



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 GBID Mtg. Water—Firehall 11 am	4 Transit STN., 10am GBID Mtg. Finance—Firehall 4:30 pm Ladies Circle Yurt on Sturt , 6-7	5	6	7
8 	9 TICS AGM Legion-10:30	10 Food Bank Call In, 10-3 GBID Mtg. Board—Firehall 4:30 pm Rock Your Body GB Hall 5:30- 7:30pm	11 Food Bank Pick Up, 11-12 VAID MTG. Credit Union, 1:30 pm Texada Youth Group—4:45 pm	12 TWIN Luncheon Legion, Noon	13 Community Lunch Sr. Ctr.-Noon Legion Meeting Doors, 5:00pm	14 Transit STN., 10am
15 Mary Oliver Reading Library, 2-4 Raise the Rooms Texada Inn, 3pm	16	17 	18 Transit STN., 10am Garden Club Sr. Ctr, 2 pm Ladies Circle Yurt on Sturt , 6-7	19 Memoir Workshop Library, 12-2	20 EXPRESS LINES DEADLINE Legion Bingo Doors-5:30 pm Game-7 pm	21
22 THSS AGM LEGION , 1PM	23	24 Rock Your Body GB Hall 5:30-pm -7:30 pm	25 Heritage Society AGM, Museum 1pm Texada Youth Group—4:45pm Legion Potluck Doors 5:30pm	26 Community Bingo Sr. Ctr., 1:00pm	27 Community Lunch Sr. Ctr.-Noon	28 Transit STN., 10am
29	30	31		SPRING BREAK March 26—27.		

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

MONDAY:

TAI CHI , GB Hall @ 9:30 am
Chair Yoga, Legion @ 2 pm
Fire Dept Practice GB & VA Fire Halls @ 6:30 pm
3-Ball Pool—Texada Inn @ 7pm

TUESDAY:

TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS, Senior Centre @ 9:30AM
SANDPIPER'S PLAYCENTRE, GB Old School 10-1
Free Pool & Shuffleboard—Legion, Doors @ 3:30
Pickleball—Texada School @ 6 pm

WEDNESDAY:

TAI CHI , GB Hall @ 9:30 am
Texada Museum, by Texada School @ 10-Noon
Scrabble—Legion @ 1:30 pm

THURSDAY:

Pickleball—Texada School @ 6 pm
Fun Darts, Texada Inn @ 7 pm

FRIDAY:

Karaoke—Texada Inn @ 7pm

SATURDAY:

TAI CHI , GB Hall @ 9:30 am
Pickleball—Texada School @ 10 am
Circle of Light Meditation –Yurt @ 2 pm
Meat Draw, Legion @ 3:30 pm

SUNDAY:

Church Services, United Church @ 10:30 am
Trivia Meat Draw, Legion @ 3:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous, United Church @ 7:30 pm

TEXADA ISLAND EXPRESS LINES

March 2026

Texada Health Services Society Annual General Meeting and Special Resolution

The Texada Health Services Society (THSS) will hold its **AGM** on March 22nd, 2026, at 1:00 pm in the Legion in Van Anda.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

During the AGM a Special Resolution will be motioned requesting to replace our current 2018 THSS Bylaws with new updated bylaws. The bylaws have been worked on by a THSS subcommittee throughout 2025 and were unanimously approved by the THSS Board of Directors during a meeting on January 11th, 2026. For the new bylaws to become adopted, they must now be approved by the membership and then submitted to BC Societies.

The Special Resolution motion will request a yes or no vote on whether you approve of the adoption of the new bylaws as approved by the THSS Board of Directors.

Both the current 2018 and the proposed Bylaws are available to view on our Facebook page at the QR code below.

GUESTS

Nova Cleghorn and Michelle Hanna from Vancouver Coastal Health will be at the

AGM to discuss our clinic and health care on Texada Island. Nova Cleghorn is the Home and Community Care Manager who manages our clinic. Michelle Hanna is the Director of Coastal Community Care.

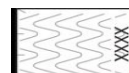
MEMBERSHIP

Only current (2025-26) members will be able to vote during the March 22nd AGM. If you are not a current member but want to vote at this AGM you will be able to purchase a 2025-26 membership before the meeting. 2026-27 memberships will also be available at the meeting, \$10.00 for an ordinary membership, \$100.00 for a corporate membership.

THANK YOU

We're grateful for our community's continued support and membership in our island's health society. It makes a difference, especially when it comes to advocating for our community's health concerns. Thank you for your ongoing support for our society and community.

For more information about the Texada Health Services Society please visit our Facebook page by following the QR code.



Island Resident



TEXADA ISLAND HEALTH CENTRE

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday to Thursday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm
Friday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

PHONE NUMBER:

604-486-7525
If no reply, please leave a message.

EMERGENCIES: 911

Information

B.C. Health Hotline: 811

- Visits by appointment only.
- We are happy to support you in virtual visits.
- Lab tests by appointment only.
- Extended lab time: 8:30 am to 9:45 am.
- TAP forms can be picked up after 1:15 pm.
- There is currently no provider in the clinic, so for all urgent concerns, please go to qathet General Hospital.

VCH is working hard to bring a permanent health-care provider to Texada Island Health Centre.

In the meantime, care will look a little different, please be kind to the staff as we transition.



Tai Chi is a gentle art for mind, body and spirit.

Texada TAI CHI

Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
9:30 am at the
Gillies Bay Community Hall

Beginners meet Tuesdays
at 9:30 am at Senior Centre

TEXADA ISLAND BREAST CANCER SUPPORT



Need To Talk?

604-486-6744
604-414-3789

If you want to drink; that's your business.
If you want to stop; that's ours.

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** anytime.
604-414-9811, 604-486-7180, 604-414-5232.
Sundays: 7:30pm. at the United Church.

TEXADA HEALTH SERVICES SOCIETY DONATIONS

Please make your donation cheque out to:
Texada Health Services Society and mail to
P.O. Box 249, Van Anda, B.C., V0N 3K0.

Please indicate on your cheque, or attach a note, whether you wish your donation to go to either: **Cancer Support Group; Green Armband Fund;** or to the **General Fund** (to be used for equipment for clinic, etc.).

The Cancer Support Group now provides funds up to \$1,000 per person, per year for those individuals dealing with Cancer. Please contact Amber Brewer at 250-644-6024. Everything discussed is held in confidence.

