

Newsletter May & June 2018



LOSING OUR ALLISONS

It has been a standard joke around the museum for many years to refer to our two most long-standing staff as “the Allison’s”. For a staff of three to have two with the same name has led to less confusion than one might think as both have been so very good at their jobs.

ALISON POCOCK, our first Community Engagement Coordinator, has taken a new job with Metro Vancouver Parks and will be working in their east area which includes Kanaka Creek Park, so she hasn’t gone very far. Alison has been with us since 2010 when she was first employed as a summer student and has continued to work part-time in winter and full-time in summer in most of the years since. She has been a tremendous asset for her event planning, marketing, and supervisory skills and we will miss her. But her heart has always been in the biological sciences and sharing the wonders of ecology with the public so we wish her all the best in her new job.

Allison White has been our Curator since 2009 when we hired her on her way west from Ontario by way of Smithers. She brought an entirely new energy to the job along with a degree in museum studies and material culture which has resulted in a revolution in the way we create and implement displays in the museum and elsewhere in the community. She was one of 75 applicants considered for her new position with Black Creek Village north of Toronto and it is a clear measure of our loss that she was the one chosen. We will miss her terribly but we can’t begrudge her this incredible opportunity and advancement in her career which is not available here.

We are conducting interviews and hope to have our new staff in place by mid-May.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF DATES AND PERFORMERS

July 16: Olson Bros Band

July 30: Knudson and Connaughton

August 13: Flint and Feather

August 27: The Argyle Embargo

All concerts start at 7:30pm, with the exception of August 27th which will begin at 7pm



Allison Pocock [L] and Allison White at a Fifties-themed event at Haney House Museum in 2013.



Our crew at Canada day in 2017. From left, Jessica Hyde, Alison Pocock, Sarah Davies, Kaitlyn Neff, Kaiden Gartry, and Allison White.

CANADA DAY

Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives will host a display this July 1st at Memorial Peace Park from 12pm - 6pm.

In charge of the “Cultural Hub” the museum will have displays, crafts and touchable artifacts around the theme of Heritage Stands the Test of Time, talking about changes in community; buildings, land cover and industry as well as interpreting place and space, and how this shapes community identity.

There will be wooden toys, and an interpretive map activity that allows children to draw their own neighbourhood, illustrating what features are important to them.

DROP BY AND SAY HELLO!



HANEY HOUSE UPDATES

Haney House is still closed for renovations. At the time of writing all the new windows have been replaced, but painting the interior trim, installing storm windows and exterior doors still has to be completed.

Once complete, staff will be able to reconstruct the artifacts and work on the interpretation of the house. This week, curator Allison White will be going to visit Irving House in New Westminster to meet with conservator Simone Vogel-Horridge and to pick-up the “Wallpaper Sampler” she has constructed from samples found during the wallpaper investigation in 2017. Allison will also be looking at how Irving House in has interpreted their current restorations. This will be a great research trip and hopefully provide guidance for reconstruction at Haney House.

We will have the house open for regular summer hours (Wednesday – Sunday 1 – 4 pm) starting July 4th.

MAGIC MEMORY

Earlier this month, staff at the Maple Ridge Historical Society attended the Canadian Museum Association conference that took place in Vancouver. The theme, “No Museum is an Island: Mobilizing Resources, Building Capacity” touched on many different topics but one thread through it all was the idea of storytelling and taking the lead from small museums, and bringing those core values to larger institutions.

Storytelling allows us to digest information more easily as it connects that information to emotions. It is an important and effective way of teaching, as it’s a way for people to easily remember, and it helps people to relate to one another through shared experiences.

People want something more tangible, and history can be a portal to a shared experience.

That tangible experience is something that I’ve been proud to be a part of here at Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House for the past 9 years. Making the connection with the community is the best part of the job; from giving a hands on tour inside the museums, to speaking to a room full of elementary school kids with touchable artifacts, to illustrating a tale through the structure of the historic buildings themselves – all the small details help to fill the big picture narrative.

As the narrative continues to evolve and change I’m encouraged with the all the stories both museums have left to tell.

I remember when I started back in 2009, before the interior renovations of the galleries at Maple Ridge Museum, everything seemed stuck in time and now through our temporary gallery, modern display cases, and our active presence on social media alongside our website, we are reaching more people than ever before. Yet the most exhilarating part is that visitors are engaged and excited to learn about History and their own community.

When I sat down to write this newsletter I thought I would so easily be able to pick a favourite object from the collection to talk about – but it’s a bit



View on the inside of the Haney Laundromat, from the Bill Saunders collection, taken in the early 1960s when the laundromat opened in Haney Plaza.

like going down a rabbit hole – each story behind the object leads to another, then another and then before you realize you have about 10 different objects you could choose from.

Although I will say this – one of my favourite things is when talking about the doll diorama in our toy collection, made in the 1930’s belonging to Tineke Rijzinga of Webster’s Corners, seeing visitors faces when describing how a child’s toy kitchen included a working gas stove (this object is also burned into my memory as it came with 187 parts).

Instead of picking an object I will sign off with one of my all-time favourite images from Bill Saunders, which I like to call “Half Hour Laundry”. I promise you if you spend only 30 minutes inside of the Maple Ridge Museum or Haney House you too will be impacted by the lives of ordinary people that have helped shaped this community.

Thank-you to all staff, board members and volunteers I’ve worked with over the years who have helped make my time in Maple Ridge not only a memorable work experience, but also one of personal growth.

/Allison White



SURPRISE ACCESSIONS

Every once in a while, someone really goes out of their way to do us a good turn. A lady named Carol in Nanaimo was shopping at her local Value Village and came upon a packet of old photos. Being a fan of old photos, she checked them out and discovered that one was labelled as a school photo from Haney Central School in 1947. The rest of the images were family photos – mostly of children - labelled only with first names or nothing at all. After contacting us, she packaged them up and mailed them to us.

The photo reproduced here is a wonderful addition to our photo archives. In 1947, Haney Central School had DuBarry Studio of Vancouver come in and take class photos of the students at their desks in the classroom. So far as we know, this was a unique effort in Maple Ridge history. The special value is that they are interior school shots that give a good sense of what classrooms were

like for the different grades at that time. This photo alone was worth the postage.

But perhaps the greater surprise came from the family photos. Museum staff did not recognize anyone so we set one of the images loose on Facebook in "We Call It Haney!", asking if anyone knew the children pictured. In about an hour, we had our identification as members of the George family who farmed on 128th Ave, some of whom still live in the area. More to come on this in a later newsletter – stay tuned!

HERITAGE BC CONFERENCE

This conference is in New Westminster this year on May 10 – 12. The title is "Rich Heritage: Telling Our Stories" and it will focus on the role of local stories in connecting the past to the present, creating community, preserving language and sharing knowledge. For more information, check out heritagebc.ca.

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