



Sheila Nickols in front of the new "Open" sign at the museum on August 8, 1984. Sheila and Dick Sutcliffe were both involved with the move to the Brickyard house and, remarkably, both are still very involved with the Society and its museum operations. One focus next year will be on these "History Makers" who have made it possible for our museums and their collections to exist.

## STRATEGIC ANNIVERSARY PLANNING SESSION

---

The year 2014 is shaping up to be a big one for the Maple Ridge Historical Society. It is the 40th anniversary of the creation of our first museum in a corner of the public library and the 30th anniversary of our move to the Brickyard House in 1984. Can we celebrate all of our accomplishments of the past 30 years in this wonderful brick house and at the same time say that 30 years in an old house is enough and that the museum & archives need more space?

Do you want to find out?

Join us for a strategic planning session for our anniversary year led by Vicki McLeod of Main Street Communications.

It will be held on October 24th at 6:30 pm in the Heritage Church and will last about 3 hours. We invite all members to join the board in the discussion and planning for some big events and themes for next year.

Refreshments will be served. Please contact the museum [604-463-5311 or [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)] to let us know if you plan to attend.



Eleanor Wilson holds her father's violin during a visit to the museum.

## PLAY IT AGAIN

Until spring of 2014 the temporary gallery at the Maple Ridge Museum will be showcasing a musical instrument exhibit.

Our hope is to be able to collect more hand held instruments from the community that share an interesting story, much like the violin currently on display that was donated by the Rajala family.

The violin was played by John Rajala at early dances in Maple Ridge. Recently, his daughter Eleanor visited the museum to see the violin.

The Maple Ridge Concert Band will also be loaning uniforms, along with a few instruments to this display in gearing up for their 40th Anniversary, which takes place next year. Look for those objects to be added to the exhibit in November.



## PUMPKINS & PIONEERS AT HANEY HOUSE

Sunday, October 27, 12:00- 3:00 PM | \$3.00/child

Join us at Haney House for our family Hallowe'en celebration from 12 to 3. There will be cookie decorating, crafts and an indoor scavenger hunt. Receive a sweet treat for wearing a costume!

For further information e-mail: [mrmeventplanner@gmail.com](mailto:mrmeventplanner@gmail.com)

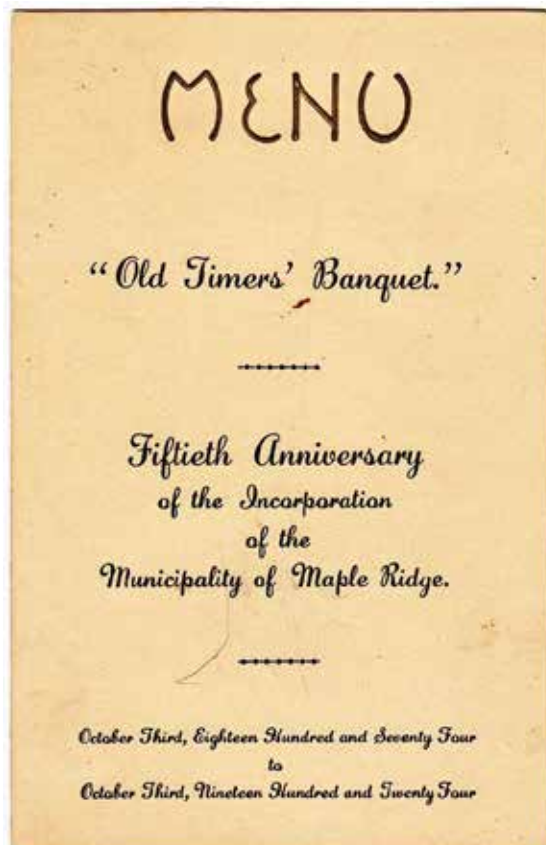
## HELP WANTED: HERITAGE TEA

Our annual and much beloved Heritage Tea is twenty years old now and we find our organizing committee in need of some new blood. The tasks and meeting schedule are not onerous and you can help make decisions about food and prices and special activities. Please contact Allison at the museum [604-463-5311 or [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)].



New to the Collection: The Mussallem Estate has brought a few new artifacts, along with some new pictures to the museum. One of our favourite objects are these octagonal spectacles formerly belonging to Solomon Mussallem. While spectacles are quite common, those shaped in this fashion are not something you see all the time.