BC FERRIES

Always confirm times with BC Ferries at www.bcferries.com or, 1-888-223-3779

Texada to Powell River	Powell River to Texada
SEPT. 02—MAR. 31, 2026	
6:00 am	6:50 am
7:45 am	8:35 am
9:25 am	10:15 am **DG Weds
11:50 pm	12:40 pm Mon-Fri
3:00 pm **DG Weds.	1:15 pm Sat & Sun
4:55 pm	3:55 pm
6:40 pm	5:50 pm
8:55 pm	7:30 pm
	9:45 pm

****DG—Dangerous Goods Sailings Only, Wednesday, No PASSENGERS PERMITTED**

Powell River To Comox	Comox To Powell River
7:55 am	6:00 am
12:00 pm	9:55 am
5:15 pm	3:15 pm
8:45 pm	7:10 pm

Hello March

- M**ay the early spring
- A**waken your soul and
- R**emind you to
- C**elebrate the season with the
- H**ope and Joy it brings

Langdale to Horseshoe Bay	Horseshoe Bay to Langdale	Saltery Bay to Earls Cove	Earls Cove to Saltery Bay
JAN 21 —MAR. 31, 2026		JAN 21 —MAR. 31, 2026	
6:20 am	7:30 am	5:35 am <i>(Except Sunday)</i>	6:30 am <i>(Except Sunday)</i>
8:40 am	9:50 am	7:25 am	8:20 am
11:00 am	12:10 pm	9:25 am	10:35 am
1:15 pm	2:25 pm	11:45 am	12:55 am
3:35 pm	4:45 pm	2:15 pm	3:25 pm
5:55 pm	6:10 pm	4:35 pm	5:40 pm
7:20 pm	8:25 pm	6:45 pm	7:45 pm
9:35 pm	11:30 pm	8:40 pm	9:40 pm

BC TRANSIT BUS—THURSDAYS

To reserve a seat: Phone Wed. before 3 pm at 604-483-2008
Departs: Gillies Bay Store-8:25 am, Texada Market at 8:55 am.
Departs: Town Center Mall at 3:25 pm
\$8 & \$2.25 for seniors (65+) per trip



Recycling Station Hours



Van Anda:
Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm
Gillies Bay:
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Toilet supply and installations • Sink and faucet supply and installations
 Tubs and showers • Video camera inspections • Line flushing
 Line locating • Extinguishers Perimeter drain installations and repairs



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targetinstallations.ca MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8 AM TO 4 PM



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Private Studio available for one night stay or more.
604-486-7137 2001 Crescent Bay Rd.

LAWN & GARDEN & HOME REPAIR

Kel's Lawn, Yardwork, Handyman

604-578-0266

WOODWORK

Jorg's Custom Woodwork

40 years residential carpentry.
250-889-2534

SERVICES

Meals, Groceries & Liquor Delivery

TexadaEats.ca
604-414-7504

HEALTH

Certified Personal Trainer, Yoga, Strength & Core Training. Chair Yoga Upon Request. Udith: 604-223-4501

NEW TO YOU GOODS

SADIE AND DAISY'S NEW TO YOU STORE

Will be opening March 10th, Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10:00 to 5:00, across from the Texada Market in Van Anda.



ART GALLERY

The Retreat and Rycroft Art Gallery

Gallery viewing by appointment:
texada@gmail.com / 604-486-7360

Express Lines

is a Texada Island Community Society (TICS) Publication

Send announcements (max. 350 words) or ads to:

E-mail: ticsv0n3k0@gmail.com

Phone: 604-414-5619

EXPRESS LINES SUBSCRIPTION

For a 12-month off-island subscription to the *Express Lines*, please send **\$40** to:
TICS, PO Box 233,
VAN ANDA, BC, V0N 3K0.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

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qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

Texada Airport Advisory Committee

Members of the public are advised that the **Texada Airport Advisory Committee** will be holding a meeting March 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting will take place at the Gillies Bay Community Hall. The agenda will be available at least two days prior to the meeting on the event calendar at qathet.ca/events/.

Contact Heather Gillespie, Technical Services Clerk, at hgillespie@qathet.ca or phone 604-485-2260, ext. 412 if you have questions.

Texada Island Heritage Museum Society

AGM & Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

10:00 am at the Museum (Van Anda)

Memberships:

Family \$15.00 or \$10.00 per person



CENSUS JOBS

Your census. Your community. Our future.

Statistics Canada is hiring in your community!

- Census information is important for you and your community and is used to plan services that support employment, education, public transportation and healthcare.
- Join the 2026 Census team for meaningful work and community impact.
- There are approximately 32,000 census jobs available across Canada.

Important to know:

- Pay is **\$25.87 per hour** for non-supervisory positions and **\$31.32 per hour** for supervisory positions, plus authorized expenses.
- The time frame for census jobs is between **March and July 2026**, depending on the position and location.
- You must be available to work flexible hours, including days, evenings, and weekends.

EMPLOIS AU RECENSEMENT

Votre recensement. Votre collectivité. Notre avenir.

Statistique Canada embauche dans votre collectivité!

- Les données du recensement sont importantes pour vous et votre collectivité et sont utilisées pour planifier les services qui soutiennent l'emploi, l'éducation, le transport en commun et les soins de santé.
- Joignez-vous à l'équipe du Recensement de 2026 pour effectuer un travail utile qui a une incidence sur votre collectivité.
- Environ 32 000 emplois au recensement sont offerts partout au Canada.

Renseignements importants:

- Le taux de rémunération est de **25,87 \$ l'heure** pour les postes sans fonctions de supervision et de **31,32 \$ l'heure** pour les postes de supervision, en plus des dépenses admissibles.
- La période d'emploi pour les postes du recensement est de **mars à juillet 2026**, selon le poste et le lieu de travail.
- Vous devez être disponible pour travailler selon un horaire flexible, ce qui comprend le jour, le soir et la fin de semaine.



Apply now and tell a friend
census.gc.ca/jobs

If you need assistance with your application, please call **1-833-830-3106**
Teletypewriter (TTY): **1-833-830-3109**

Postulez dès maintenant et parlez-en à un ami ou une amie
recensement.gc.ca/emplois

Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour postuler, composez le **1-833-830-3106**
Téléscripteur (ATS): **1-833-830-3109**



Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

*A Reading of
Mary Oliver's Poetry*

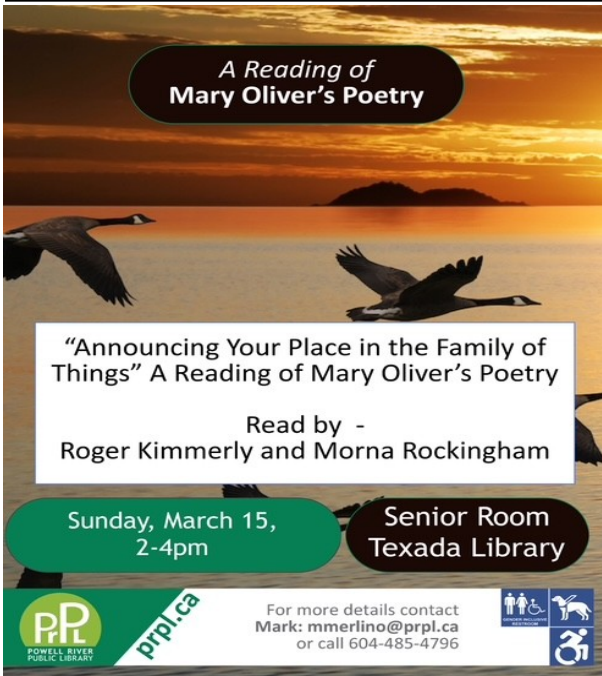
"Announcing Your Place in the Family of Things" A Reading of Mary Oliver's Poetry

Read by -
Roger Kimmerly and Morna Rockingham

Sunday, March 15,
2-4pm

Senior Room
Texada Library

For more details contact
Mark: mmerlino@prpl.ca
or call 604-485-4796



COMMUNITY 

LUNCH at the Seniors Centre

SECOND & FOURTH FRIDAY
OF EACH MONTH
at Noon

\$10.00

Freshly made
**Soup & sandwich
dessert,
tea/coffee**

Everyone is welcome!




