.
4. Squeeze the garlic flesh out from the cloves and spread over the dough. Cover with pizza sauce. Add the eggplant and cheese. Garnish with basil.
5. Bake on the lower oven rack about 15 minutes at 400 °F.

Fudge Contracting



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SD47 O.R.C.A. OUTREACH
(On THE Road WITH Children's Activities)
STRONGSTART OUTREACH

The SD47 StrongStart Outreach program offers outreach programming to families. We will still be **On the Road with Children's Activities**. We are excited to continue our program in a new way.

The SD47 ORCA Neighborhood StrongStart is not visiting Texada school in March due to Spring Break (March 14-25). Our next visit is April 4 from 11:30 am-2 pm.



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FAX: 604-486-6703

DONATIONS TO TEXADA CLINIC

If you or someone you know is making a donation to the Texada Clinic, please make the cheque out to **Texada Health Services Society** and mail to Box 84, Gillies Bay, V0N 1W0.

Thank you in advance.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

**** Regular Regional District Discussions with me resume March 15, 7pm at the hall (see story p.1)**

**** March 31st is the deadline for the first intake of grant applications from community groups. Money is allocated on a first-come basis, so if your group needs grant funding this year, please get your request in ASAP.** Application forms are available through the RD or I can email you one.

The **2022 budget** is done, and while the tax rate is down substantially, property assessments are up, so most taxpayers will see an increase in property taxes this year. The "tax rate" refers to the residential property tax rate per \$100,000 of assessed net taxable value.

Our tax base (the assessed value of all taxable properties on Texada) has risen to \$44,804,371 from \$35,864,015 last year. This is a 24.93 per cent increase and although it seems huge, it's actually the lowest increase of any area of the qRD. Area B is the highest, up by 36.06 per cent.

Our **tax rate, meanwhile, has fallen to \$198.86 from \$230.98 in 2021.** For a rough calculation of what property taxes you'll owe, multiply the tax rate by the number of \$100,000s in your property's assessed value.

So what will we see for this money?

This summer we can expect **deer fencing** to be erected around the **airport** (\$300,000). Like it or not, the fencing is a requirement of Transport Canada if we want the airport to stay open. Also at the airport, crack sealing will be done on the runway (\$5,000).

Additionally, a **new well will be drilled for Shelter Point Park** to relieve summer water shortages (\$40,000) and **new trees will be planted along the road at the two ball fields** (\$7,000). And at **Emily Lake Park**, a new 30-year provincial Crown lease is signed. Added to that, the Board agreed to support in principle the expansion of the park and directed staff to talk to the province about "feasibility and options to use this Crown land as a qRD regional park".

More about the budget and the services we receive next month.

- *Sandy McCormick, area D director*
sandynleeti@gmail.com
604-414-3525

NOTICE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DEADLINE March 31, 2022

The qathet Regional District (qRD) will accept applications for financial assistance until 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 31, 2022. Application forms and submission requirements can be found at qathet.ca. Submissions must include all documentation requested in the application form in order to be considered. For more information, please contact Jason Kouwenhoven, Assistant Manager of Financial Services at jkouwenhoven@qathet.ca or call 604-485-2260.



COASTALRIDES

Local Rideshare Service
Door to door ride service on
Texada Island

Texada Hours: 5am to 11pm most days
(driver availability may vary)

Book in advance or on demand

www.CoastalRides.ca

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TEXADA CERAMIC AND SCULPTURE STUDIO UPDATE

With restrictions easing but some still in place we are not having classes at this time. Further updates via our email list will keep people informed. You can join the list by emailing texadaartroom@outlook.com attention Kathleen Scott.

Our open hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5 pm -7 pm and Saturday 10 am -2 pm.



We purchased a brand new Shimpo reversible whisper wheel partially with a grant provided by the Regional District.

With fund raising through bottle and can returns, we also purchased a new slab roller table. Both the wheel and slab roller

have been enthusiastically used by members. The wheel is so quiet at first it was thought not to be running!

