



Newsletter March & April 2015

HERITAGE TEA

The MRHS annual Heritage Tea will take place on Saturday, April 11th from 1 to 4 pm at the Seniors Centre. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

This year's event features historical display panels focusing on Heritage BC's 2015 theme of "Main Street." Museum panels focus on what "Main Street" means to a community and how they evolve over time, in hopes that by examining the past, we will be able to provide useful insights to the current community to help address its concerns about the struggles of businesses on "Main Street" today.

The committee is still looking for a few volunteers to donate baked goods for the day. This helps offset food costs, and as we all know, home-made treats are better than store-bought! If you'd like to donate baking, or help out on the day of please contact us at 604-463-5311 or e-mail Allison at mrmcurator@gmail.com

NEEDED: VIDEO VOLUNTEER

Several years ago, we had a volunteer who transferred a number of Rogers Cable local videos from ¾" VHS cassette to digital files.

What we have never managed to do is complete the transfer and annotate the files.

We need someone to transfer the video from VHS format to a standard digital format like avi or mp4 and then watch the videos on a computer screen and note the subjects covered and the time on the file when they start.

The footage is from the early 1980s and includes various parades, the start of local recycling, early Arts Council, and so on.

ANNUAL MUSIC ON THE WHARF CONCERT SERIES

This year the series is in its 18th season.

All concerts are at the Port Haney Wharf and begin at 7:30pm (with exception of August 24th which starts at 7pm). Don't forget to bring a lawn chair, as there is no seating at the wharf. In case of rain, the concert will be cancelled; this decision will be made by noon the day of the concert. Signs will be posted at the venue, and you can contact Allison at 604-463-5311 for more details or go visit our website.

With nearly 20 applicants to choose from it was hard to narrow it down to just four bands, but after a long "listening party" the committee has chosen the following artists to perform at this year's event.

JULY 13: JOHN PIPPUS

JULY 27: MOZAYIC

AUGUST 10: 5 ON A STRING

AUGUST 24: REID JAMIESON

AGM

Our most stalwart supporters gathered on March 19 for our Annual General Meeting. We shared food, stories and laughter along with our review of 2014 and our plans for what is to come. Put us on the calendar for next year – March 17, 2016. Your attendance is important to us to show the support of our membership to those who fund us.

Another way to help your society is to encourage your family and friends to become members. There is strength in numbers!



Brenda Smith, Andrea Lister, Sheila Nickols, and Mayor Nicole Read

RECIPIENTS OF HERITAGE AWARDS 2015

- BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT - Communities in Bloom
- HISTORY HERO - Fred Braches
- HERITAGE LANDSCAPE - Josine Eikelenboom - Westacres
- STEWARDSHIP OF A COMMUNITY CULTURAL ASSET - Maple Ridge Concert Band
- HISTORY AND HERITAGE RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION - Sheila Nickols and Andrea Lister
- SHEILA NICKOLS HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HISTORY AND HERITAGE TEACHING - Emerald Pig Theatrical Society
- SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL COLLECTION - Downtown Maple Ridge Christmas Lights



Main street walk – photographer Len Pettit



CHC HERITAGE AWARDS NIGHT

On February 19, the community gathered at St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall to honour a number of recipients of this year's community heritage awards.

At the beginning of the festivities, Annette Fulford, one of the founding members of our Family History Group, summarized the history of the awards which have been given out since 1996

After the award ceremony the attendees enjoyed a performance by the Maple Ridge Concert Band and a re-creation of the Historic Mayor's segment from the 140th Birthday celebration by The Emerald Pig.

Also, Steve Ranta – member of the CHC – provided musical accompaniment throughout the event. All in all a great evening and a successful return of the awards

MAIN STREET TOURS

On Feb 21, as part of Heritage Week, our president Erica Williams led two walking tours of the downtown core. Eighteen people participated in the morning tour with a smaller group in the afternoon.

The focus of the tour was on the historic elements that have been added to the core in recent years, including the sidewalk mosaics, new street signs with old street names, and the "Now and Then" photo panels.

There is now a booklet, available at the museum for \$5, that covers the tour so that people can do their own tour and take visiting friends around.

We hope to add the tour to some existing events, like our "History Goes to Market" outing in May.

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

Sunday, March 22nd was the Mad Hatter's Tea at Haney House Museum. Just over 20 people enjoyed crafts, cookies and the new spring tour. The spring tour, which focuses on "tea and etiquette", will be on display until this summer.

Among the museum's "Top Artifacts" are the Haney family tea cups, which are on display at Haney House Museum. Donated by Anne Haney, granddaughter of Thomas, the Japanese Noritake Porcelain was a family heirloom. The three cups on display in the dining room have a hand-painted design with a dark green rim. Each has a small handle and three small "legs" or "feet" at the bottom of the cup.

Noritake as well as Nippon are brands and products produced or sold by the Morimura Company of Japan. The company saw business potential in the quality of Japanese art and skilled craft that could be adapted to the needs and taste of the North American consumer.

The Morimura company also bought and distributed porcelain blanks to be decorated by independent porcelain decorators in nearby regions. From 1884 Morimura subcontracted decorating firms in Tokyo, Nagoya and Kyoto. The quality of the Early Noritake wares varied with the skill of the individual decorators.

Look for more updates to the "Top Artifact" project this spring in the newsletter and on the website. *aw*



Making masks at the Mad Hatter's Tea.



Heritage Canada Executive director Jacques Dalibar (left) with Ken Kelly, Ernie Adair, and Francis Sleigh (right) in the Port Haney area. They were discussing the impending disaster known as the Haney Bypass and the destructive effect it would have on the historic neighbourhood. This was April 1979.

FRANCIS SLEIGH

Members of the Maple Ridge Historical Society were saddened to hear of the death of Francis Sleigh on December 18, 2014, two weeks short of his 90th birthday. He was a former president of the society in the 1970s.

His wife Daphne is one of the researchers and authors of *Maple Ridge – A History of Settlement* which was published in 1972. Francis put his architectural skills to work to create the elegantly drafted district maps for the book, an important feature that helps people understand the layout of early districts within Maple Ridge, their land-forms, roads, bridges and buildings.

When Francis saw the plans for building the Haney Bypass, he was horrified to see how it

would cut the heritage area of Port Haney in two, separating Haney House and several other historic buildings by a busy highway. He drew up an alternate route for the needed bypass which would have gone north of Haney House. He led a delegation of society members to protest the initial route at a Council meeting, but to no avail.

Francis Sleigh was as keenly interested in BC history as his wife Daphne. He helped her in many ways in her subsequent historic research and writing about Deroche, Harrison, and most recently the biography of Father Dunstan, *The Artist in the Cloister*.

Our sympathy goes out to Daphne, and her daughters Sarah and Rosemary. *sn*

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