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TEXADA ISLAND UNITED CHURCH

"We must not measure greatness from the mansion down, but from the manger up. Jesus said that we should not be judged by the bark we wear but by the fruit that we bear. Jesus said that we must measure greatness by how we treat the least of these." Rev. Jesse Jackson

Worship Services:
Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. with coffee and fellowship afterwards. Communion service, March 1, 2026. Everyone is always welcome in our church and at our communion table.

Bible Study:
Sundays after the service Jan. 11-Mar. 8: The Chosen Season 4

Focus on Spirit:
Published weekly (except for the last week of the month) on the website. Links can be

found on the Texada United Church Facebook page.

Minister's Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:30 pm. The church is also open during these times for prayer and quiet meditation. No office hours on March 17th.

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

Board Chair:
Dale Rinehart, 604-486-0050

Website:
<http://texada-island-unitedchurch.weebly.com>

Facebook Page:
Texada Island United Church

Church Mission:
To foster the spiritual development of all members of our community as revealed in the Bible.

 *adies*
SPIRITUAL

CIRCLE

(Every 2ND Wednesday)
March 4th & 18th
6-7 pm

AT THE YURT
(1925 STURT BAY RD., VAN ANDA)
BY DONATION TO THE YURT

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME


Circle of Light Meditation

Each Saturday
2-3 pm
at The Yurt
1925 Sturt Road, Van Ande
By donation to the Yurt


All Are Welcome!



COYOTE TALES... NO TASK TOO GREAT

I was a teenage soldier in the early 60s. Not so much out of bravado but mainly to avoid trouble with the law for my wild misadventures as an impetuous youth. I was a Private in the Engineers, a Sapper, "First In, Last Out". My tour, during the Cold War stationed with NATO forces—Europe, was definitely memorable. The thinking from the West's point of view was to keep the communist hordes at bay from further infiltration and encroachment westward, much like it is today. The "Wall" was up in Germany and in the far East things were heating up in Viet Nam.

This was a time before home computers, internet and cell phones. Collecting information and data from an enemy was basically by informants, spying and photography and who else but the Engineers were assigned these tasks. Spy planes like the famed U2 were used but not all the time reliable. Bad weather, missiles and ground shelters inhibited reliability predicting and identifying resources and equipment. Well then... who ya gonna call? The Engineers of course.

And so it was as we crept and crawled through the foggy forests in Brandenburg, GDR, East Germany. Our small but stealthy squad making its way towards an old Soviet guarded airbase compound. As we approached the airbase we took cover in a ditch about 100 meters from the road that ran along the perimeter of the barb-wired fenced airstrip compound. Thank goodness the weather was foggy. Two of our guys were equipped, one with a sophisticated camera and the other with a bulky radio. The rest of us had M14s and 1911 Colt 45s for supposed backup. I was the lowest ranked grunt among the squad, however I was chosen

because I held an Expert Rifleman Badge. Little did they know it was mainly lucky shooting that got me that but there I was.

Our Squad set up for reconnaissance, I was on point, radio in the rear and cameraman crawling ahead for photos. Every thirty minutes or so an East German jeep would roll up along the road. In the fog sound travelled for quite a ways. A voice came over the jeep's loudspeaker, "Amerikonski, vee know you are in dare, kom out, hans up". A few seconds later a machine gun... crack zip, zip, zip, crack zip, zip, zip. Bullets flew into the ditch and foggy forest behind.

Our Squad Leader had strict orders not to engage. With a prayer on my lips and a knot in my stomach I held my breath. A few minutes later the jeep drove off a few hundred meters down the road and repeated the same message and fired more rounds. We were lucky this time, no one injured... or worse.

With photos and intel we headed back out. We had a civilian contractor with a truck favourable to our needs drive us back through the mountains to the West and our base.

Don't let anyone tell you the Cold War was cold. NATO forces had military and civilian casualties as did the Warsaw Pact Soviets, Stasi and East Germans.

Luckily my tour was over in 66. Shortly after parts of the 97th Engineer Battalion were re-equipped and reassigned to Viet Nam. Most of today's Viet Nam airports, roads, bridges and seaports were the end product of the West's engineering construction. "No Task Too Great".

Cheers, Coyote

TEXADA ISLAND COMMUNITY SOCIETY (TICS)

With March on its way, it will be time to spring your clocks ahead on March 8th. Then on March 9th, at 10:30 am, we have the TICS General Meeting followed by the TICS AGM. Hope to see you there! Also in March we have St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. So get your Irish out and party.

Just a heads up for April that the first weekend is Easter—don't want the Bunnies to forget their chocolates! LOL

Have a great month Texada!

Warren Kiland



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45 minutes yoga with time for tea

Mondays in March, 2 pm at the Legion

\$10 Legion Members
\$12 non Legion Members
4 Class Pass \$36, \$40 for non Legion Members

Contact Virginia to Pre Register
Text: 250-650-4324
email jing.darcangelo@gmail.com



COASTAL
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- Deliveries of soil, bark mulch & wood chips
- Deliveries of sand, gravel & pit run
- Personalized hauling from PR to Texada (such as lumber, equipment, etc)

* Texada seniors (65+) receive 10% off Firewood

(call/text) 778-882-9939 - Devin
(call/text) 778-323-3247 - CJ

Coastalfirewood.ca



We would like to thank residents for reporting suspicious activity-your calls help keep the community safe. If you see something that doesn't look right, please report it.

The office will be closed for two weeks from March 13th to 27th. We'll re-open on April 2nd. While the office will be closed, officers will continue to be on duty and responding to calls as usual.

We're here if you need us!

Texada RCMP



Texada Women's Island Network

MARCH LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 12, 2026

at the Legion

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch at noon & Guest Speaker at 1 pm



The guest speaker will be reading *Irish limericks*.

To reserve, please call Moe at 604-414-7312

no later than Thursday, March 5, 2026. If you have food allergies, please let Moe know when you make your reservation.

If you can, please bring a non-perishable food item.

Members not wearing their name tag will be fined a loonie. If you are wearing your name tag, you will be automatically entered into our draw for a free lunch to be drawn this June.

Good Luck!!!

PLEASE WEAR GREEN!



HAVE SOME IDEAS?



If you have an idea and would like to initiate an event, contact Texada Arts, Culture & Tourism at texada.org@gmail.com.

Do you have an idea for a **NEW** one-time, or annual, Texada event that you would like to see become a reality? Something fun to add to life on Texada, and perhaps attract visitors from off-island?

Texada Art, Culture Tourism (TACT) has funds available to:

- Subsidize one-time events
- Provide initial seed funding & support in following years for annual events.



