



## Newsletter November & December 2015

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year when we ask our members to renew their membership for another year. For the coming year, in addition to our newsletters, we will be adding more member activities like the Holiday Decorating Party, some speaker events at the ACT lobby, and our pot-luck supper and AGM in March.

We also ask that you consider an additional donation to the Society. We have recently received a very large donation of photographs from the 1980s and 90s from the *Times* newspaper. In order to organize the materials in such a way that images can be found, we estimate that it will cost on the order of \$30,000 in staff time and materials. We have applied for some grants to help with staff costs but still need funds to buy conservation materials to house the negatives and prints. If you would like your donation targeted to this project, just check the "TIMES project" box on the renewal form.

Payment can be made by cheque sent to the address on the form or by PayPal at: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/join-us/>



### HOLIDAY DECORATING PARTY

ST. ANDREWS HERITAGE HALL, 22279 116TH AVENUE

On Thursday November 26th at 6:30 pm the Historical Society will host a holiday decorating party at St. Andrews Heritage Hall.

The Maple Ridge Choral Society will entertain us as we decorate the tree inside the hall and there will be a craft for the children.

Bring along a sweet or savory snack to toast the start to the holiday season! Contact Allison at [mrmcurator@gmail.com](mailto:mrmcurator@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### HANEY HOUSE PAST & FUTURE

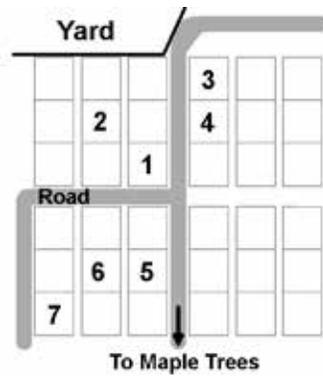
Architect and building conservation expert Don Luxton has been working on a detailed conservation plan for Haney House.

We are trying to assemble as many photographs as possible of the interior of the house before and during the 1979 restoration.

The community archives has no images of that restoration, so we are hoping some of our long-time members took pictures while volunteering or know someone else who did.

Please contact the museum at 604-463-5311 or [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com) if you can help.

Haney House in the snow in the early 1980's, just after the restoration was completed.



## MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY'S OLDEST SECTION

The October Newsletter introduced many of the early Maple Ridge pioneers and how they came to be here. A number of these pioneers and their families are buried in the oldest part of the cemetery, just north of the cemetery's maintenance yard.

This article will introduce you to some of those people. The land for the oldest part of the cemetery was donated by George Howison and William Nelson. As you come into the cemetery, follow the road south between the two large maple trees. At the cross roads continue to the next road that goes east at which point you are standing right in the middle of the original section. For this article I have just focused on the seven burial sites shown on the map.

(1) George Howison and family originally owned two large sections of land south of Dewdney Trunk Road to the Fraser River. The south-eastern part of their land slid into the Fraser during the landslide of 1880. Their life was marked by tragedy and the whole family died young by accident or from tuberculosis. Justus William Howison was not a judge but the first postmaster in the district at Maple Ridge in 1876. "Justus" was a family name.

(2) William Nelson was married to a Kanaka woman. Some of her relatives and friends were buried at the back of his property in the part that was donated for the MR cemetery. William was very robust, continuing to plough all of his fields by himself well into his 80's. His property (known as Nelson's Landing) became the cen-

tre of the first little settlement of Maple Ridge with the first post office, school, and Methodist Church

(3) Francis Sinclair is the earliest known burial as she has a marble marker. Many of the earlier records were incomplete or were lost when a water pipe burst and flooded one of the early municipal halls.

(4) John Henry Laity came from Denver and bought his land from John Hammond. John then brought his wife, Mary Jane, and his parents Thomas and Honor to join him. Today their descendants still farm on the original homestead.

(5) Samuel Edge built many houses and community buildings in Maple Ridge, including Haney House and the McIver residence. He was the first to climb Golden Ears and Edge Peak is named after him.

(6) John McKenney was one of the original corps of engineers who disbanded in 1863. He was granted 160 acres north of McIver's. He also had property and a boarding house in Port Haney.

(7) Andrew Holdsworth is the only remaining wooden headstone. In 1910, he was hit by a CPR train at Westminster Junction, today's Port Coquitlam.