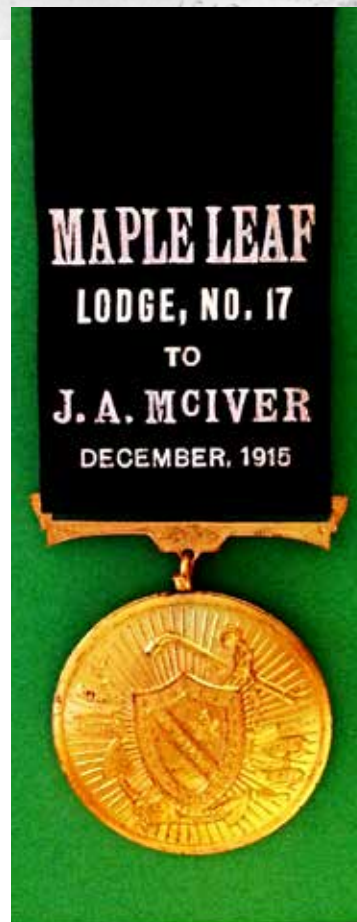




Menu for the 1924 "Old Timers' Banquet"



The men of the AOUW in 1912. Note the ribbons with dangling medallions on their lapels.



### MCIVER TREASURES REDUX

Donor Lorna Seppalla has again arrived at our door with a box full of treasure from the John Alexander McIver family.

The first load was written up in our November-December 2012 newsletter. This new trove included a mint-condition medallion and ribbon from the Ancient Order of

United Workmen in 1915 – that was one of our earliest fraternal orders.

Another treasure is the menu card from the 1924 Pioneer Reunion at the 50th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the municipality held on October 3, 1924.

We have long had copies of the photo taken of the participants but this piece of ephemera adds another dimension.

The first Sunday School class on the steps of the church in 1912.



## WEBSTER'S & WHONNOCK UNITED CHURCH

The church is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their church building, 25102 Dewdney Trunk Road, on October 27th. There will be a presentation upstairs from 2 to 3 pm and an afternoon tea downstairs afterwards from 3-5 pm.



## THE MYSTERY OF ALLCO PARK

A mystery has come to light regarding Allco Park. No one knows when it became a park.

It appears the land came into the possession of the District through a default on taxes in 1936-1937 – though that's a guess – and it was never officially announced as a new municipal park.

At some point it got a sign and it is definitely used as a park and certainly is valued by the community as parkland.

We're asking all long-time residents for their memories about Allco Park – do you remember a time when it was not considered to be a park? Do you remember when the sign was put in? Every little bit will help.

We're not asking about the land the prison currently sits on – that story is very well known from logging camp to infirmary to prison. It's the next piece of land downstream that is the park.

LEFT: This is a picture of the earliest picnic structure in Allco Park, likely taken in the mid-1950's by Bill Saunders who worked at the adjacent Allco Infirmary.





Stony Nakano and Dana Oikawa at the museum.

*Below:*

Bridge being built on 280th, then Parker Road in Ruskin in 1928. At that time 280th Street ran straight down to 96th Avenue across this bridge.

Later the road was diverted to the east, cutting through the sports field and eliminating the need for a bridge.

To the right are buildings, a covered field, and a neat strawberry field: part of the Nakano farm.

## STONY NAKANO

Fred Braches and Val Patenaude had a wonderful meeting at the museum with Stony Nakano and his nephew Dana Oikawa. Stony, now 92, grew up in Ruskin on his family's farm on 280th Street (then Parker Road).

Stony, his dad – his mother had passed away of TB - and his siblings were expelled from Ruskin when he was around 21 years of age. He had variety of working experiences away from the coast during the war. He could only move or change jobs with the approval of the B.C. Security Commission. This continued even for several years after the war.

For his parents' generation, it was an unmitigated disaster which meant the loss of all they had worked for. For their children, however, the experience was much more varied.

Stony has given us a copy of a story about his life and another about working in the Japanese saw-mills in Ruskin and Whonnock. We are awaiting permission to make the two stories available on the Web and will let people know by e-mail if they can be downloaded.





Stony Nakano denied that the familiar photo on the left shows the Japanese hall in Ruskin. In fact it was the Japanese hall in Port Hammond.

From Stony's nephew Dana Oikawa we received this part of a larger photo taken in front of the hall in Ruskin on the occasion of a funeral in 1941.

Stony grew up across the building shown in this image and he knows that this was the true Japanese hall in Ruskin.

#### 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)