TEXADA ISLAND GARDEN CLUB NOTES

The Garden Club meeting will be at the Seniors Center on Wednesday March 18th, at 2pm. **Sarah Bacon** from Powell River will be our guest speaker. Wear layers as we crack open windows and doors for ventilation. We have masks and hand sanitizer for you to use if you choose.

In this March edition, **Peter Lock** answers the question, "**What Good Is A Fence?**"

When new Texadans announce they hope to start a garden the first question they are asked is. "Do you have a fence?"

Yes, there are deer here - quite a few - who just love to sample your veggies, beautiful ornamentals, fruit tree tips, containers and freshly - seeded grass shoots.

Although smaller than average, folks say that Texada deer are quite athletic. They have been known to spring straight up and over a mere 6 foot high fence! (Or is this another Texada tall tale?)

What type of fence is best? A wire fence is probably the cheapest but it has to be skookum with sturdy posts anchoring a good quality wire.

Chicken (poultry) wire is a bit too flexible as we sadly discovered. One day an eager deer, spying something delicious just beyond its lips, simply leaned its weight against our fence to devour the expensive delicacy.

Another time a deer, caught inside our garden, panicked and escaped by

charging the fence leaving behind a deer-sized hole right through the chicken wire!

Chicken wire also proved ineffective in saving our blueberry patch from avian invasion. Some little beggars easily squeezed through the 1 inch mesh and devoured the gourmet spread.

On a positive note, chicken wire, when wrapped around our fruit tree trunks, stopped the deer from shredding off the bark with their teeth and antlers.

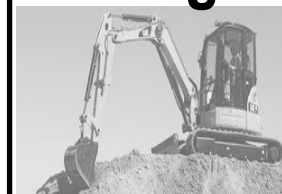


Unfortunately no matter how great one's fence is there are clever intruders who manage to sneak over it (raccoons), through it (rodents), drop from above (all sorts of birds) and even tunnel under it (mink, rabbits,deer).

Good luck! Whatever fence you choose it encloses a small piece of land filled with hope and the promise of nature's bounty.

A garden is worth the effort

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TEXADA ISLAND NON-PROFIT SENIORS HOUSING SOCIETY

TINSHS has concluded more engineering studies on the Airport Road site, and we are currently putting together grant applications to move our project forward,

Would you like to share your knowledge, skills or energy to help create something positive for our island? Are you open to exploring the possibilities? Consider becoming a Director on the TINSHS Board.

We are a group of dedicated volunteers navigating the process of making affordable seniors housing on Texada a reality. Contact us by May 31st so we can answer your questions and prepare you for the AGM, June 28th, 2026 1:45 pm at the Gillies Bay Ballpark.

If you would like to volunteer without being on our Board, that is very welcome too!



Start thinking about costumes and gathering your team for the **2nd Annual Road Rally**, to be held August 15! Registration begins at our AGM.

If there is a TINSHS member on your team, you will be eligible for a discount on your registration fee! A volunteers' meeting will be held May 12th, 7 pm (location TBA).

Be sure to check out our Website and Facebook group to stay informed.

Website: texadaseniorshousing.ca
Email: info@texadaseniorshousing.ca
Phone: 604-486-6766

Facebook: Texada island Non-profit Seniors Housing
Charitable Registration # 705676682RR0001

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landscaping, tile, and much more.
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facebook.com/bourneconstructiontexada

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Call/Text 250-334-6492 to schedule a pickup



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RANDENE NEILL
MLA - POWELL RIVER - SUNSHINE COAST

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STRONGER COMMUNITIES

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Community Office
#109-4675 Marine Avenue
Powell River, B.C. V8A 2L2
Call (604) 485-1249
Randene.Neill.MLA@leg.bc.ca

TEXADA FOOD BANK 2026

Texada Food Bank is offered on the Second Wednesday of the month ONLY
Call or text on the Tuesday - (day before pick up) between 10am and 3pm
Pick up on the second Wednesday between 11 and 12

Call or text on March 10 – pick up March 11
Call or text on April 7 – pick up April 8

(604) 483-1219

Texada Food Bank Financial Donations can be made by mail to PO Box 233, Van Anda, B.C. V0N 3K0 or E-Transfer to ticsv0n3k0@gmail.com please include Texada Food Bank in the message of the e-transfer.

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. Donation tins for cash are available at both stores- Gillies Bay Store and Texada Market in Van Anda and the Credit Union. Thank you so much.

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

Texada Food Bank Thanks You!

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

TEXADA ISLAND INN



YOUR ISLAND HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRE

604-486-7711

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Powell River Public Library—March at a Glance!



Spring Break Comic Camp—In Library, 5 days, Monday to Friday, March 16-20! We welcome Artist Kathleen Gros! Registration required. Teens 11+, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, contact edgar@prpl.ca Kids ages 7-10, 1:00-3:00 pm, contact szagwyn@prpl.ca

KIDS, szagwyn@prpl.ca

qathet Play and Connect—Texada Elementary School. Tues., April 28, 12:00-1:30 pm.—An Early Years Development Series with early years information & resources for caregivers and fun activities for littles! *Drop-in.*

Preschool Storytime Celebrates Francophone Month—Children's Reading Room. Wed. & Thurs., Mar. 4 & 5, 10:30-11:00 am. A Francophone story-time. *Drop-in.*

Rendez-Vous de la Francophonie First Credit Union Community Room. Friday, March 6, multiple film screenings. Discover NFB Francophone films. *Drop-in.*

MODS on Mondays Makerspace. Every other Mon., 3:15-4:45 pm.—For neurodivergent kids aged 7+ & their families. *Registration required.*

ASL Kids Club—Huckleberry Room. Monday, March 9, 4:00-4:30 pm- Join ASL Specialist Donna Lee for stories and games in American Sign Language. *Drop-in.*

Preschool Storytime—Children's Reading Room. Wednesday & Thursday, 10:30-11:00 am. Library Storytime. *Drop-in.*

Tinker Trunk—Makerspace. Tues. & Thurs., 3:30-4:30 pm, when school is in session. Kids 7-12, choose-your-own-tech-adventure. *Drop-in.*

Prime Time—Community Room. Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 pm, when school is in session. Primary grades K+ connect & play. *Drop-in.*

Drawn Together—Huckleberry Room. Friday, 3:30-4:30 pm, when school is in session. Kids aged 7-12. *Drop-in.*

TEENS, edgar@prpl.ca

Switch Time—Huckleberry Room. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm, when school is in session. Multiplayer Nintendo. *Drop-in.*

Fantasy Adventure Club—Herring & Huckleberry Rooms. Wednesday, 4:00-5:30 pm, when school is in session. Roleplaying games. *Drop-in.*

Teen Takeover—Herring & Huckleberry Rooms. Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 pm, when school is in session. Nintendo & crafts. *Drop-in.*

Young Writers' Group—Huckleberry Room. Friday, 3:30-4:30 pm, when school is in session. For youth 10+. *Drop-in.*

