

Newsletter May 2014



BOARD POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES, INCLUDING VACANCIES

At our April board meeting, the Maple Ridge Historical Society directors were assigned to the following positions:

President – Erica Williams
Past-President – Faye Isaac
Vice-President – Darren Durupt
Secretary – Wendy Cook
Treasurer – Mike Davies

Operations Committee

Mike Davies
Dick Sutcliffe
Darren Durupt
Wendy Cook

Program Committee

Sheila Nickols
Julie Koehn
Dick Sutcliffe

The *Operations Committee* oversees our staff, the two museums, the Old Post Office preschool, St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall and the Wharf-inger's office.

The *Program Committee* oversees our annual events – the Heritage Tea and Music on the Wharf.

Members are welcome to join either committee. There is no need to be a board member nor to become one. Just contact Val at the museum [604.463.5311] if you are interested.



Alison Pocock ready for customers at the Mother's Day Tea. Kudos to her and Allison White for their excellent planning and marketing for this event.

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

On Sunday, May 11th at Haney House Museum, we saw record numbers for our annual Mother's Day Tea. 70 people were in attendance and the porch was full for nearly five hours while staff and volunteers served tea and provided guided tours of the house.

Our topical Mother Knows Best tour and artifacts were well received; further illustrating how important it is to change exhibits within the museum space to attract new visitors.

The next big event at Haney House Museum will be Canada Day. Look for details on activities in our next newsletter!



ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

HOOSIER CABINETS

A Hoosier cabinet, also known as a “Hoosier,” is a type of cupboard popular in the first decades of the 20th century that was used for baking purposes. The cabinet takes its name from the Hoosier Manufacturing Company, in Indiana. Although there were many different manufacturers of “Hoosier” cabinets, nearly all of them were located in the state of Indiana.

Baker’s cabinets were an answer to the problem of kitchens that did not have adequate work surfaces and storage spaces. The new furniture design attempted to provide both by combining a tabletop work surface with cabinets above it. The Hoosier cabinet, however, is not an ordinary baker’s cabinet; in terms of the conveniences provided, Hoosier cabinets go well beyond the design of basic baker’s cabinets, so a cabinet with a

simple tabletop-and-cabinet design can’t technically be considered a Hoosier cabinet.

A cabinet with a simple design was around \$20 in the early 1900s, which would be around \$520 today. Antique original Hoosier cabinets today can cost upwards of \$4,000.

The accessories of the Hoosier cabinet are what make the piece distinct. They were equipped with various racks and other hardware to hold and organize spices and various staples. One unique item is the combination flour-bin/sifter, a tin hopper that could be used without having to remove it from the cabinet. A similar sugar bin was also common. Depending on the cabinet, there were variations of the flour-bin/sifter design. The Hoosier on display in Haney House Museum, and used by the Haney family, has the tin hopper.

In addition to being able to hold and organize ingredients, the cabinet was fitted with racks for specially manufactured glass jars. Original sets of Hoosier glassware consisted of coffee and tea canisters, a salt box, and four to eight spice jars. On the inside of the doors, it was common to have cards with such information as measurement conversions, sample menus, and other household helps. This information is still present on the Hoosier in Haney House.

Although the first two decades of the 20th Century, saw a steady increase in Hoosier cabinets (1 in 5 families in North American had a Hoosier, or similar piece of equipment in their household), by the 1930s, the cabinets had fallen out of fashion, and most manufacturers had stopped making them. *aw*

AUGUST 10!

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE!

Join us August 10, 2014, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in Jim Hadkiss Park to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Maple Ridge Museum.

The event is still in the planning stages. Look for more details in coming newsletters, on the museum website and in the local newspapers.





Our Society participated in Mountain Festival every year through the parade or interactive booths at events. Here we see the Maple Ridge Historical Society group waiting for the parade to start in 1990 with Beryl Cunningham at the right.

Unfortunately, we no longer have the names of the other three women so if you know who they are, please let us know.

MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL AS HISTORY

Maple Ridge Mountain Festival Society was a pioneer in the development of the modern community festival scene. They got off to a modest start in the mid-1970's but really took off when they joined forces with "Home-A-Rama," the original incarnation of our Home Show.

With the Home Show lodged in the Arena and the Mountain Festival taking over all other venues in the downtown core, it ran for 10 days in May, year after year. Starting with a parade along Dewdney, there was a Family Arts Fair, Bed Races, Golf Tournaments and the Miss Ridge-Meadows Pageant that ran from 1980 to 1995.

