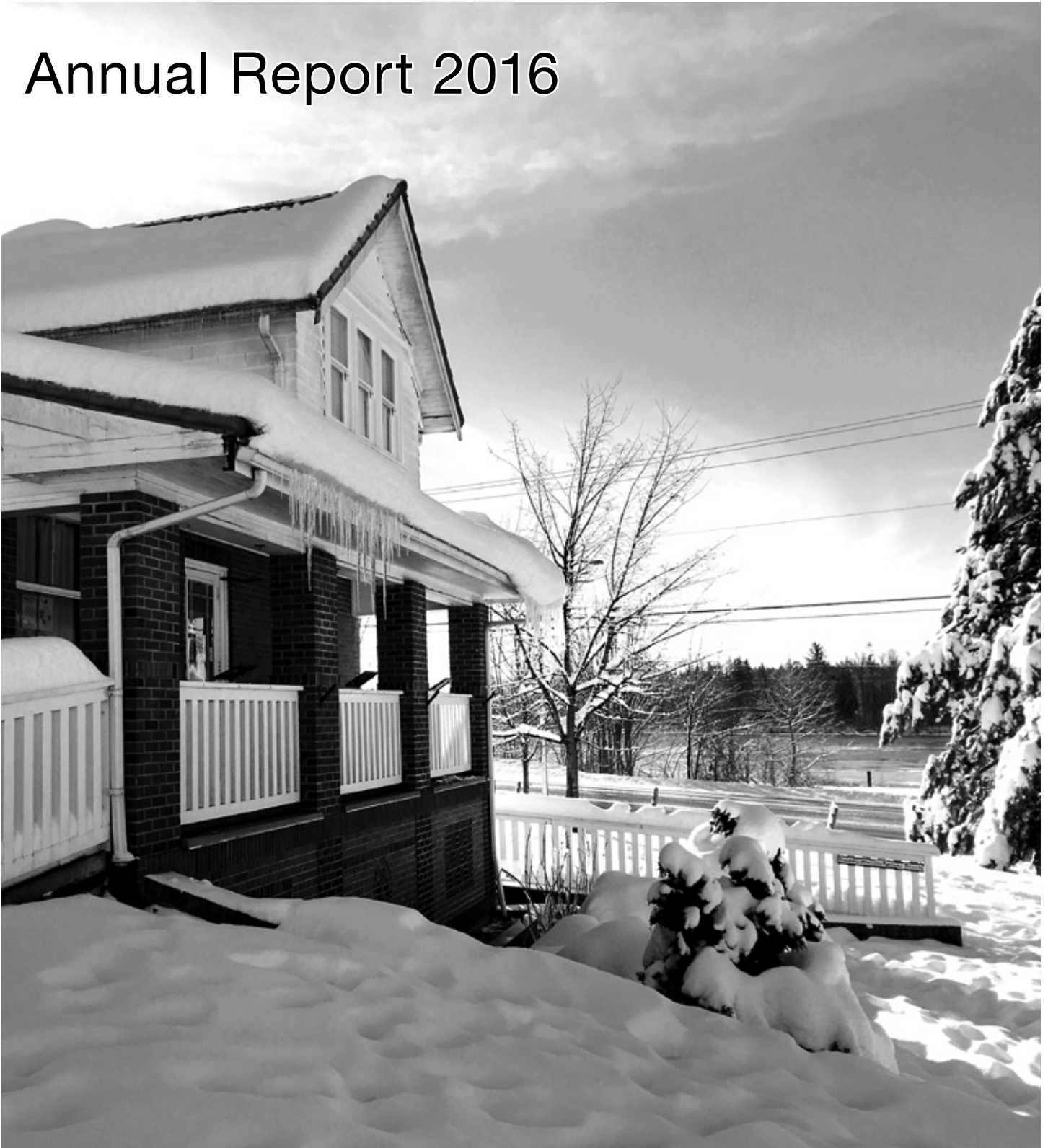




MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2016





Maple Ridge Historical Society

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

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T 604 463 5311
mrmuseum@gmail.com

Executive

President	Erica Williams
Vice President	Sandra Ayres
Treasurer	Mike Davies
Secretary	Julie Koehn
Past President	Faye Isaac

Directors at Large

Dick Sutcliffe
Sheila Nickols

Standing Committees

Operations
Programs | Heritage Tea | Music on the Wharf

Museums Staff

Executive Director	Val Patenaude
Curator	Allison White
Building Manager	Tom Little
Webmaster	Andrea Lister
Accountant	Reta Dreihhaar / Luba King
Curatorial Archival assistants	Alison Pocock Kaity Neff Sarah Davies
Summer students	Ashley Vandepol Alison Pocock Sarah Davies Kaity Neff

Cover: *Museum in winter. That is how we ended the year. Photo by Allison White.*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

17 March 2016 7:30 PM St Andrew's Church Hall



1. Adoption of agenda

Moved by Faye Isaac, sec by Sandra Ayres.