Proof of vaccine and masks are still required to enter the school and to use the ceramic studio. Hopefully all restrictions will be lifted by the end of June.



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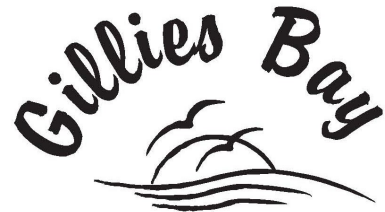
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- Hardware

LUNCH IN THE DELI

SUNDAY: FRIED RICE

MONDAY: CHICKEN TERIYAKI

TUESDAY: STIRFRY

WEDNESDAY: PIZZA

THURSDAY: CURRY CHICKEN OR CHICKEN FAJITA

FRIDAY: BEEF BURRITO

SATURDAY: PORK RIBS

Texada Island United Church

“People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don’t even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child — our own two eyes. All is a miracle.”

Thich Nhat Hanh (1926-2022)

Worship Services

Sundays 10:30 a.m. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Everyone is invited and welcome to come and be a part of our congregation. Communion will be celebrated on March 27, 2022 Everyone is welcome at our communion table. We will be having fellowship and coffee after the service; Covid restrictions (PHO) require vaccination.

Focus on Spirit!

The weekly reflection is posted on the church website. Links can be found on the church’s Facebook page (sometimes there are extra posts there so check it out) and Texada Message Board.

Prayer Group

Please call Rikki Kooy, 604-243-8097 for prayers or information

Minister’s Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursdays, at the church, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

**Please note: No Office Hours from March 7- March 21.

Minister: Rev. Gayle Chouinard, 604-414-7309
trollhollow123@gmail.com

Board Chair: Dale Rinehart, 604-486-0050

Legion Chaplain: Karen May, 604-413-0994

Website: www.texadaunited.ca

Facebook Page: Texada Island United Church



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(Starting March 7)
Save the disappointment,
Call ahead to reserve your meal.

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qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

qathet Regional District is seeking to fill the following unionized position:

Haywire Bay Park Caretaker –
Permanent, seasonal (May-September/October)
2022 rate of pay: \$4,658.46 - \$6,858.16 per month

To view required qualifications and application requirements, please visit www.qathet.ca/about/careers/ .

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TEXADA FOOD HUB

The Hub is available to all – we are located inside Texada School. The Texada Food Hub is a Vancouver Coastal Health-approved community food preservation kitchen equipped with commercial equipment for flash-freezing, dehydrating, freeze-drying, baking, juicing, fermenting, and canning all kinds of foods.

All are welcome to join Texada Agriculture Group (TAG) and use the Hub. Life membership in TAG costs a one-time fee of \$10 for individuals or \$15 for a household with two adults. For a nominal usage fee, Hub members can use the kitchen for stocking up a personal household food supply and for making commercial food products. For more information, please contact Tom Read, home phone 604-483-1471 or text 604-414-9998 or email: ravenbaywoods@gmail.com.

Nicholas Simons

MLA FOR
POWELL RIVER-
SUNSHINE COAST

**Powell River
Constituency Office**
109 - 4675 Marine Ave
604 485 1249
Nicholas.Simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca



**GILLIES BAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday, April 24th at 1:30 pm
At the Texada Community Hall**

Public Health Orders will be followed
(This includes wearing masks and proof of vaccination)

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
BECOMING A TRUSTEE?**

Annual General Meeting

Agenda

The AGM Agenda will include:

- 2021 Financial Statements - presented by Dwayne Dunn of *DMD Chartered Accountants*
- Minutes from the 2021 AGM
- Report from the Board Chair
- Report from the Water Officer
- Report from the Fire Chief
- Trustee elections

Elections:

There are two 3-year terms that are up for renewal. We will be electing **two** Trustees at the AGM.

Voter Eligibility:

- 1.** Voter must be a Canadian Citizen of eighteen years of age or older who owns land within the Improvement District *and* who has been a resident of BC for the previous six months; or
- 2.** A legal representative of an owner of land in the Improvement District who has died, become insolvent or insane (legal proof is required); or
- 3.** Be the authorized agent of a board or corporation that owns land in the Improvement District (legal proof is required).