In about 1999, looking for more space, the Home Show parted company with Mountain Festival and moved to the Albion Fairgrounds where it is still holding a very successful event in May of each year. However, the loss of the Home Show and the resulting division of destinations was the beginning of the end for Mountain Festival.

Efforts were made to find new partners, and for a time there was the Spirit of Wood Festival and

other attempts to revive the idea. Following a period of diminishing participation and organizing committee fatigue, Mountain Festival finally came to an end.

We are happy to report that while Mountain Festival may be gone, it will not be forgotten. The last committee members have ensured that the Festival records have come to the community archives where the stories, events, people and photos will be remembered for the community.

HISTORY GOES TO MARKET



On May 24, we will take our displays to the Bandstand in Memorial Peace Park for the first of our History Goes to Market events. We will be highlighting our 40 years of museum history, the Annual Heritage Canada theme of "Heritage Afloat: Our History on Water", and looking back 50 and 100 years. Come and see us and visit the Farmer's Market. We will be there from 10am to 2 pm

Our second History goes to Market will be on September 13 when we will highlight our municipal history for the 140th Birthday of Maple Ridge.

CELEBRATING OUR MILESTONES

We have a new walking tour of downtown Haney available at the Maple Ridge Museum, courtesy of our president Erica Williams. Erica designed this small booklet for the Community Heritage Commission conference to give participants a guide to the historical elements that have been introduced into the downtown in the form of mosaics, signage and intersection box wraps. Filled with colour pictures and maps with descriptions of all the different elements, these purse-sized booklets make an excellent companion for a walk around the downtown. We are selling them at the museum for \$5.

Emmeline Jane Mohun 1835 - 1928

Known for her "ardent and dominant spirit" Emmeline Mohun was one of the first woman landowners in British Columbia. In 1875, she became the registered owner of 555 acres near what is now Maple Ridge. In partnership with John and William Hammond, Emmeline was one of three landowners of the new town Port Hammond Junction, registered in Victoria in 1883.



William Henry Newton
1833 - 1875

Married to Emmeline in 1856, William worked for The Hudson's Bay Co., and was in charge of Fort Langley from 1859-1864. Emmeline and William were among the first prominent landowners in Maple Ridge, purchasing large parcels of crown land in the 1860's. After his death in 1875, Emmeline Newton became the sole registered owner of their land and thus one of B.C.'s first female landowners.

Charles Edward Mohun
1838 - 1912

In 1878, Edward married the widowed Emmeline Newton. A civil engineer and land surveyor, he made the first CPR surveys of B.C. Anticipating a projected railway through his wife's property, he developed a "Plan of the Town of Port Hammond Junction," on behalf of Emmeline and Joe and William Hammond. As attention turned to the rapidly growing city of Vancouver, the Mohuns moved to Victoria where Edward ended his surveying career working for the City of Victoria.

Plan of PORT HAMMOND
REGISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
BY EDWARD MOHUN, CIVIL ENGINEER
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
1883

Looking Forward

The "Plan of the Town of Port Hammond Junction," drafted by Edward Mohun and registered in 1883 on behalf of the three landowners of the new town: Emmeline Jane Mohun and the Hammond brothers, Joe and William. The plan subdivided large parts of Emmeline's land and many of the projected streets and names are still there today.

EMMELINE MOHUN PARK

On May 3, there was a grand opening ceremony for a small riverside park in Hammond called Emmeline Mohun (pronounced Moon) Park. It is located on Wharf Street just off the south foot of Hazeldine.

Emmeline Jane Tod, was born in 1835 at Fort Alexander, York Factory. Her first marriage was in Victoria to William Henry Newton in 1856 and it has the distinction of being the first marriage in BC where both parties were European. The couple purchased land in what would become Port Hammond, where William Newton died in 1875, leaving Emmeline with six children and a large farm to look after. At that point, Maple Ridge was one year old.

Shortly after Newton's death, an engineer named Edmund Mohun arrived. In 1878, he married Emmeline and combined her lands with land he had purchased. They worked together with the Hammond brothers – John and William – to create the townsite of Port Hammond from land owned by all four of them.

The location of the park is on land that was first owned by Emmeline along with her first husband and then on her own. In recognition of that and of her contributions to early Port Hammond, the park is named in her honour. It is rare to see a female pioneer so honoured. *vp*

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