2. Minutes of 2015 AGM & motion to accept

Moved by Wendy Cook, sec by Faye Isaac

3. Reports

- a. *President's Report* – Erica Williams: Erica acknowledged that we are maintaining our visibility in the public, and need to continue to do so. She mentioned the success of the cemetery and downtown walking tours, and the donations received at both events. She then presented the President's report as included in the 2015 Annual Report.
- b. *Operations Committee Report* – Mike Davies: Mike outlined the FFS with the municipality and how the Ops Committee works. Mentioned the only main issue arising in 2015 was the break in at the Wharf Office. Thanked Tom Little and the city for their assistance during the year. He then presented the Operations Committee report as included in the 2015 Annual Report.
- c. *Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House reports* – Val Patenaude: Val noted the website change and thanked Andrea Lister for her help in moving over from the old system, and how the success of the "Out of the Box" series for objects and archives has increased web traffic, and how the Maple Ridge Times photo collection will be beneficial in helping to boost our social media presence, once we are able to raise the funds to process the collection. Val then presented the MRM and HH reports as presented in the 2015 Annual report.
- d. *Program Committee Report* – Allison White: Allison thanked the Program Committee for their help in planning for Music on the Wharf and Heritage Tea. Noted the success of donations at MOTW, helped to bridge the gap in expenses from the Heritage Tea. Allison then presented the report as included in the 2015 Annual Report.
- e. *Membership Report* – Val Patenaude: Val mentioned the ongoing struggle with getting new members and that the downturn in donations in 2015 was partially due to the switch over from mail to electronic membership reminders. She noted that in the current year, paper reminders will be re-instituted.



- f. Family History Committee Report* – Brenda Smith: Brenda talked about the success of the Local Voices series at the Maple Ridge Library, thanking the partnerships formed to bring about a wide audience. She mentioned the Edge Family Legacy Project, and asked if the MRHS wants to make it mandatory for Family History Members to also be members of the MRHS. She then presented the report as included in the 2015 Annual Report.
- g. Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Statements* – Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Statements – Mike Davies: Mike summarized the report and noted the trend of revenues is down, and how even the smallest loss makes a huge difference. He then presented the Treasurer's Report as included in the 2015 Annual Report. (*Moved by Mike Davies, seconded by Sandra Ayres, all in favour.*)

4. Election of Board members

Faye Isaac presented a list of board members. Members elected for the MRHS Board: Faye Isaac, Mike Davies, Sheila Nickols, Dick Sutcliffe, Erica Williams, Julie Koehn and Sandra Ayres. Executive positions to be determined at the first board meeting

5. Adjournment

Moved by Erica Williams, seconded by Faye Isaac

Number of voting members in attendance: 22



Attendance

Voting Members

1.	Faye Isaac	Past President
2.	Mike Davies	Treasurer
3.	Wendy Cook	Member
4.	Sheila Nickols	Director
5.	Dick Middleton	Member
6.	Sandra Ayres	Vice-President
7.	Babs McLaren	Member
8.	Len Pettit	Member
9.	Erica Williams	President
10.	Alan Woodland	Member
11.	Pat Woodland	Member
12.	Andrea Lister	Member
13.	Darren Durupt	Member
14.	Craig Speirs	Member
15.	Brenda Smith	Member
16.	Lynne Currie	Member
17.	David Koehn	Member
18.	Julie Koehn	Secretary
19.	Barry Ansell	Member
20.	Erna Ansell	Member
21.	Val Patenaude	Executive Director
22.	Dick Sutcliffe	Director

Guests

Wilma Pettit
Meaghan Durupt
Allison White



President's Report

"The local industrial heritage from the first half of the last century has all but disappeared."

An aerial view from the 1950s and showing Maple Ridge Lumber company on the left and the brickyard.