Minecraft Afternoons—Makerspace. Sat., 2:00-3:00 pm. For youth 10+. *Drop-in.*

ADULTS, mmerlino@prpl.ca

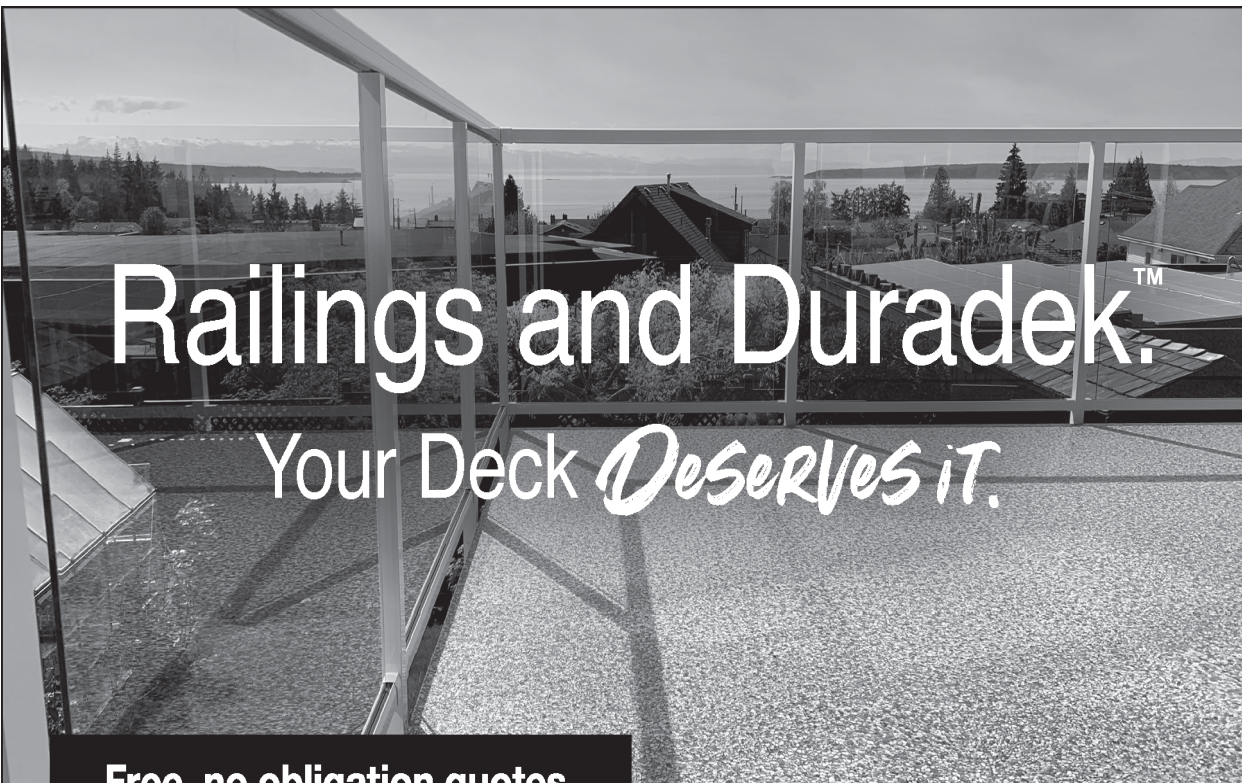
Filmmaker Spotlight qathet International Film Festival—Community Room. Tuesday, March 3, 4:00-5:00 pm. Peg Campbell shares this year's selection, and the team of *tam k'waθ nan* Namesake discusses their documentary. *Drop-in.*

Memoir Writing Course on Texada—Texada Library. Thursday, March 19 & April 2, 12:00-2:00 pm Registration required.

Artist Janet Southcott—Community Room. Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:00 pm. A local painter shares their work. *Drop-in.*

Anna Byrne's The Last Caravan—Community Room. Saturday, March 28, 2:00-3:00 pm. Anna Byrne presents her new book. *Drop-in.*

Caregiver Support Group—At the library. Wed., March 11, 7:00-8:30 pm. Confidential group for caregivers of individuals living with dementia. *Registration required.*



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qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

INVITATION TO TENDER – RECYCLING DEPOT COLLECTION SERVICES

The qathet Regional District is seeking tenders for a Contractor to operate qRD-owned recycling depots located in Powell River, BC.

View and download the Invitation to Tender online at BC Bid (bcbid.gov.bc.ca) and on qathet.ca under *Projects - Bid Opportunities*. Direct inquiries to operations@qathet.ca.

Tenders must be received no later than 4 PM on Friday, March 13, 2026.

TYG YOUTH GROUP

WED MAR 11 & MAR 25
4.45-6.30

TEXADA YOUTH GROUP
TEXADAYOUTH@GMAIL.COM

TEXADA ISLAND EXPRESS LINES

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Great opportunity to use your desktop publishing skills for newsletter layout & ad creation. Will teach the right candidate.

Submit your resume to:
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 Publisher, Warren Kiland
ticsv0n3k0@gmail.com



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 232

GENERAL MEETING

Friday, March 13th
Doors—5 pm, Dinner—6 pm

BINGO

Friday, March 20th
Doors Open at 5:30 pm
Game Starts at 7 pm

POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, March 25
Doors Open at 5:00 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm
Bring your favourite dish and utensils

TUESDAYS APPIES & GAME NIGHT!

Free pool & shuffle board
Doors open at 3:30 pm

WEDNESDAYS SCRABBLE

Doors open at 1:30 pm

MEATDRAWS

Saturdays and Sundays
Doors open at 3:30 pm

BOOKING THE LEGION

Text or phone Fred at
(604)414-4113.

...lest we forget.



Thank you to our members who came to our installation potluck. Thank you for all the great food and our gratitude also to our Zone Commander Kathy Wishlow for coming and conducting the installations.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed our Valentines dinner. A great time was had by all. Our thanks also to Dori, Barb, Shelly, Andy and Jonina for the great food and fun games.

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- Household Items

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United Nations World Water Day—March 22, 2026

We on Texada Island are fortunate to find ourselves surrounded by water which, though it is salty does benefit our micro-climate, provide transportation access, recreation and scenery. Plus, we are blessed, unlike most of the Gulf Islands, with relatively abundant sources of fresh water.

Many, many places where humans try to live on the earth there is very little water. Where there is a scarcity of water, often people fight to control it. Some people use force to limit water access to some other people. This often escalates into mass migration of people and wars. It may be a healthy mental activity to consider how fortunate we on Texada are from a water perspective.

The purposes of the two Water Improvement Districts are to provide: a. clean drinking water; and, b. sufficient water for fire



protection for our two villages. There are, however, many people who live outside these distribution areas. On World Water Day we might apply our ingenuity to providing free access to clean water sufficient for

drinking for every person on Texada especially in periods of drought.

Water is precious because it is fundamentally necessary for human life. In our local region where we have relatively abundant water, it makes sense to share our abundance evenly.

We can solve some water access issues which we have locally on Texada.

This is the spirit of World Water Day.

Submitted by an informal group concerned about water,

Prepared by Larry Dawe

Texada Island Amateur Radio Operators—ERTEX

What is an ERTEX anyways?