If more than one person is registered on title as land-owner, each may vote. No person may have two votes unless they meet the criteria listed in #2 or #3.

We need you!

We are looking for people who want to make a positive impact in our community and who have skills in financial management and governance.

The Board of Trustees provides leadership, and strategic guidance for the Improvement District.

If you are wanting to contribute your time and skills to the stewardship of the community of Gillies Bay, please contact us.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations will be accepted until **April 19th, 2022 at 4pm**. Contact admin@gillies-bay.ca or call 604-223-7757 for more information.

Nominations must be made on or before April 19th. We will not be accepting nominations from the floor at the AGM.

G I L L I E S B A Y
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

TEXADA ISLAND NON-PROFIT SENIORS HOUSING SOCIETY

Greetings from Texada Island Non-profit Seniors Housing Society, aka TINSHS.

The TINSHS Board has been working hard to get ourselves ready to build independent-living housing for our island elders. We have many accomplishments and good news to report.

In January, TINSHS received approval from CRA for our application to become a Registered Charity! This means that we can begin applying for substantial grants and donations to support the building of our project.

Also, we received grant support from First Credit Union toward completing our first official Strategic Plan with professional facilitation. The Plan is informed by the research we've done over the last two years: we completed a needs assessment survey, design research, and site visits to other remote island seniors housing for ideas and lessons learned.

Our Board is currently taking part in an intensive training with the BC Non-Profit Housing Association called Ready, Set, Build. This is just the expertise we will need to plan, fund and construct high-quality housing on Texada. This is no small undertaking: we are looking at building beautiful and accessible low-income seniors housing with a central

community room, rental apartments surrounding a common area, community gardens for food security, nature trails and other amenities. Our plan is to go green and sustainable (water-wise especially).

We've been searching for a suitable property on the island for two years, and we find that with the cost of housing rising in our region, developable land will require several years of fundraising. So, we're thinking outside the box and looking at other options, including a Nominal Rent Tenure on Crown Land. More news to come as we progress.

TINSHS is grateful for growing support from local residents, landowners, contractors, businesses, our regional government and political communities.

Like the Texada bumperstickers that say "Texada Rocks!", the TINSHS Board is inspired to keep our momentum going as WE ROCK THIS THING.

For more info or to get involved, please contact TINSHS President Cathy Brown at 604-486-6766 or tinshs2019@gmail.com.


BETTER AT HOME

Better At Home on Texada Island matches volunteers with seniors to provide non-medical support so seniors can continue living independently in their own homes. B@H services may be limited during the COVID-19 pandemic, but currently we offer limited transportation (including grocery delivery) plus friendly visits by phone and light yard work. Better at Home is administered by Inclusion Powell River and BC United Way, with funding from the Province of BC.

For more information, phone Tom Read 604-483-1471 (Texada program coordinator) or email: ravenbaywoods@gmail.com.



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Personal Income Tax Service

Sole Proprietors are welcome!
By appointment only please
Call or email Danielle
604-578-8214
booksbydc@gmail.com

Seeking Accomodation

Long time resident and former home owner seeking senior friendly rental accommodation. Quiet, responsible, respectful of your property, non- smoker and no pets. References provided. Contact 604-657-7984 text or call.

✂

EXPRESS LINES SUBSCRIPTION

FOR A 12-MONTH OFF-ISLAND SUBSCRIPTION TO THE EXPRESS LINES, PLEASE SEND \$30 TO PO BOX 233, VAN ANDA, BC, V0N 3K0.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

Texada Food Bank

is ONLY offered on the second Wednesday of the month. Call on the second Tuesday between 10 am and 3 pm. Pick up on the second Wednesday between 12 and 12:30.

Call in March 8 – Pick up March 9

Call in April 12 – Pick up April 13

Call in May 10 – Pick up May 11

(604) 483-1219

The Little Free Pantries are always available for anyone with food insecurities. They are located at the Food Bank porch and in front of 4758 Cedar St, Gillies Bay.

