

Newsletter October 2014

COME DECORATE THE HALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

In lieu of a holiday celebration in December, staff thought we would mix things up a bit and turn the annual decorating of St. Andrew's Heritage Hall into a party. Our Building Manager Tom Little and his wife, Jill Vike, have been doing it all on their own for years and it's time they got a bit of a hand.

On Thursday, November 27th at 7pm, we invite you to come and help out hanging the garland and lighting the tree. There will be music, treats and beverages to help us get into the festive spirit! The building looks so pretty when it is decorated and we'll be the first to enjoy it.

We will also have a supply of Sheila Nickols' new book, *Looking Back,Volume 1* for sale for those of you buying them for Christmas gifts. Sheila will be there to sign them for you if you wish. Please let the museum staff know if you are planning to come at 604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com . Let us know too if you can bring some baking.



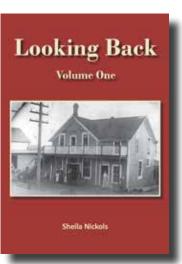
TECHNOLOGY IN THE HOME

This fall/winter Haney House will be featuring a seasonal display on technology in the home: focusing on domestic technology, alongside photography, telephones, home computers and various gaming accessories.

The Maple Ridge Museum is still looking for various "old technology", specifically used in the 1990s and early 2000s. Our focus on technology over the summer and its rapidly changing pace has unearthed some gaps in our collection, which we would like to fill.

Please contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or email mrmcurator@gmail.com if you have any donations.





HERITAGE WEEK 2015

Next year's theme for BC Heritage Week - running from February 16th to 22nd - is Main Street: At the Heart of the Community, which "Celebrates the social and economic history that makes a community's downtown or Main Street an integral part of a community's past, a vibrant part of the present and a significant resource to preserve and promote for the future."

Museum staff are engaging with various elements of the community, including city staff, festival promoters, the Farmer's Market, and the Community Heritage Commission, to plan for different ways to integrate a celebration of 224th and Lougheed in Haney and Maple Crescent in Hammond into our annual round of displays and events.

If you have specific ideas or elements you'd like to see included, contact Val at the museum.

Main Street Haney in the 1950s. We would appreciate a better date for this image if anyone can figure it out.



DOLL CLOTHES

In recent years the museum has received dolls, whose clothes have seen better days. The dolls (mainly porcelain and tortoiseshell), are on the larger side; averaging about 18 months to 2-year-old child size.

We are hoping to have a volunteer (or two) sew some new clothes for these dolls, so we can put them on display. As it stands now, the original clothes are too soiled or they have been replaced over the years with items not remotely authentic.

If you'd be interested in this, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311 to talk about specific sizes and patterns or e-mail mrmcurator@gmail.com.





GIVING TUESDAY



It is a new Canadian movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Cyber Monday. This year it will be on December 2. The "Opening day of the giving season," it is a day

where charities, companies and individuals join together to share commitments, rally for favourite causes and think about others.

The Maple Ridge Historical Society receives significant support through the year from other non-profits and our supporting citizens. We'd like to give some of that back by participating in this program.

As our open hours are rather restricted, we are going to extend the program period by starting on October 26 with the DARS open house. Admission will be free to the Haney House and Maple Ridge Museums if visitors bring in at least 2 canned goods upon visiting. The campaign will run until the museums are closed for the holiday period, December 17th.

After December 17th the canned goods will be gathered up and donated to the Friends in Need Foodbank, along with a contribution of \$100.

HERITAGE BC: BUILDING BRIDGES CONFERENCE

Wendy Cook, board member, and Matthew Shields, museum researcher, attended this conference on September 26 and 27 on our behalf. Wendy concentrated on networking and collecting material on what other historical societies and heritage organizations are doing. Matthew attended the workshop sessions on promoting non-profits through social media, new technologies in heritage planning, and a two-part workshop on wood and masonry conservation techniques.

All of this material is valuable in extending our accessible knowledge base while also providing personal growth for the person attending.



Reg Franklin standing in front of a chalk board where election totals for council and school board were being updated in 1981. Reg served 30 years on Council from 1960 to 1990, one of our longest serving politicians.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipal elections will be happening around BC on the 15th of November. This time we are electing people to represent us for four years – a substantial period of time. Many critical issues and opportunities confront us and as always, the rapid pace of development constantly threatens our heritage buildings and landscapes. A continuing tight economy keeps pushing our new museum and archives facility into an uncertain future.

Watch the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News for their election special and several articles by Val Patenaude and Matthew Shields. There are some fascinating contests in our past.

Please get engaged and find out who the candidates are who will respect and pursue our society's goals. Above all – participate and vote!

ST. ANDREW'S RENTAL

The St. Andrew's Heritage Church (1888) now functions as a community hall and is available to rent for weddings, social events, and meetings.

The hall accommodates up to 75 people.

Call Tom Little at Haney House: 604-463-1377.







MUSSALLEM QUILT

Recently we were very pleased to receive a number of Mussallem family artefacts from Lynette Harper, daughter of Lily Mussallem Harper. Among them was a wonderful red and white quilt – in excellent condition – with names embroidered in red thread all over it.

We have a similar quilt, though much better used, from the Olive Leaf estate which was a raffle quilt for the Women's Institute. These quilts were made annually and taken around to country fairs and other community gatherings where for a quarter one got one's name embroidered on the quilt and a chance to win it in the raffle.

The Mussallem quilt seems different, as it appears to have been gifted to Reeve Solomon Mussallem in 1934. That was an important year for the municipality of Maple Ridge as it was its 60th anniversary or Diamond Jubilee. There are 336 names embroidered on the quilt, one of them being "Reeve Mussallem".

It seems unlikely that he was lucky enough to win the quilt and probably it was given to him. In 1934, the main Jubilee celebration was a pioneer dinner, hosted by Reeve Mussallem and attended by two former Reeves – John A. McIver and William Ansell – as well as Mrs. M. Harris, the widow of the very first Warden of Maple Ridge, as Wellington Harris had been titled. Seeming a bit out of place for a celebration, the opening remarks were delivered by the Hon. A. Wells Gray, Minister of Lands, who spoke at length on the subject of municipal debts. It was the Depression, after all.

Wells Grey also spoke on pioneer life and then numerous participants came forward and shared their memories of the earliest days of Maple Ridge, including James Sinclair – first school teacher – and Dan Docksteader – early store-keeper in Port Haney, both of whose memories predated 1880.

With so much going on and with the quilt making being an annual and very familiar event, it is perhaps no surprise that neither the gifting nor the raffle are mentioned in any newspaper accounts found so far. Given a little luck, the rest of the story will come to light someday.



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