This is an annual practice of back up Emergency Response communications. Emergency response communications systems are activated to provide community support during periods where the usual systems we rely on day-to-day are overloaded or otherwise not functioning. The first systems, and unfortunately the ones which most of us rely on most, which buckle under the high traffic pressure of a major emergency are the internet and mobile phone systems.

Texada's small and dedicated team of amateur radio operators, sometimes informally called "Hams" have set up a radio

capability which can communicate emails without the mobile system or the internet. This is located at the Aerospace Camp hangar at the Airport.

ERTEX is a BC Provincial Emergency Programme run annual exercise for the purpose of live testing this important capability. The most recent exercise was held on 4 Feb. Texada successfully communicated on several frequency bands with other radio stations in the area and with the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria.

The winning answer to the question is: **Emergency Radio Team EXercise.**

Larry Dawe

TEXADA AGRICULTURE GROUP & FOOD HUB (TAG)

The Texada Food Hub is available to all and is located inside Texada School. The 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.

Anyone can join 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 (but not for catering).

If you are already a TAG member and would like to schedule time at the Hub, please contact Breanne Percy by email at: breanne@why-health.com For more information or to become a TAG member, please contact Tom by email at: ravenbaywoods@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 604 483-1471.

...continued TEXADA POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

or have had a bad experience in the past. If you are worried about being approached by a loose dog, consider carrying a deterrent, such as a pet corrector spray or a noise maker.

If your dog gets loose or barks, check and repair fences and use behaviors modifiers.

Remember, if you choose to have a dog, it is your responsibility to keep them safe and under control. Be a good neighbor.

The Powell River Compassionate Friends

invites bereaved parents to our

3rd Annual Nurturing Our Souls Retreat

October 1–4, 2026

at the Bethlehem Center on beautiful Westwood Lake in Nanaimo, BC.

This gentle and supportive weekend is designed to provide connection, reflection, and healing for those navigating life after the death of a child.

Through a shared understanding and compassionate community, we nurture hope and strength together.

Registration opens mid-March and as part of our commitment to supporting our local community, we are offering the Powell River and **qathet Regional District** residents the first opportunity to register before the broader public release.

For early registration details, please contact us directly.
Zella Knutson
nurturingoursoulsretreat@gmail.com



WorkBC Centre

On Texada and Looking for Work?

Our Team is coming to you!


Where: Van Anda First Credit Union
When: 11AM-3:30PM
Upcoming Dates Include:

- Tuesday, March 17, 2026
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026
- Tuesday, June 16, 2026




***Dates are dependent on the 10:15 ferry from Powell River running as scheduled.**

Call us for more information: 604-485-7958



This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.


Memoir Writing Course - On Texada




Discover the joys of memoir writing.
In this course, you will learn how to recall and record your memories. Previous attendees wishing to deepen or refresh their skills are welcome.
To Register email - mmerlino@prpl.ca

Thursday March 19 & April 2, 12pm-2pm

At the Texada Library



For more details contact Mark: mmerlino@prpl.ca or call 604-485-4796




Gillies Bay Improvement District

Job Opportunity

Finance Officer

Part-time: 12 – 16 hours per week
Salary: \$29-\$31 per hour based on experience

Position Overview:
The Finance Officer manages accounts payable/receivable, processes payroll and assists in the budgeting, forecasting and planning process.

This Position Requires:

- A minimum of 2 years experience in finance management
- A working knowledge of Sage 50
- Strong analytical and reporting skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Effective time management and strong organizational skills, the ability to establish priorities with attention to detail, and work without direct supervision in a small office environment.
- Demonstration of sound decision making skills and professionalism in dealing with sensitive information, necessitating use of discretion, tact and good judgment.

How to Apply:
Interested candidates should submit a resume and a cover letter outlining their qualifications and interest in the position to admin@gilliesbay.ca by March 6, 2025. A complete job description is available upon request.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Area D

One issue I'm continuing to work on is the need for sufficient, sustainable funding for improvement district water systems. Our IDs are not alone. The need to upgrade small, rural water systems is felt throughout BC. What's encouraging in this regard is the willingness of our MLA, Randene Neill, to talk about the problem.

A few weeks ago the qRD Board met with Neill, who is also Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. This was the second such meeting between the regional board and Neill and both were initiated by her. No such meetings took place with her predecessor and she's to be commended for opening this new opportunity for communication between local and provincial officials.

All directors were invited to raise issues of concern to our constituents. At both meetings I raised the importance of clean, safe drinking water for all citizens and the Catch-22 funding vacuum that IDs with aged water systems face. Provincial health officials require that all water systems provide water that meets government standards, but the province doesn't allow IDs to apply independently for grant funding or apply to the Municipal Finance Authority for low-cost loans to upgrade their systems.

Neill was somewhat encouraging. She explained that she's working with the Ministers of Health, Housing and Rural Communities with the goal of developing a plan for rural water infrastructure. "We're looking at ways of accessing funds through a different mechanism" for both IDs and RDs to upgrade all small rural water systems in BC, at a cost of \$2.6 billion

in today's dollars, she said. A consortium of BC officials recently went to Ottawa to make the case for water funding with the federal Liberal caucus. Neill said she hopes to have more information in six months' time.

Other issues were also raised with Neill. Regarding the discontinuation of ferry advisory committees by BCF, Neill said she's aware of the concern and says BCF is "contemplating" bringing them back. Further topics included incentives for rainwater collection, local wood processing, drug addiction, housing and public safety. Neill says she'll follow-up with the qRD regarding all issues raised.

All of the above is the kind of advocacy that is such an important part of the role of regional director.

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

"March is like a mischievous child. It startles, delights and vexes—all in the same day—then, suddenly, with a sunny smile, it declares total innocence."
 — Peggy Toney Horton,



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TEXADA POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE...Dog Complaints

The PPSC has recently been made aware of some complaints about dogs on the Island. To help understand what to do in these situations, we have provided some information here.



dogs' - the definition of which is a dog that has killed or seriously injured a person or domestic animal. In these cases the owner will be liable for the harm caused, with potential for fines and the destruction of the dog.

We all know a constantly barking dog, or a dog running loose, especially when it chases humans or other domestic animals, can be a problem.

The first rule of thumb is to talk to the owner, if possible, to resolve the situation. A simple conversation and understanding on both sides may be all it takes.

Texada has no bylaws in regards to nuisance dogs, therefore our RCMP officers have few laws they can use in these situations.

You may have recently read that they can refer to Section 49 of Community Charter of BC. This, however, only deals with 'dangerous

In other cases where a person or animal is injured, the liability turns to a civil matter - which is then out of the hands of the RCMP and may be pursued through the provincial civil courts by the complainant. Dog owners are generally liable for damages, such as veterinary or medical costs, if their dog bites someone or another animal.

So, although our RCMP officers have limited scope within the law, they will work closely with those affected to help come up with solutions to prevent escalation and further issues. We realize that some people have a fear of dogs

Continued on next page...

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TEXADA ISLAND MUSEUM

OFF TO GILLIES BAY

Named Ee-sum (clear, sandy bottom) in Tla'amin, Gillies Bay has always attracted admirers.