ON BEHALF OF THE MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY I would first like to acknowledge the efforts of all the volunteers, our representatives on the Community Heritage Commission and museum staff who work to expand and promote our understanding of this great community of Maple Ridge. Your valuable time in helping spread the word about our unique history is greatly appreciated.

In September of 2014 I went back to England for a holiday, making a point of visiting the town where I grew up, and from which I ran away to the west coast of Canada in the fall of 1965. When I left it was a thriving industrial town with one of the largest integrated iron and steel works in the world employing about 12,000 people. The iron ore was mined locally, while trains easily brought in the coal and limestone needed to process the ore into crude iron. There was a large fabrication plant where the purified mild steel ingots could be rolled into plate or turned into welded utility tubing, trainloads of which left every day. That September there was no sign of any of that industrial heritage and in a tiny 18th century cottage in the old village a small group of volunteers was trying to capture the voices of some of the old timers who would have worked in the steel-works, before they died off.

Coming back to Maple Ridge after that visit brought home to me that the local industrial heritage from the first half of the last century has all but disappeared.

President's Report



The community museum, operated by the Maple Ridge Historical Society, is housed in the brickyard manager's house next to the bypass – yes there was a thriving brickyard down by the river that sent bricks west for the building of New Westminster and Vancouver and drain tile for the communities of the region. Just further east at the mouth of Kanaka Creek there are the rapidly decaying remains of the log dump of the Abernethy and Lougheed Logging Company. Logs would be brought down by rail from the area of what is now Golden Ears Park to the Fraser River where they could be boomed and towed to nearby mills. After you cross the creek on the footbridge the dump trestle is below you and the wide footpath you then follow is part of the old track bed. Up the hill near Dewdney Trunk Road and 236th Street was the Berryland Cannery, a major canning operation in the Fraser Valley, of which there are no remains or even historical signage.

This is an exciting time as the City of Maple Ridge continues to move ahead with its Cultural Plan that will see the development of a more central museum and archives along 224th Street to complete the heart of the civic precinct in our Town Centre as identified in the City's community plans. Our current museum and archives facilities in the old brickyard manager's house shake whenever a train goes by, has no basic climate control, is a major fire risk and is totally inadequate for a growing community of over 82,000 people. These new facilities will enable us to move ahead in our thinking to break new directions of the role and relevancy of a museum on broader community issues. They have to move beyond the traditional static displays to create a far more contextual learning environment that encourages people to come back for more.

However, just having new museum as a display facility is only part of the story. Any new facilities must be accompanied by proper climate controlled storage and conservation facilities with reasonable access from the museum. Our current off site storage of two lockers and a steel shipping container are totally inadequate in space, location and most important climate control for the artifacts. Our goal is that we strive to be a centre of excellence within the world of museums.

After 12 years of traditional schooling students typically end up with little or no understanding of their community's story. It therefore becomes even more important that we expand our outreach and community events to increase the public awareness of the history of the sixth oldest community in British Columbia and seventh oldest west of southern Ontario, with Winnipeg a just few months older. If you want to become more involved in promoting the stories of this great community please get in touch us through the museum.

Erica Williams



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

Our 2016 summer staff

From left: Ashley Vandepol, Kaity Neff, Alison Pocock and Sarah Davies.



Maple Ridge Museum

Our funding situation continued to improve with the standard 1.4% increase in the final year of our Fee for Service agreement with the City of Maple Ridge, a restoration to 4 student positions for the summer, and a repeat of the Gaming amount for a second year.

The biggest overall change was the return of our school engagement with tours, in-class presentations and the provision of reference materials for teachers. The BC K-12 curriculum now includes references to local history at almost every grade so we are all working on ways to accommodate this greater interest given our operational limitations.

We have returned to doing community presentations for partner groups like Meadow Ridge Rotary and the Golden Ears Chapter of the Vintage Car Club. Schools are again asking for in-class presentations prior to museum tours.

Haney House

Our Spring Break Event started off our year at Haney House – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, which had 40 children in attendance. Twice as many as the



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

previous year. Visitors were treated to crafts, a scavenger hunt and the spring tour of Haney House was “Tea Time” focusing on etiquette and manners. We increased admission to \$5 per child this year.

Our annual Mother’s Day Tea continues to have low attendance this year, despite the lovely weather and the addition of the plant sale. In 2017 we will be taking a pause from this event, with a hope to reboot in the future.

