

Newsletter September & October 2017

SPEAKING OF ART & HISTORY

OCTOBER 25TH AT 7 PM | THE ACT ARTS CENTRE

An Artistic Approach to History with widely recognized artist and author Brian Croft, who lives in Langley BC.

Brian Croft, a former fighter pilot with the Canadian Forces, has introduced a historical and heritage perspective into his work which has become the focal element and trademark of his various collections.

Brian's major works are now rendered on canvas, and his meticulous research and paint process produces highly-detailed and evocative paintings of our past. He has created more than 380 paintings.

This is a FREE event. We are grateful to The ACT Arts centre in providing us the use of their space.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RIVERS DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH 11AM – 3PM

ALLCO FISH HATCHERY & RIVERS HERITAGE CENTRE

On the last Sunday of September, Alouette River Management Society hosts the Ridge Meadows Rivers Day Celebration at the Allco Fish Hatchery & Rivers Heritage Centre. This fun, FREE family event has live entertainment, BBQ, face painting by the Emerald Pig Society, children's trout fishing pond with the BC Federation of Drift Fishers, environmental displays, and lots of activities for children of all ages.

The Maple Ridge Museum will be there with a display on Fishing Heritage: Recreation & Industry, as well as a "Colour and Catch" craft along with a magnetic fishing interactive game.



Marine Building on Hastings, 1945, painted by Brian Croft.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

Again, this season of Music on the Wharf had well over 50 applicants. We had no rain-outs this year, and the total number of attendees was over 1,000 people. Each concert averages 275 people.

The concert series would not have been successful without the community and financial support of the Meadow Ridge Rotary, Kiwanis Club, The ACT Arts Centre and the City of Maple Ridge, as well as the volunteers who helped out at each concert. We hope to take the encouragement of audience turn out this year into our season next summer.



MP Dan Ruimy joins our student staff to help clean headstones in the Maple Ridge Cemetery.

SUMMER AT MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM & HANEY HOUSE

This year we welcomed back students Kaity Neff and Sarah Davies to the museum(s), along with new hires, Jessica Hyde and Kaiden Gartry. All our summer student positions are made possible through Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs funding.

Once again we commenced the summer season with annual Canada Day celebrations, this year celebrating Canada 150 in Memorial Peace Park. On display was a variety of touchable artifacts highlighting indoor and outdoor entertainment in Maple Ridge. Children were also encouraged to decorate postcards to either keep or send to a friend, or put in our time capsule box and leave the museum a message. This box is now in the Maple Ridge Library.

In July, we did a cemetery clean-up, and completed data entry on an unrecorded section of the Maple Ridge Cemetery. Also at the end of July the students installed their individual displays at the library. Topics were; recycling, origins of local names, and radio and television.

For the first time this year we ran a new summer event called "Painting in the Park" at the museum, as a family drop-in. It involved an outdoor paint craft, along with tours of the museum and DARS diorama. After receiving positive feedback, we hope to continue to run this event again next summer.

At Haney House, phase one of the renovation has started. (At the time of writing) the roof is nearly half-way complete. We've enjoyed watching the process, and are thrilled to see the new roof add life back into the house. The second part of phase one will be the installation of new windows throughout the house.



The Haney House roof is being restored to its original shingle finish.



Children enjoying our colouring craft at Canada Day.

Both projects will be complete by the year-end.

We also hosted staff, volunteers and board members from the Roedde House Museum this summer at Haney House. This was part of the small-museum house network, which continues to provide important connections to other similar sized museums throughout metro Vancouver.

Overall, it was a very productive summer that came and went too fast but we were impressed with the level of detail our students brought to their work, and hope to keep some of them on in a part-time capacity throughout the year.

“In spending the last two months working for the Maple Ridge Historical Society, I’ve learned a lot about local history and the small stories that simply aren’t covered in a history course. While that kind of history is important and allows us to see trends and events as part of a bigger whole, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the individuals in history. These stories humanise the past in a way that just cannot be accomplished when we only focus on the big picture. Preserving these stories is very important as they can easily be forgotten.” (Jessica Hyde, summer student currently attending Douglas College.)

HALLOWE’EN AT HANEY HOUSE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

11AM – 3PM \$5 KIDS, ADULTS FREE

Join us at Haney House Museum for Eat, Drink, & Be Scary. Children can participate in Halloween games and listen to a fun, interactive story. The house will be decorated with spooky decorations and a Halloween display, featuring scary toys from the past, and the history of candy! Remember to wear a costume, and take home a sweet treat. Parents must accompany children to the event.



Children playing with a wheeled horse toy on the planked road leading to Webber's Mill – now 248th Street north of Dewdney Trunk Road.

TOYS & CHILDHOOD: CULTURE DAYS

MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1 – 4 PM

Culture Days is devoted to providing Canadians with opportunities to participate in, and appreciate, all forms of arts and culture. This year the museum is focusing on Toys & Childhood: illustrating the ever-evolving nature of North American childhood and home life and bringing to light aspects of play. By collecting children's toys, games and playthings, we can better understand how people lived and played in the past.

Through showcasing the toys and games from our museum collection, visitors will engage with heritage games and various touchable artifacts. Visitors will also be able to tour the railway diorama. This is a FREE event.

THE TIMES NEGATIVE PROJECT

We are so happy to finally tackle this important collection. Courtesy of a Library & Archives Canada grant we have been able to hire Laura Dickson for six months between September and March. Laura brings lots of experience and enthusiasm to the task.

The collection includes all of the film negatives generated by the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows TIMES newspaper between 1985 and 2002 when all photography became digital. Once the negatives have been securely stored, we will start scanning the more interesting images and share them with the community.



Library and Archives
Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

Canada

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