*ew*



(1) George Howison



(2) William Nelson



(3) Francis Sinclair



(4) John Henry Laity



(5) Samuel Edge



(6) John McKenney



(7) Andrew Holdsworth

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Edward Johnson, president of the Edison Company for Electric Lighting, electrician and businessman, is generally credited with having the first electrically lighted Christmas tree. In 1882 he created a string of electric lights for his children. Luckily for Edward and his family they lived in the first area of New York City to offer home electricity. By 1884 the lighting of the "Edison Tree" had become an annual publicity stunt for the company.

In 1900 the Company offered for sale miniature bulbs with a booklet showing how to wire up a set of Christmas lights for the family. At this time light sockets had not yet been invented and the work was well above the layman's ability.

In 1903 General Electric was the first company to make electric Christmas tree lights truly practical when it introduced its line of "festoons" that consisted of a series of pre-wired sockets. They attempted to patent the idea but were rejected

by the US Patent Office on the ground that any "wireman" or electrician would have that knowledge. That left the market wide open and "wiremen" and companies all over North America began to manufacture Christmas light strings. These early models consisted of 24 lights. They cost on average of \$12 (roughly \$300 today), keeping electric Christmas lighting well out of reach of average families.

Haney House Museum celebrates the holiday season with a winter tour and display showcasing "Christmas Illuminated" with various artifacts from the museum collection. Open hours are Sundays from 10am – 4pm.

Also in December the Maple Ridge Public library will host our annual holiday displays. This year's themes are "Christmas Customs" and "Holidays on Display", focusing on the craftsmanship and creative effort involved in holiday displays and the memories they created, including parade-type events, such as the "Santa Claus" parade, and the DARS Christmas train. *aw*



Hill Tout home on Carr Street near River Road. It was fully decorated each year. Money from the wishing well was given to service organizations. 1960s



NO DANGER  
from the Lights on  
**CHRISTMAS TREES**  
when **Edison Miniature Lamps** are used.  
No Smoke, Smell or Grease.  
Lamps can be either bought or rented at a low cost.  
Anyone can readily wire and put up the lamps if there is  
electric current in the house.  
*Our leaflet on Christmas Lighting tells all about it.*  
**EDISON DECORATIVE AND  
MINIATURE LAMP DEPT.**  
General Electric Company,  
Harrison, N. J.

*ELECTRIC LIGHTS.* *CANDLES.*



READY TO USE  
**ELECTRIC LIGHTING  
OUTFITS  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
DECORATIONS**  
SIMPLE  
CLEAN  
SAFE



Scott's Meat Market delivery van in the snow. The driver is George Filer and his helper is Cliff Kershaw.

A HANDY TABLE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS MAILING ... IN 1920

## PARCEL POST

### RATES of POSTAGE on parcels mailed in the PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Addressed to—	1 lb	2 lbs	3 lbs	4 lbs	5 lbs	6 lbs	7 lbs	8 lbs	9 lbs	10 lbs	11 lb
Any post office within 20 miles*, including place of mailing.....	\$ .05	\$ .06	\$ .07	\$ .08	\$ .10	\$ .12	\$ .14	\$ .16	\$ .18	\$ .20	\$ .22
Any post office beyond 20 miles, but within the Prov. of British Columbia .....	.10	.14	.18	.22	.26	.30	.34	.38	.42	.46	.50
Any post office in Alberta .....	.10	.16	.22	.28	.34	.40	.46	.52	.58	.64	.70
Any post office in Saskatchewan .....	.12	.20	.28	.36	.44	.52	.60	.68	.76	.84	.92
Any post office in Manitoba .....	.12	.24	.34	.44	.54	.64	.74	.84	.94	1.04	1.14
Any post office in Ontario, Quebec or Maritime Provinces .....	.12	.24	.36	.48	.60	.72	.84	.96	1.08	1.20	1.32
Yukon Territory summer rates, June until September, inclusive.....	.10	.16	.22	.28	.34	.40	.46	.52	.58	.64	.70
Yukon Territory winter rates, October until May, inclusive .....	.12	.24	.36	.48	.60	.72	.84	.96	1.08	1.20	1.32

\*The maximum charge on any parcel shall not exceed 1 cent an ounce.  
 \*This rate also obtains in cases where the 20-mile area extends into an adjacent Province.



### RAFT RACE BONANZA

A recent donor brought us a treasure trove of memorabilia and photographs, programs, articles and keepsakes about the Mission to Haney Raft Race from 1974 to 1979. There are at least 750 photographs. This kind of collection is of incredible value to the community archives. It was put together with care by a participant and his family and covers all the bases on participants, organization, and the wild variety of rafts.

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