Our Hallowe’en Event drew in a good crowd this year; 35 kids were in attendance, along with their parents partaking in crafts, a scavenger hunt and tour of the museum. With both this event, and the spring break event we continue to break even, and draw in new families to Haney House.

Community Outreach

The museum’s 2016 year began with planning, preparation and execution of Heritage Week events and displays. The Heritage Canada theme for the year was not particularly relevant for this area so instead we chose “Travelling Through Time” – an exploration of the development of transportation in and around Maple Ridge. We installed three cases of display at the library during February and used the resulting panels at community events through the year.

We had a full calendar of community events including a new March Break event for Haney House. In all, we did 17 events, 12 of which were hosted by the Historical Society and/or Maple Ridge Museum with the rest being events run by our partners in the city and community.

Our social media interactions have grown exponentially with more and more people being drawn to our resources. Our sets of photos on Flickr see one to two thousand views in a day and on Facebook we now have 755 followers who receive everything we distribute and often re-distribute it further among their own friends. Our Twitter following grew slowly at first but really started to take off when we handed it over to the students for the summer. We went from 9,000 views in April to June to 21,600 for July to September. Our Instagram account has shown similar growth.

Digitizing is still a big part of our current work as it allows us to share materials that we don’t have room to share in any other form. We now scan all incoming photographs, clippings from local newspapers and archival documents wherever possible

Collection Processing

We had 14 lots of accessions in 2016, down from the previous year but we had



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

two estates, Lola Chapman and Bill Archibald, with substantial holdings.

We also added to our sports collection, with the temporary exhibit, 'Line Drive, Centerfield' with memorabilia from Larry Walker Sr. and family. We are pleased to continue filling gaps in the collection with displays in our temporary gallery.

Archives

We took in only 9 lots of archives in 2016 but some were real gems. One was from the estate of Lola Chapman, a well-loved community activist on the part of troubled teens. Her youth diversion program was copied across the country.

We also received the archives of the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society that go all the way back to their roots in the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation [SPEC]. It includes a large well documented photo collection.

Another set of archives came from the Albion Community Club. They are only partial so we hope to be able to find the rest and have a clearer picture of the activities of that group.

Tours

The school tour program that was nearly non-existent in 2015 came back in 2016 with tours from a number of local elementary schools and the Environmental School. We even got all of the Grade 8 summer students from Thomas Haney Secondary.

We continue to provide ESL tours to a variety of groups learning English, seniors groups on bus outings from other communities, and local preschools and after-school care facilities. We also had several small tours of developmentally challenged youth and young adults which has given us the opportunity to develop a tour plan for another underserved community.

Admissions and attendance

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House	2014	2015	2016
Adult Admissions	602	1,065	912
Child Admissions	233	250	564
Off-site Events Attendance	2,385	2,160	2,500
Volunteer Hours*	448	668	932

*The increase in hours in 2016 is largely due to the incredible research efforts of the Family History Group in exploring the Edge family.

Maple Ridge Ridge Museum & Haney House Statistics



MONTH	OUTREACH	TOURS	PRESENT- ATIONS	DISPLAYS	COMMUNITY EVENTS
2016.01					
2016.02	Heritage Week display at library, School tours: Kanaka Creek, Environmental School, Alouette Elementary	9	1	1	
2016.03	March Break Event at Haney House, Day Care Tour, Presentation for Langley Heritage Society.	1	1	1	1
2016.04	Heritage Tea, Port Haney Senior Tour, Community Living tour, Garibaldi Special Ed tour, preschool tour.	4		1	1
2016.05	Mother's Day Tea, "History Goes to Market", Enviro School tour, Cemetery Tours (2)	3		2	4
2016.06	School Tours: Kanaka Creek x4 and in-class presentation	4	1		
2016.07	Canada Day, Music on the Wharf, Library display, Cemetery Clean-up, Summer School tours	4		2	5
2016.08	Music on the Wharf, Summer Student library display, Presentation to Rotary		1	1	2
2016.09	Rivers Day, Meet Our Pioneers Cemetery Tours, "Speaking of Art & History" event	2		1	2
2016.10	Halloween at Haney House, Culture Days - Behind the Scenes, Presentation for Vintage Car Club, Tours: Eric Langton, Dev Disability and Langley Church, Presentation for MRCS Gr 10.	3	2	1	2
2016.11	School Presentation, ESL tour	1	1		
2016.12	Christmas library display			1	
TOTAL		31	7	11	17



Canada Day

Display at Canada Day with skill testing questions



The stilts at Canada Day were nearly as popular as the Canadian flag. Thank you Don Merkley.