For early Van Anda settlers, a trip to Gillies Bay was a welcome, but lengthy, beach destination and quite an adventure!

Violet Seaman (published in PR News 1947) reminisced about her summer expeditions to Texada's west coast as a girl.

After piling their wagon high with tent, blankets, food and games her family would set off from town on their day-long journey.

At times the family walked beside the wagon as the rough, rocky road proved a challenge for their "poor nag" pulling the load.

Priest Lake was the first "refreshment stop" for all as they gathered energy for the trek uphill. Many other "cool springs" along the way helped replenish spirits on a hot day.

Possibly stopping to visit at Hammond's 1890's log house and Burditt's farm, the family pushed westward past the small settlement at Paxton Road.

The mossy bluffs around Cranby Lake promised that the "glittering blue waters" were just a couple of miles away. The children raced ahead to be the first to "dig with bare toes" into the expansive sand flats.

At that time Gillies Bay was quite an isolated paradise. Pitching their tent by the beach in the shelter of a huge fir, the family was rudely awakened at 4 am the next morning by screams and black shadows on the top of their tent. It was, of course, the raucous

crows who found delight in playfully sliding down their roof.

Like today, Violet noted that the crows congregated at their "Town Hall" at one corner of the bay, called there by "sentry crows" perched on the tallest trees. "The clamour was deafening."

One summer the children discovered a baby seal pup left alone at low tide. They fed it from a cloth dipped in milk and it became their pet all summer, even joining them on moonlight swims.

Although only a 10 minute drive today, a trip to Gillies Bay still evokes the magic Violet Seaman discovered almost 100 years ago.

Peter Lock
Texada Island Heritage Society



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Van Anda Improvement District

Thank you to everyone in our community for staying engaged and informed. We'd like to share a few important updates and reminders.

Meter Project Update

The water meter project continues to make good progress. More meters are now installed, tested, and online, helping us better understand system use and losses. Thanks to everyone for your patience as we work through the project. We are unearthing several treasures; from a horseshoe to a water main we didn't know we had. And remember to watch out for road work. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Parcel Taxes

A lot of people are asking what Parcel Taxes are about. The short answer is funding for water infrastructure. This supplies potable water to customers, and for fire fighting. The same system supplies homes and fire hydrants.

The long answer is on our website: <https://vananda-id.ca/water-rates/>

Board Meeting

New accessible location. The next monthly Board Meeting is Wednesday March 11th at 1:30pm in the Community Meeting Room in the Credit Union.

Van Anda Fire Department

Are you interested in joining the department? Give us a call, send us an email, or drop by the Firehall on practice night, Monday evenings at 6pm



Contact Us

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out: 604-486-7035 or contact@vananda-id.ca

For water emergencies, phone: 1-672-882-9901

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we continue to improve water services for our community.



DAVID

David Vanzella
Master Electrician

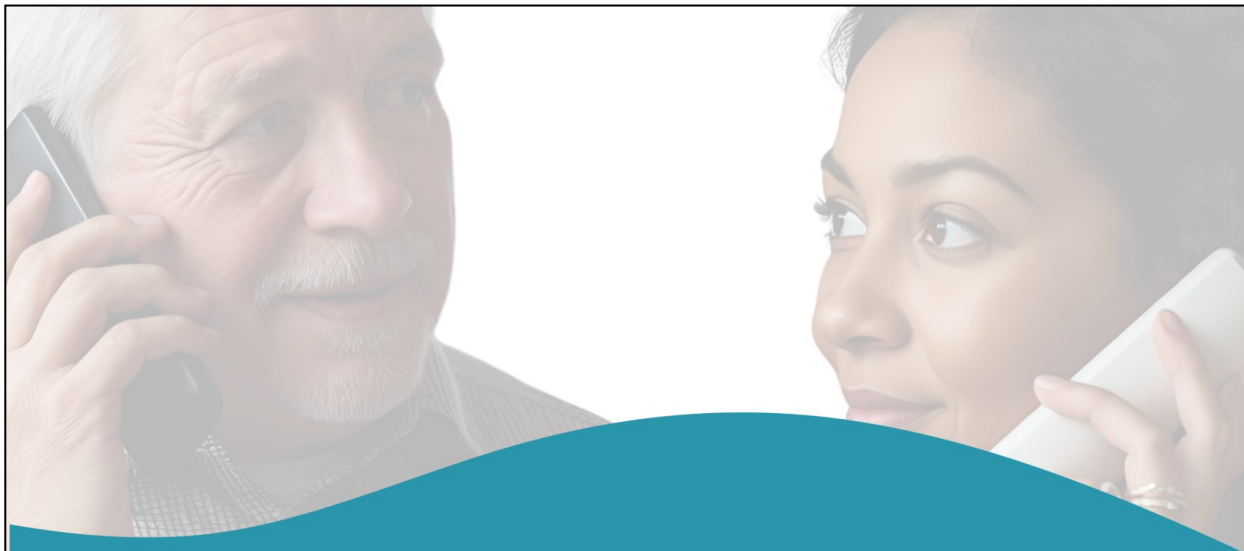
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Friendly Caller Program

Texada Health Services Society, partnering with Four Tides Hospice, is offering a Texada-based program that pairs adults in the Texada Community with others on Texada who call regularly to offer conversation, emotional support, and suggestions for local services.

Texada residents have just been trained and have a clear criminal record check to offer this welcoming, safe and free program. Much neighbourly conversation and support just happens naturally on our friendly island, but there are some folks who may feel isolated, or just want a regular check-in. You can stay connected from home.

For more information, please call Roger at 604-486-0009 (no texts) or email him at rogerkimmerly@gmail.com.

We thank Four Tides Hospice (Powell River) for initiating this program, and Pacific Blue Cross for funding.

NEWS FROM THE TEXADA ISLAND LIBRARY

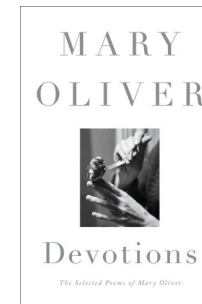


The library volunteers extend a warm welcome to new volunteers, Colleen Skipper (Children's & Youth Collection) and Shawna Sadler (Wednesday shift).

We also extend our sincere condolences to Jill Ann Henry's family. Jill passed away on February 4th, 2026. She was our long time volunteer for the Children's & Youth Collection.

We have a treat for poetry lovers or soon to-be new poetry lovers. On Sunday, March 15th from 2-4 pm our very own volunteer, Morna Rockingham and her partner Roger Kimmerly will be presenting **"Announcing Your Place in the Family of Things,"** a reading of Mary Oliver's Poetry. It will be held at the Seniors Centre Hall.

The library has purchased **"Devotions"** by Mary Oliver, recommended by Morna Rockingham. If there are any requests for more of her books, please forward and we will add them to our "Suggested List".



I learnt a new "subject heading – Flash fiction, when we received a book donation of **"Flash Reads"**. Flash fiction is a collection of poetry, shorts and short stories defined by its' word count, concise nature and variety. It can also be referred to as Sudden Fiction, Micro-stories and Postcard Fiction.