Take what you need, leave what you can.

BC FERRY SCHEDULE

TEXADA ISLAND TO POWELL RIVER				POWELL RIVER - SECHELT		GIBSON - VANCOUVER	
Monday to Friday		Saturday and Sunday		Leave Saltery Bay	Leave Earls Cove	Leave Langdale	Leave Horseshoe Bay
Leave Texada Island	Leave Powell River	Leave Texada Island	Leave Powell River				
6 am	6:50 am	6 am	6:50 am	5:40 am*	6:35 am*	6:20 am	7:30 am
7:50 am	8:35 am	7:50 am	8:35 am	7:30 am	8:25 am	8:40 am	9:45 am
9:20 am	10:10*/ 10:20 am	9:20 am	10:20 am	9:25 am	10:25 am	10:50 am	11:55 am
11:25 am	12:15 pm	11:25 am	12:15 pm	11:20 am	12:25 pm	1:05 pm	2:10 pm
3 pm *	3:45 pm	3:30 pm	4:15 pm	2:30 pm	3:35 pm	3:15 pm	4:20 pm
5:05 pm	6 pm	5:10 pm	6:40 pm	4:40 pm	5:40 pm	5:25 pm	6:35 pm
6:50 pm	7:40 pm	7:25 pm	8:15 pm	6:35 pm	7:30 pm	7:40 pm	8:45 pm
8:35 pm	9:20 pm	9 pm	9:45 pm	8:25 pm	9:20 pm	9:50 pm	10:55 pm
*Dangerous Cargo Wednesdays Only—no passengers				*Daily except Sunday			

To Confirm Sailing Times Please Call
1-888-223-3779 or go to www.bcferries.com

COMMUTER BUS: THURSDAYS

Phone Wednesday before 3 pm to reserve a seat (604-483-2008).

Departs Gillies Bay Store at 8:25 am, and the Van Anda Market at about 8:50 am.

Departs the North entrance of Town Centre Mall at 3 pm.

Fare (each way): \$8 and \$2.25 for seniors (65+).

POWELL RIVER— COMOX	
Leave Powell River	Leave Comox
8:05 am	6:15 am
11:50 am	9:55 am
5:15 pm	3:25 pm
8:45 pm	7:10 pm

Recycling Stations Hours

Van Anda:

Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm

Gillies Bay:

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Express Lines is a publication of the *Texada Island Community Society*.

Editor: Elayne Boloten, 486-7457

Asst. Editor: Susan Wood

DEADLINE: The 20th of the month prior to publication. Please call for information on advertising or insert rates.

- Send announcements (max. 350 words) or ads to: PO Box 267, Gillies Bay, BC V0N 1W0
- E-mail to brakes@telus.net or texadalines@hotmail.com
- Fax to 604-486-6703

MARCH 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Transfer Station: 10 am - 4 pm	3	4 Bingo: 7 pm, Community Hall	5
6	7	8	9 TIRC Mtg: 5 pm, Virtual	10 TWIN Mtg: 11:30 am, Texada Island Inn Pub	11 Legion Mtg: 7 pm	12 Transfer Station: 10 am - 4 pm
13	14 TICS Mtg: Noon, Mary Mary Café	15 RD Discussion, 7 pm, Commu- nity Hall	16 Transfer Station: 10 am - 4 pm Purdy's Easter Chocolates orders: Deadline	17 Highways Mtg: 1 pm, Legion	18 Legion Bingo: 7 pm	19
20 Express Lines Deadline TI Phonebook changes: Deadline	21	22	23	24	25	26 Transfer Station: 10 am - 4 pm
27	28	29	30	31		

EVERY:

MONDAY: Tai Chi, Community Hall, 9:30 am

SUNDAY: Trivia Meat Draw, Legion, 4 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous, United Church, 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY: Tai Chi, Community Hall, 9:30am
Alcoholics Anonymous, United Church, 6:30 pm

SATURDAY: Tai Chi, GB Tennis Courts, 9:30 am
Meat Draw, Legion, 3:30