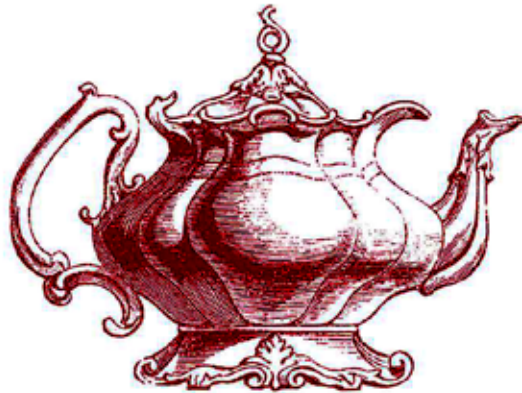


## Save the Date

Annual Heritage Tea  
Saturday, April 2, 2016  
1-4pm  
Admission \$10



Ridge Meadows Seniors Centre  
12150-224th Street  
mrmuseum@gmail.com

 **MAPLE RIDGE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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### PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWS

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We will hold a Heritage Tea meeting, Monday February 1st at 10.30am at the Maple Ridge Museum. The committee is seeking new members to help plan the event, and assist with volunteering on the day of the event. This year the tea will be held Saturday, April 2nd from 1-4pm at the Ridge Meadows Seniors Centre.

We are also looking for Music on the Wharf committee members this year, which includes being part of the selection team (a one-time meeting date), and then providing volunteer support at the concerts during the summer; July 11, 25 and August 8, 22.

In the past we have held meetings during the day, but in an effort to introduce new faces to our committee - who may not be able to make a day-time meeting - we are open to holding the selection meeting in the evening to accommodate more people.

Please let us know your preference for meeting times. We are looking at Monday, March 21st for the selection meeting to take place.

Please contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or e-mail [mrmcurator@gmail.com](mailto:mrmcurator@gmail.com) if you would like to participate on any of this year's committees.

## MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY

### OLD JAPANESE SECTION

During the early decades of the 20th century many Japanese farmers immigrated to Maple Ridge and became very skilled at growing soft fruits, particularly strawberries. In some areas of the community they formed up to 80% of the school population, and had their own Buddhist temples and halls. In 1989 an old Japanese schoolhouse at the corner of 232 St and Dewdney Trunk Road was moved to the 11700 block of 223rd Street where it was restored and now is home to the CEED Centre focusing on community and environment issues. More information about early Japanese immigrants can be found on a large information panel at Nokia Park, on 222 Street just north of Dewdney Trunk Road.

On entering the cemetery follow the road between the two large maple trees. Immediately after passing the trees is the Japanese area of the old cemetery that continues to the first road branching off to the right (west). The Japanese area stretches for three sections on either side of the road and three sections along the centre road.

On the right are two markers of the Tamura family. Notice how many of them died as very young children (1). Next are three markers of members of the Tanaka family (2) who were mill owners as well as part owners of a box factory on 224th St just south of Dewdney Trunk Rd. Again note the early deaths of the children, an infant in 1910 and two at age 18. The original Tanaka house on 124th Ave is listed on the Maple Midge Community Heritage Register

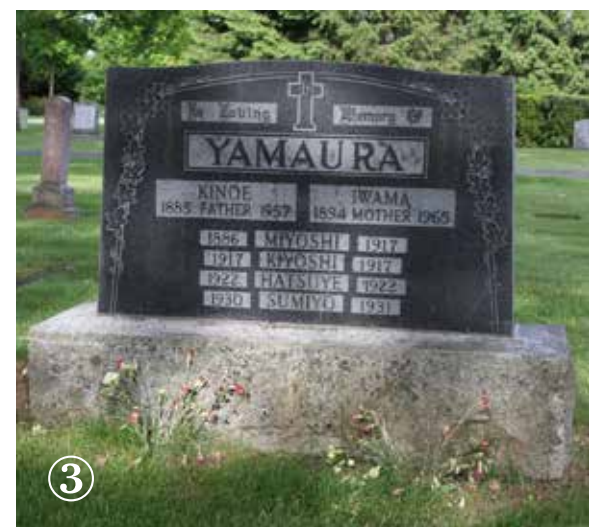
On the left is the Yamaura family (3), again with children dying very young – Kiyoshi, Hatsuye and Sumiyo from stillbirths and phthisis, a pneumonic form of TB.