A small visitor checks out the "Build a Boat" craft at Canada Day.



Halloween at Haney House



Scary Science display at Haney House Museum for Halloween.



Kaity Neff [L] and Sarah Davies ready for anything at the Haney House Halloween Event.



Program Committee Report

Heritage Tea



Visiting and reminiscing with old friends are the primary activities at the Heritage Tea.

OUR HERITAGE TEA on April 2nd, 2016 at the Ridge Meadows Senior's Centre attracted 122 people in attendance, which was the same as the previous year, bringing in \$1220. The event cost \$1222.32.

The occasion itself went well, with volunteer sandwich makers, greeters and servers.

Our costs were kept down by donations from Save-on Foods and Safeway to offset the cost of groceries.

Organizational help from staff members and the usual excellent photo and sales displays provided by the Maple Ridge Museum were great attractions.

The rolling slide show of historic people and places was a welcome addition to the display, as was the large Edge Family display provided by the Family History Group.

Thanks are due to all volunteers and staff who helped make this a fine event. Many people return each year to reconnect with their past, or learn more about it.

Program Committee Report

Heritage Tea



Audrey Swain and Dick Sutcliffe sort out the goodies for the Heritage Tea.



Sheila Nickols and Dick Middleton pose with the sandwich makers behind the scenes at the Heritage Tea.



Program Committee Report

Music on the Wharf

AN UPSWING in attendance and overall interest was paid to our concert series in 2016. Over 60 applicants applied, with only 4 spots to fill. The committee had the hard task of choosing which bands to play, but were thankful for the variety. ShawTV also did a profile on the concert series, which ran on local news, and on social media.

Each band is paid \$500 for their performance. Donations from the Haney Rotary Club, Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, The ACT Member Grant, and City of Maple Ridge Festival grant went to pay the cost of performers, insurance and advertising. Also, donations from people attending the concerts brought in \$1490.95, which was up over \$300 from last year.

We are thankful for a very generous year, which helps to offset years with inclement weather, where we still have to pay artist's fees.

All four concerts were well attended, averaging 275 per concert.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

2016 Concert Series on Port Haney Wharf

July 11
Lonesome Sinners - 7:30 PM

July 25
Siobhan Walsh Group - 7:30 PM

August 8
Ben Klick - 7:30 PM

August 22
Wichita Trip - 7:00 PM

*Weather dependent. Concerts will be cancelled in the case of inclement weather.

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAPLE RIDGE ARTS COUNCIL



Operations Committee Report



THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE is responsible for overseeing, on behalf of the Society, the execution of the Fee for Service Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge and the upkeep, maintenance and operation of St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall, the Old Post office, and the Wharfinger's office.

St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available for rent and is regularly used as a meeting place by a number of community groups while the Old Post Office has a single renter. A full rate schedule is available from the Maple Ridge Museum or online at: www.mapleridgemuseum.org.

The Wharfinger's Office, located on the Port Haney Wharf, is used during the society's Music on the Wharf summer concert series.

Building Manager, Tom Little, looks after the renting and maintenance of the facilities. There were no infrastructure projects during 2016. The majority of the year's works related to the ongoing maintenance for the buildings with Tom Little managing or completing the work. The 2016 infrastructure dollars will be carried forward to accumulate for future projects.

The Historical Society continued to rent the two storage units that were secured in 2012.

The Historical Society works closely with the City of Maple Ridge to assist in maintaining the other heritage buildings we occupy and operate.

I would like to thank the Operations Committee members, Val Patenaude, our Buildings Manager, Tom Little and the City of Maple Ridge staff for their hard work and support through 2016.

Mike Davies



Membership Report

AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2016, the Society had a membership of:

- 54 Individual Members
- 20 Family Memberships (eligible for up to two votes)
- 3 Life members, most of whom make a donation each year.
- 3 Organizational/Business Memberships [\$120

The total is equivalent to 100 individual members, with a decrease of 1 member over last year. We have reached the point where only about 25 of our newsletters are still mailed, the rest being delivered digitally. However, in 2016, we reinstated the practice of sending out a membership renewal reminder to the whole list which resulted in more and faster renewals and more donations. PayPal is an option chosen by more people each year.

