

## Newsletter October / November 2015

### **HISTORY OF GARIBALDI PARK**

On Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm in the Fraser Room of the Maple Ridge library, historian Cathy Ross will present the history of the park and in particular, the Rubble Creek Trail on its 100th Anniversary. The story of the trail includes the efforts of Billy Gray and the BC Mountaineering Club.

### **EAT, DRINK AND BE SCARY!**

Admission is \$3

A reminder that Haney House Museum is hosting a Hallowe'en event on Saturday, October 31st from 11am – 3pm. Come see the 1883 house decorated for fall, with a new fall themed tour, guided from one of our costumed guides. There will also be cookie decorating and crafts for children to partake in.

Feel free to come dressed up in costume, or without. If the weather is chilly we'll have something warm to drink inside as well.

### **HOLIDAY DECORATING PARTY**

St. Andrews Heritage Hall - 22279 116th Ave

On Thursday November 26th at 6:30 pm the historical society will host a holiday decorating party at St. Andrews Heritage Hall. As we decorate the tree inside of the hall there will be entertainment by the Maple Ridge Choral Society and a craft for the children. Bring along a sweet or savoury snack to toast the start to the holiday season!

Contact Allison at [mrmcurator@gmail.com](mailto:mrmcurator@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### **NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS**

#### **VISION**

**To celebrate, honour, protect and promote  
the history of Maple Ridge.**

#### **MISSION**

**Through the use of the highest conservation and  
recording standards, collect, display, and interpret  
the complex heritage of Maple Ridge.**

As a society, it is necessary to regularly examine our goals and objectives with an eye to how we can get there from here. Part of that process is to have a clear statement of vision and mission.

These are used in internal documents like strategic plans and in external ones like grant applications. They not only tell people who we are but how we see ourselves.





## MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY: BEGINNINGS

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The first Europeans who settled in the late 1850s in the area across from Fort Langley in what is now Maple Ridge were Hudson Bay Company men such as Samuel Robertson, John McIver and Robert Robertson. Disbanded Royal Engineers such as John McKenney, James Lindsay and Louis Bonson followed these first settlers. When the Land Pre-emption Act was amended in 1860 other families such as William Howison, Henry Dawson, William Nelson, John Wickwire and the Hammond brothers soon followed. In the 1870s, after changes to the Federal Homestead Act, more families such as the Hinchs, Hamptons, Callaghans, Laitys and Haney arrived.

Early on William Nelson built a wharf, Nelson's landing, at the foot of Fir St, south of the present St. John the Divine Church. That church was moved across the Fraser River from its original site west of Fort Langley in 1882. At this time the river was the primary means of transportation and the first rudimentary River Road was constructed to give access to Nelson's Landing. When the railway arrived Port Hammond

and Port Haney became the focus for river traffic. Maple Ridge incorporated as a district in 1874. At that time, there were about 20 families, scattered from the Pitt River to the Stave River, mostly homesteading along the Fraser. The cemetery was established in 1878 on land donated by George Howison and William Nelson. Each man donated a quarter of an acre at the back of their properties near to Dewdney Trunk Road (Sections 1 -36), with a 10-foot (3 m) road allowance to run between the cemetery and River Road to the south where the Methodist Church was then located. This is the area just north of the present yard.

The municipal council authorized the spending of \$200 to pay for drainage improvements to the land. The present Lougheed Highway was not completed until 1931. The oldest known burial is Francis Sinclair who died in 1883. Unfortunately the early records were lost during a flood from a broken pipe at the Municipal Hall in 1952 and many of the early graves were not marked. There were earlier burials of Kanaka relatives of William Nelson's wife but dates and locations are not known. *ew*



“Well, if you knows of a better ‘ole, go to it.”

### ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH:

#### FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE

Captain (Charles) Bruce Bairnsfather was a British humourist and cartoonist, best known for the weekly “Fragments from France” cartoons that were published during WWI, highlighting the character “Old Bill” who helped to maintain morale amongst British front-line troops.

Bairnsfather joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a second lieutenant, serving with the machine gun unit in France in 1915. He was hospitalized with shellshock during the Battle of Ypres, and then posted to division headquarters which is where he developed his series for *The Bystander* about life in the trenches.

In January of 1916 the first volume of Fragments was printed, and it met with such success, soldiers flooded the magazine with letters stating that “nothing since the war began presented actual facts and feelings of the fighting men so realistically and so humorously.” Demand continued to increase for more volumes, and Bairn-

sfather went on to produce 8 volumes of “Fragments of France.”

Bairnsfather when asked what the impetus for creating the cartoon was, said the relentless endurance of soldiers living and fighting under such appalling conditions appealed to him with such force that “the drawings emerged as my only means of being articulate about what I felt.”

The museum has all but two volumes of the Fragments series (missing Volume 1 & 7). At the left one of Bairnsfather’s cartoons.



### BEHIND THE SCENES

Once the summer staff leaves and the dust starts to settle yet again, the remaining museum staff – Val and Allison – dig in to all the work done by the students over the summer and make sure it is correct, complete, and filed in all the right places.

Sounds glamorous, right?

It is definitely not the highlight of the job but perhaps the most essential. Even more than paper copies, digital files are prone to being misplaced, copied over, or have many versions where there is a constant danger of copying the old over the new. With the proliferation of computers, laptops, and storage devices, everything is checked at the end of summer to make sure that copies of everything have made their way to the central server.

But even in a “housekeeping” part of the year, interesting things happen. We have been corresponding with Jay-Dell Mah, a baseball historian living in Nakusp, BC, and attempting to document amateur and semi-professional baseball in Western Canada. His website is “attheplate.com”. We have provided images of Haney and Hammond ball teams and other resources.



Remembrance Day: In this image from the early 1960ss, it is difficult for us in 2015 to recognize the location as 224th Street. The building at left of which only see one curved wall is the Fairview Garage, located where CIBC is today. The shops further to the right are the ones just south of Dewdney Trunk on the west side. There are a lot more houses in the area. But some things don't change and the crowd is familiar as we still get large crowds at our Remembrance Day observations to this day.



Five men chopping wood outside Garibaldi Park Board Cabin. The photo was taken by Eric Dunning, local newspaper editor and publisher, who was a member of the board and who fought long and hard for access to the park.

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)