Behind the Yamaura's are three markers of the Nagai family, one of which again records the deaths of two children (4). This family was one of the earliest to use greenhouses to grow strawberries at 112th Ave and 240th St. The Japanese were evacuated out of Maple Ridge in 1942 after the bombing of Pearl Harbour. All their belongings

were sold at auction, and they had the option to either live self-supporting or government-supported. The Nagai chose the former and settled at Lillooet and later at Green Lake. They returned to Maple Ridge in 1950, buying their house back at three times what they had originally paid for it and continued their fruit growing operation.

The large red granite marker nearby (5) is for Koto Kawamoto. It was a Japanese custom to have arranged marriages, and this custom was continued when many came over to Canada. Marriages would be arranged through the exchange of pictures and letters, and the woman would eventually come over to Canada to meet her new husband. Koto was one such 'picture bride' who wrote of a hard life in Hammond when she arrived.

The tall granite marker (6) back by the road is a monument built in 1936 in memory of the early Japanese settlers and there are no burials here. *ew*





2



5



4



6



## THE DREAM LIST

Many of our readers will have seen reports in the news and social media about Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows going back to operating their own parks and leisure services. For the Maple Ridge Museum, this will mean little or no change as each community has always had its own museum.

However, it will also have been noticed that a new museum and archives facility is included in the dream list for the money the city plans to borrow to upgrade recreational and cultural resources. We are very happy to be on the list but we want to stay on the list and not be set aside as the “sacrificial lamb” yet again.

We rely on our members to let our mayor and council know that we not only need an expanded facility – we deserve one! This is a modern, quickly growing community that deserves to have a museum and archives that is accessible, responds to community needs and interests, and that can attract visitors from a wider region. We are an important information resource that the entire community has come to rely on so let’s recognize that fact and get us the facilities we need to do the job we could be doing.

We need more and louder voices. Join the Historical Society and raise your voice on our behalf! [<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/join-us/>]

## HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS

**Feb 13 at 11am – Downtown Core Walking Tour** – Erica Williams will lead a tour around the central core sections of Dewdney Trunk, 224th Street, and Lougheed Highway.

The group will meet by the fountains at the entrance to Memorial Peace Park at 11am. Please let us know at 604-463-5311 if you plan to attend.

**Feb 18 at 7pm – CHC Heritage Awards** at St Andrews Heritage Church Hall – The Community Heritage Commission will present its annual awards to residents who have supported local heritage in a variety of ways. Join us for refreshments after the ceremony.

**Feb 21 at 11am – Maple Ridge Cemetery Walking Tour.** Erica Williams will meet with participants at the entrance to the cemetery and will introduce them to the early families of Maple Ridge as well as the burial and marker practices of the years represented.

## FEB 4 LOCAL VOICES

This series celebrates neighbors having conversations with neighbors through the voices of our citizens. Presentations will combine talks, readings and performances. Presented by the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission and Historical Society, The Maple Ridge Library, the Maple Ridge Family History Group, and the Golden Ears Writers. At Maple Ridge Library Fraser Room 7:00 pm.

The February speakers are: Diane Wallace (Garibaldi Art Club), Dianne Stoesz (Haney Horsemen), and Caroline LePage (Owner/Publisher of What’s On Maple Ridge).



## 2016 AGM & POTLUCK SUPPER

On March 17, at 6:30pm at St Andrew’s Heritage Church Hall, we will hold our AGM and potluck supper. Please save the date and look for more details in the next newsletter.



## MUSIC ON THE WHARF 2016: CALL FOR MUSICIANS

The Maple Ridge Historical Society is seeking musical groups to submit applications to perform at the Music on the Wharf Concert Series 2016: July 11, 25 and August 8, 22.

Interested groups should submit the following:

- Name of group and contact information
- Brief resume of performances
- Brief group biography
- Sound recording with at least three selections on CD

Please visit [mapleridgemuseum.org](http://mapleridgemuseum.org) for more details and a downloadable submission form for the above information to attach with your application.

Other Critical Information:

1. A hardcopy CD and biography is required: We will accept burned CDs
2. Must be sent by MAIL to Maple Ridge Museum
3. You may also drop off submission package to the Maple Ridge Museum
4. Please submit the above by Sunday March 11th, 2016 by 4pm

Attn: Music on the Wharf Committee  
 Maple Ridge Museum  
 22520-116th Ave  
 Maple Ridge, BC  
 V2X 0S4

DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE



**Visit the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society's diorama in the museum.**

On the last Sunday of every month, members of the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society are present to "talk trains" and operate the Diorama. Model Railroaders are welcome on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings before the last Sunday of the month.

Info: Dick Sutcliffe at 604-467-4301 or E-Mail: [ras1@uniserve.com](mailto:ras1@uniserve.com)

