



## Newsletter November & December 2017



A city work crew putting up the Christmas decorations in November of 1974.

### WINTER CLOSURES

The Maple Ridge Museum & Archives will close from December 18 to January 3 so that our staff can take some holidays. Haney House will be closed November 2017 – February 2018 to complete renovation work on the windows and doors, as also attend to collection maintenance work.

### LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Fire, Flooding and Freezing: a historical look at weather patterns and current trends will be the focus of the Maple Ridge Museum's December displays at the Maple Ridge Library. If you have any current "winter street photos" that showcase recent weather shifts, please send them to [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)



Waiting for Christmas greetings. Rural post boxes at the corner of 14th Avenue (232nd Street) and Fern Crescent, c. 1946. Post boxes turned parallel to the street (names up front) are empty. Letters could also be mailed out by putting them in your post box.

## TRENCH ART

Trench Art is an enigmatic term. One gets the image of soldiers creating art in mud splattered trenches, however, items made during wartime were in fact created at a distance from the front lines. This is why it is best to think of Trench Art in terms of a concept. Dr. Nick Saunders's, who has written one of the few books on the subject, *Trench Art: A Brief History and Guide*, describes it as "any object made by any person, from any material that are or have been associated with armed conflict." Items have either been created by soldiers, prisoners of wars, or by skilled artisans. These three groups have served as a classification system for the Trench Art world, each category added new depth to not only the materials, but the story behind the object.

Although Trench Art has taken its name largely from the First World War, it existed well before 1914, and is still made today. The first cited example dates back to the Napoleonic Wars. Items largely consisted of metal, cloth, bone and wood. Given the variety of items made, it makes it easier to dismiss all objects simply as "curious junk from war", however, each individual object is rich in symbolism and even irony, which also tells a story about family history.

The Maple Ridge Museum has two pieces of Trench Art; one, a brass vase made from a German shell casing from the First World War. There are handles on each side, with insignia from uniform welded on the front. The other, is made from a horse hoof and practice grenade. The piece belonged to Andre Marc (1882-1959), a pioneer of Yennadon.

Carrington's hoof set with a practice grenade from the First World War. .



Andre Emile Marc, 1917

Andre Marc came to the area by way of Victoria, where he met his his wife, Alice Claudie Pichon in 1907. Originally both from France, Andre Marc was the son of a lawyer, Alice, the daughter of a gunsmith who was serving as France's consul in Victoria. Both had a keen sense of adventure, and when they married two years later, they procured a homestead of 175 acres north of Haney near Loon Lake in 1909 (which is now part of the UBC Research Forest). Although he and his family left shortly after in 1914, when Marc joined the French Army to fight in the war they returned to their homestead in 1927, where he lived and worked until his death in 1959. While in the army Marc served for four years as a Major, and was awarded the French Military Cross for gallantry.

Friends of Marc made this piece as a reminder of his horse, Carrington. During a battle at Reumont, France on the 19th of October 1919, a grenade was launched at Marc. Carrington absorbed the impact, and saved Marc's life. This piece was made as a memorial to the horse. *aw*



Summer staff members Sarah Davies [L] and Kaity Neff tackle a tall headstone.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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It is that time of year again when we ask you to contribute your support to the ongoing programs of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. This year we are featuring our programs in the Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Over the summer, we hosted two days of headstone cleaning where volunteers from the community joined our summer staff in learning how to clean headstones without damaging them. Not only does this benefit our cemetery but the people trained take their skills to cemeteries they visit where they have family graves to tend.

We have also been expanding our cemetery database and have added areas 4 and 5. Through the release of more digitized birth, marriage and death certificates by BC Archives, we have been able to add a great deal more information on individuals and families which is especially helpful to family history researchers looking to distinguish between individuals with the same name.

During our summer programs we picked up a new research volunteer – Janet Symonds - who has been recording the headstones of Cemetery 4. If anyone else would like to help with this project, contact the museum at 604-463-5311.

Our president, Erica Williams, has also been doing occasional tours of the cemetery highlighting well-known families along with the stone choices and symbolism of the headstones. If you'd like to take part in a cemetery tour, watch your newsletter for announcements of days and times.

## HANEY HOUSE RENOVATIONS

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The city has been doing a lot of work on Haney House with the help of a Canada 150 grant. The roof has been replaced with shingles and it looks fabulous. Over the next few months, most of the doors and windows will be replaced with better fitting and more authentic replacements. These two projects will secure the building envelope. Once completed, the intent is to move on to renewing the interior with more authentic finishes and window treatments. In partnership with the city, we hope to have a grand re-opening celebration where we can showcase the renovation and all the new information about the house that has been gained from the process.



Anne Haney with daughters Annie Beatrice and Margaret Maude on the front porch of Haney House. It is pictures like this one taken through the years that have been used to identify the types of doors and windows most appropriate for the restoration. [Taken circa 1910]

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](mailto:ras1@uniserve.com)