

Newsletter January & February 2018



The core group of volunteers at the first Heritage Tea in 1993.

HERITAGE TEA ANNOUNCEMENT

After much careful thought and consideration, the Historical Society has decided to cancel the annual Heritage Tea.

The very first tea took place on March 27, 1993 at St. Andrew's United Church. The nostalgic tone was set with a vintage light blue 1947 Mercury car, which was parked outside of the church to welcome guests, while the tea was open to members of the community who had lived in Maple Ridge before 1945. Throughout its 25 year run, the teas provided residents with a chance to see old friends and reminisce about how the community had changed.

However, during the past few years due to lower attendance, the rising costs for space and food has made the tea increasingly more expensive to manage. A critical change for this year would be loss of access to the venue's kitchen so all food would have had to be purchased prepared, greatly increasing the cost.

As such, we feel it's important to hit pause and reflect on how to better serve the community. The tea may be reborn in the coming years, in a different capacity, but for now we are saying goodbye to an old friend. We end with a very big thank-you to all of the volunteers and residents who helped make this event such a great success for the past two decades!



FIELD TRIP AND HANEY HOUSE UPDATES

In December staff visited the Roedde House Museum in downtown Vancouver for a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the museum. The late Victorian home was built by famed architect Francis Rattenbury in 1888. The museum operates similar to Haney House, but the tours for visitors and schools are entirely run through a docent program.

Our visit was also a research trip for display cases. Roedde House has custom built-in shelving and storage that fits into not only the era of the home, but into tight spaces. The slanted ceilings upstairs carefully house their temporary gallery, which showcases traveling exhibits. They also have open storage in a few drawers (pictured here), which is a great teaching tool for visitors.

We topped off the trip with some tea in the dining room, around the beautiful lit Christmas tree!



At Haney House, during its closure we are trying to capitalize on projects that aren't possible to do when the house is open. Staff have done a complete inventory of all objects on display, and packaged them for the upcoming window renovations, so nothing will be damaged. This month, storage will be tackled.

We are excited to share with you soon the findings from the wallpaper investigation, which is currently being done by Conservator Simone Vogel-Horridge. 2018 is going to bring lots of change to Haney House! *aw*



HERITAGE WEEK – FEB 18-24

This year’s theme for Heritage Week is “Heritage Stands the Test of Time”. We like to use this theme throughout the year so keep an eye out for our displays on enduring heritage.

We will be exploring the renovation of Haney House as a building that was originally meant as a simple family home but which has become a public facility and civic icon. It is a piece of our built heritage that has definitely “endured”.

For the Maple Ridge Library lobby cases in February we will be exploring the enduring nature of our original neighbourhoods as they transformed from a way for people to get their mail to rivalries, roots, and cherished memories.

During Heritage Week itself, the Community Heritage Commission will hold their annual awards night at St. Andrews Heritage Church on February 22 at 7pm.

HERITAGE WEEK WALKING TOURS

Sunday Feb. 18 - MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY is one of the oldest continuously operated cemeteries in the Lower Mainland. To begin Heritage Week in Maple Ridge, Erica Williams of the Maple Ridge Historical Society will be giving a tour of the oldest sections of this cemetery in the afternoon from 1 to 3 pm. Meet at the large maple trees just inside the gates.

Saturday Feb. 24 – DOWNTOWN HANEY. To close Heritage week, Erica Williams of the Maple Ridge Historical Society will be giving a walking tour of downtown Maple Ridge in the afternoon from 1 to 3 pm. Meet by the “Beast” just outside City Hall. The tour will look at the various markers and buildings that tell the story of the early history of this part of the city.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't gotten round to renewing your membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society remember that there is more than one way to do it.

If you go to <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/join-us/> and scroll down the page you will find PayPal and CanadaHelps options. Both allow you to say what the payment is for.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

Registration is now open for bands wanting to play our summer concert series. Go to the Event page of our website to find application instructions. The closing date is March 1, 2018. Last year a record 62 bands applied.

AGM MARCH 22

Save the date for our AGM and pot-luck supper at 6:30pm on March 22. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

In the early days of Maple Ridge, January wasn't the slow-paced "recover from the holidays and deal with the weather" sort of time it is now. Down time for farmers couldn't be wasted so municipal elections were held in early January so the new council could be in place and working before spring brought the all-important road and bridge repairs. In the later 1930's, the election was moved back into mid-December so that the new council could be in place for January 1. One year terms meant there was no time to waste.

Reeve Solomon Mussallem in the mid-1930's smoking the "Pipe of Peace" at the inaugural council meeting for the year. Introduced by Nelson Lougheed in 1912, the pipe smoking was meant to lay to rest any lingering battles from the election and result in a harmonious council.



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.

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