

Texada Visit: Fri Mar 23, 2018 for Nicholas Simons

- 3:45 pm ferry from Powell River lands in Blubber Bay at 4:20 pm.
- I can pick you up from there or from the airport.
- If you're taking a KD Air Flight, let me know – flight options are below:
Qualicum departure at 3:25 pm arriving in Gillies Bay at 3:50 pm
Vancouver departure at 2:50 pm arriving in Gillies Bay at 3:50 pm

Business & Photo Op Tour

There are lots of new businesses on Texada. Before dinner at 6 pm, the Chamber would like to take you on a tour to some of the new businesses in Blubber Bay and Van Anda. Cindy Babyn, President of the Chamber will accompany you on this tour and take photographs.



Cindy Babyn
Cell: 604-344-0428

The draft tour below assumes ferry arrival. I'll revise the program if you're flying.

4:30 – 4:40 pm That Place Café and Curiosities

Sharlene Patterson and Dan Cheshire opened That Place Café and Curiosities in Dec 2017 at the Blubber Bay ferry terminal line-up area. Hours: Mon to Sat 5:30 am - 4:30 pm. The community is grateful to finally have a place to stop in for coffee, tea, cookies, and muffins before hopping onto the ferry. Pinball machines and a more extensive menu are planned, once renovations are complete!

5:00 – 5:20 pm Texada Island Boat Yard

Alan Davis is developing the waterfront area in Van Anda. The Texada Island Boat Yard rents land to boaters to haul out, wash, and complete DIY boat repairs, and store their boats. A new boat ramp is completed and dock infrastructure with moorage is under construction. Texadaboatyard.com

5:25 – 5:35 pm Mary Mary Café

George and Gerry Childress opened the Mary Mary Café in Van Anda in 2017. The Café is open 7 days-a-week from 8 am – 3 pm, serving coffee, all-day breakfast, burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs, and desserts. They host special monthly 'Dinner & a Band' events, giving touring artists a place to play to an eager Texada audience.

5:40 – 5:55 pm Texada Island Inn

The Texada Island Inn has undergone massive renovations following the fire in 2015. New owners Cymry and Evan Morris opened the bar in December 2017. The restaurant opened recently. Room rentals will open at a later date this winter/spring. Cymry will show you the bar and restaurant renovations.

6 pm – 7 pm Dinner at the Legion

You are invited to have dinner as a guest of the Chamber.

7 pm - Cindy Babyn, President of the Chamber of Commerce: Welcoming Remarks & President's Report

7:15 pm Annual General Meeting – Directors Elections

7:30 pm – 8:15 pm Nicholas Simons plus Q&A (Cindy to introduce). Podium & microphone are available.

8:15 pm – head to Blubber Bay to catch the 8:45 pm ferry

Future Visits! A bit more of what's new!

Harmony in the Round

Located just beside the Texada Boating Club, Bob and Maggie Timms have installed a new 24-foot yurt where they host various arts events, meditation & holistic health activities year-round. The washroom facility has a pay-shower option for the approximately 1,500 boaters that moor at the Texada Boating Club dock throughout the year. This is part of the Texada Vacation Rental property, which sleeps 6 or more.

The new **Texada Aviation Museum** was very pleased to receive a Canada 150 grant. It continues to receive acquisitions and, with the help of the Canada 150 grant, it's undergoing expansion and upgrading its displays. Located in Hangar 8 at the Gillies Bay Airport, the Museum contains advanced flight simulators for youth and adults, a wind tunnel, an aviation library, aerospace displays, model aircraft displays, old aircraft components, a Ham radioshack, and more.

Flight Training, Ground School: Valerie Ferguson, the Gillies Bay Airport Manager, is also a Chief Flying Instructor. She's set to launch a new flight training ground school. She will use the Texada Aviation Museum (Hangar 8) for her classroom instruction hours when sufficient students are registered.

Gallery on Dogwood is a new art gallery in Gillies Bay, opened in August 2017 by Doby Dobrostanski. It sells work by 10 artists in fused glass, fibre art, jewelry, pottery, photography, wildlife sculptures, paintings and prints. The Gallery is open Thurs-Sun 11 am-4pm in the summer, weekends 11 am-4 pm in other seasons, and at all other times by appointment by calling Doby at 604-223-2588. goDogwood.com

K-Lumet: An environmentally-friendly kindling product made out of waste materials, is ideal for woodstoves or camp fires. 3 or 16 bundles to a small, easy-to-carry box. K-Lumet bundles burn for 15 minutes to get the fire started. The product is made exclusively by people with disabilities and other barriers to employment and raises money for them. K-Lumet is headquartered in Switzerland. Gillies Bay resident Barbarah Kisschowski has the only franchise licenses in BC to date, for Texada and Powell River. 604-486-6904 k-lumet.ca

Texada Island Museum and Archives

The new *Little Billie Mine Exhibit*, unveiled on Canada Day in 2017, adds to the Museum's heritage exhibits including *Texada Mining History & Rock* displays, *Jack Leslie Model Ship Collection*, *Surveyor's Blacksmith Shop*, and *Don's Saw Shop* displays, *Captain Vancouver's Route around Vancouver Island*, and the Van Anda Archives. 2017 was a 'record year', with over 1,000 visits to the Museum.