I have created a **Gardening Bibliography** of our holdings. Copies can be obtained from the library display this month or by request.

Donations: The library does not accept stained, torn, insect-infested and mildew books, nor magazines, journals or textbooks.

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:

Monday 2 pm to 4 pm
 Tuesday 12 pm to 2 pm
 Wednesday 12 pm to 2pm
 Thursday 10 am to 12 pm
 Friday 12 pm to 2 pm
 Saturday 12 pm to 2 pm
 Sunday 12 pm to 2 pm

For more information about The Library, or about becoming a volunteer, please phone Charlotte Dawe, Library Coordinator, at 604-486-7440.



Property Tax & Financial Support Checklist for B.C. Seniors

Property Tax & Financial Support Checklist for B.C. Seniors

For homeowners wishing to remain in their own homes

You can review this quietly at your own pace and explore only what feels useful.

Reduce the Property Tax First (Annual Grants)

Before looking at deferral, ensure any yearly **reductions** are applied.

- **Home Owner Grant (for principal residence)**

- Most B.C. homeowners qualify.
- Seniors may qualify for the **additional senior grant** (larger reduction).
- Must be applied for each year after receiving the tax notice.
- Apply online, by phone, or through Service BC.

- **Low-Income Grant Supplement (if applicable)**

- Extra help for lower-income senior homeowners whose grant is reduced due to property value thresholds.

Property Tax Deferral (Pay Later from Home Equity)

If taxes remain difficult after grants:

- **B.C. Property Tax Deferment Program**

- Available for homeowners age 55+. Province pays the property tax on your behalf.
- Amount becomes a low-interest loan against the home.
- Re-paid when the home is sold or transferred.
- Helps remain in your home without immediate tax pressure.
(This does not affect ownership of the home while you live there.)

Ensure All Income Supports Are Being Received

Many supports arrive automatically **only if taxes are filed each year.**

- **Annual Income Tax Return Filed**

- Even with very low income, filing taxes triggers benefits.

- **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)**

- Monthly federal support for low-income seniors receiving OAS.
- Can significantly increase monthly income.

- **GST/HST Credit**

- Quarterly payments for eligible low/modest income seniors.

- **B.C. Senior's Supplement**

- Small monthly provincial top-up for seniors already receiving GIS.

Housing & Safety Supports (if home upkeep is a concern)

- **BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA)**

- Helps cover cost of safety or accessibility improvements.
- For low- to moderate-income households with mobility or health needs.

- **Home Accessibility Tax Credit (federal)**

- Tax credit for certain safety or accessibility renovations.

If Living in a Mobile Home or Paying Pad Rent

- **SAFER Program (Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters)**

- Monthly subsidy for renters age 60+.
- May apply if paying pad rental for a manufactured home.

Free Help Navigating Applications (If forms or choices feel overwhelming)

- ☒ **Service BC** – assistance with provincial programs
- ☒ **Benefits Connector (BC)** – helps identify supports you may qualify for
- ☒ **Local community advocate or trusted friend** – to sit together and review options

Gillies Bay Improvement District

Water Quality Update

This is the time of year when our water quality is the best it can be. Lower temperatures, high water flow and less animal activity at the dam results in less turbidity and cleaner water. Even so, there are occasions when the water at your property causes you some concern. If you are experiencing iffy water, George the Water Operator has requested that you take a sample of it and give him a call. He needs to know if there is a glitch in the system so that he can address whatever the issue is.

High Water Table

We've had some calls about water running on the roads and submerged meter boxes. This is very common this time of year, and we've had more water now than we've had in a few years. The water table is very high so it's to be expected that water will be running everywhere. That isn't to say you shouldn't call if you have a concern. We still want to double check for leaks in our system.

2026 AGM on April 19 at 2:00 pm

Your Voice Truly Matters: This is your opportunity to help shape the future of our district. Join us to hear important updates, learn about upcoming plans, vote on key decisions that impact our direction, share your ideas and have your voice heard. Most importantly, the AGM is where decisions are made — and those decisions affect you. This is your chance to influence what comes next.

Two 3-year Trustee positions are up for election this term; one of the incumbents will be seeking re-election. Trustees make decisions that affect your water and your

fire protection. If you have a desire to support the community, please call the office (604-223-7757) with your intention. Nominations will be accepted until April 3. There will be no nominations from the floor at the AGM. Don't miss your chance to make a difference!

Refreshments will be served.

You are invited to our meetings at the Gillies Bay Fire Hall:

March 3 at 11:00 am	Water Quality
March 4 at 4:30 pm	Finance & Governance
March 10 at 4:30 pm	Board of Trustee

Contact Information:

Fire and Medical Emergency	911
Fire Chief	604-414-5121
Water Emergency	604-208-3965
GBID Office	604-223-7757
Office Hours	Mon – Thurs. 9:00-12:00



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Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department



LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES are used in many devices in our homes nowadays. These include everything from electronics such as smartphones, tablets and laptops, mobility devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters, power tools, toys, baby monitors and vaping products, to larger items such as portable power banks and electric or hybrid vehicles. These devices are generally safe, however if they are stored, charged or used improperly or are damaged, they can be very volatile and can rapidly overheat, catch fire and/or explode.

Here are a few safety tips to follow to minimize the risks associated with **lithium-ion batteries**.

- **Handle them carefully.** Do not throw, modify or tamper with them. Don't use batteries that are swollen or dented or show other signs of damage or wear.
- **Store your batteries** at room temperature, in a dry location and out of reach of children. If not in use for long periods of time check approximately every three months and recharge back to 50% if they have lost their charge. Keep away from direct sunlight or extreme temperatures. Do not stack heavy items on top of boxes containing lithium-ion batteries, as this can cause internal damage leading to fire or explosion.
- **Charge your batteries according to manufacturer instructions.** Charge at room temperature, where you can see it, and away from exit doors in case of fire. Do not charge on soft surfaces such as a couch or bed that can trap heat around the battery and cause the device to overheat. **Do not** charge your battery or leave on the charger for longer than recommended.

Overcharging can cause the battery to overheat which can lead to fire or explosion.

- **Use only the charger that came with your device.** Contact the original manufacturer or product retailer if you require a replacement charger, especially for higher voltage items like e-bikes and large power tools. Only use chargers that have recognized testing and certification labels such as CSA, UL, LC or ETL.
- **Batteries are considered hazardous waste.** **Do not** dispose of them in household garbage or regular recycling bins. Always dispose of your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location.
- **Stop using the device or battery if you notice signs of a problem,** such as odour, change in colour, too much heat, change in shape, leaking or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything flammable and call **911**.

We are still accepting more volunteer members. If interested in finding out more contact:
David Beech,
Fire Chief, Gillies Bay VFD, 604-389-8884
Mark Robert,
Fire Chief, Van Anda VFD, 604-414-9662

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- Low pressure, fun oriented outings
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- Supportive coaching on basic technique and safety.
- No requirement to participate in fundraising
- No commitment to attend all practices

**Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
Starts in May.**

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or to sign up at 604-223-3887!