In addition to membership fees, members donated a total of \$2,498, an increase of \$1,698 over last year. Our total income from membership for 2016 was \$1,545 for a combined total of \$4,043.

This is a dramatic turnaround from 2015 with an increase of \$2,318 – more than 100% - showing that our change in marketing strategy to reflect modern conditions had been effective.

Val Patenaude



The museum partnered with the Art Gallery at the ACT and loaned them some of our Girl's Day doll collection for their Japanese themed display for Culture Days.

Family History Committee



THE MAPLE RIDGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP meets on the first Wednesday of each month in Maple Ridge Library. In 2016 attendance had outgrown the Greenside Room and meeting are now in the Fraser Room. Meetings are generally informal and include: upcoming programs and events of interest to members, updates on individual research, discussion about research problems, and celebration of research “finds”, and Short Programs.

Alberta McNamara arranges popular monthly Short Program varying from guest speakers and presentations to topics which challenge members to delve into their family histories and research to answer questions posed. A few of the presentations have been: searching changes at BC Archives, understanding western Canadian land records, how to create a PowerPoint, finding female ancestors in historical documents, genealogical trip to England, British vital records and the parish system, the importance of creating a timeline.

The Group attended and displayed at family history conferences: Abbotsford Stake Family History Day in May, Finding Your Roots 2016 in October, and the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society’s Harvest Your Family Tree Conference in September. The Kelowna conference is held every two years and draws attendees and speakers from across North America and overseas.

The Group maintains three display cases in Maple Ridge Library with changing displays. Our display windows at the library (under the stairs) are updated every couple of months with new displays. Andrea Lister started the year in January with her display “Researching Women.” It was followed by Sandra Ayres display in March “Who is O. H. Edwards.” In May we collaborated on Toni Lush’s suggestion of “Mother’s Day Vignettes.” From June to September the Edge Legacy Project occupied the cases. September introduced Alberta McNamara’s display “The ‘What Ifs’ of Family History Research.”

In March Fraser Valley Regional Library offered two of the display windows in the atrium. Annette Fulford created the window on Free Genealogy Websites and Brenda Smith created a display of household items, inviting people to tell stories about them.

Andrea Lister and Annette Fulford edit the monthly Newsletter, produced and accessed online through the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives website. Members contribute to the newsletter with articles they have written on topics of interest. Gina Leigh manages the membership list and updates members by email.



Family History Committee



William Edge circa 1875. William Edge was the only person killed by the Haney landslide in January 1880.

In 2015 the Group undertook to research the families of William Frederick Edge and Samuel Edge, early settlers in Maple Ridge. The completed project was presented at the Maple Ridge Heritage Awards in February, and the research materials and displays have been deposited in the community archives. From the scant information initially available, a family tree of over 160 individuals was created with documentation that showed their importance to the community and placed the family in a regional and national context. The project team proudly accepted a Maple Ridge Heritage Commendation in 2016 for excellence in enhancing the understanding of community history.

Following in the vein of community history, in 2016 the Group undertook research into Edmund Pope who, among other occupations was the first police constable and cemetery commissioner in Maple Ridge. Our findings will be presented at the February 2017 Maple Ridge Heritage Awards.



Sam Edge [L] with his friend John Clapcott and a dead cougar circa 1897.

Hawley Family



Elizabeth Haney Hawley and her daughter Mary Isaac donated Haney House and it's grounds to the community. This summer, her grandson Allan Hawley brought three generations of his family to see the old family home and have pictures taken. They are, from left : back row – Michael, Leanne, Allan, Heather, Samantha and Shaun. Front row: Nathaniel (8), Aubrey (3), Mikayla (6), and Tyson (10). Every person in the picture has "Hawley" for their surname.



Wharfinger's Office



In 1980, the old Wharfinger's office sat alongside River Road near Fisherman's Wharf. It was largely derelict having not been used in years. Before much more time had passed, the Historical Society rescued the tiny building and moved it to the museum grounds where it was lovingly restored and set on the Port Haney Wharf as part of the 1992 Heritage River Walk project. This year has been a bad year for the old building. It has been broken into several times and is under constant attack from graffiti "artists". And yet it survives. All it takes is people who care.

The office got some much-needed TLC this summer when Dick Sutcliffe organized a work bee that included some new volunteers from the recently built apartment complexes in Port Haney.