SELECT ISSUES

BC Ferries: *While ferry management is a provincial issue, Atlantic Canada's ferry passengers get 350 times the federal subsidies that ferry passengers in BC receive ([source](#)). These are our highways. Please lobby to make federal investments more equitable for British Columbians.*

Besides the very high cost of ferrying, in 2015, a high 90th percentage of Texadans surveyed wanted to be ferried from Texada to Comox (the vote was to be picked up and dropped off by the Powell River-Comox ferry). Three years later, still zero improvement to our ferry service to Comox. Many of our seniors need medical specialists on Vancouver Island. It's a 5-hour trip each way because the Texada ferry and Salish Orca to Comox vessel schedules don't align well. Many businesses need products from Vancouver Island as not everything is available in Powell River, or they wish to expand sales markets there. Even Lafarge needs to get its supplies and repair services from Vancouver Island. 10 hours of traveling before the work-day clock starts does not make good business sense. The Chamber is one of the organizations lobbying for direct service between Texada and Comox. In November, a BC Ferries-contracted consultant submitted their study of our Blubber Bay dock infrastructure to determine whether it could accept the Salish Orca vessel, and/or may require upgrades.

BC Ferries committed to studying 3 options for Texada-Comox service: a) using the current North Island Princess Texada vessel (pilot could start in spring/summer 2018); b) using the new Texada vessel in 2020; c) or using the Salish Orca in 2019, if our dock can handle it. Many Texadans do not want to wait until 2019-2020 for this vital service, preferring servicing as soon as possible. In a phone call (Feb 20, 2018), Darin Guenette said they don't think they can use our current ferry to get to Comox, he doesn't know the outcome of the dock study, and it's possible that the next Ferry Advisory Committee meeting could occur on Texada in May. More zero improvements for us, it seems...

PLEASE help us if you can, Nicholas.

No Seniors Residence on Texada

Texada is nearly tied with Sidney, BC for the 4th-oldest community in Canada, per capita. People age-off the island when greater support is required. Texadans have serious concern about this. Texada Aging Population Initiative (TAPI) is a new community group exploring options to establish a senior's residence on Texada. There are issues with acquiring land and paying for it but TAPI is advancing well in its consultations and planning. They are researching what grants are available and are considering whether to establish as a non-profit or charitable organization. TAPI would like to meet with you about this in the coming months.

No Ground Transportation on Texada

Texada has no public transportation or corporate (e.g., taxi service) transportation. (There is a BC Transit bus that takes residents to Powell River on Thurs mornings.) The Texada Boating Club receives over 1,500 boats mooring on our shore in Van Anda. Once they land, boaters are limited to walking around Van Anda. Last summer, over 8,000 people visited Shelter Point Regional Park. Once people install their camping set-up, few want to drive around. When pilots land at the airport, they have no vehicle service to take them anywhere. It would be great if we had a vehicle and drivers to connect visitors with our businesses and cultural activities. Some of our drivers are aging, and some residents don't own vehicles. The Chamber is exploring options to improve this aspect of island-living.



About the Texada Island Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1964, the Chamber has taken on many projects over the years and has been an important gathering place to hear the latest updates about what's happening on the island.

2017-2018 Activities

- A new Texada Visitors Guide (print + online) is being created to promote businesses, solo entrepreneurs, festivals, hiking, hunting services, etc. (launch by summer tourist season 2018). As you know, we only have about 7 store fronts. There are lots of 'hidden businesses'. This Guide is meant to shine a light and get dollars flowing to our smaller entrepreneurs (see attached draft).
- Economic Development Action Plan: With the help of a BC Rural Dividend Fund grant, the Chamber has begun a 2018 update to the 2011 Plan, to identify actions that can be taken to improve jobs, money flows, tourist and resident attraction, skills needs identification, and more.
- Chamber Awards 2018 launching in April 2018 with awards being announced at the end of May.
- The Chamber is starting discussions about ground transportation and hopes to work with the community, businesses, and local government to find a way to activate service on Texada.
- BC Elections: Organized an All-Candidates Forums broadcast for the community, in partnership with the Powell River Chamber of Commerce and the Legion
- Launched a [Facebook page](#) (@Texadachamber) – please like our page!
- Website (texadachamber.com) is under construction
- Developed a logo and made business cards for board members