

Newsletter September & October 2015



EAT, DRINK AND BE SCARY!

Saturday, October 31st. 11 am – 3 pm

“On Hallwe’en strange sights are seen” says this old postcard.

What could be a more fitting place to visit on Hallowe’en then Maple Ridge’s own historic Haney House Museum?

Come see the 1883 house decorated for fall, with a new fall themed tour, guided from one of our costumed guides. For children there will be cookie decorating and crafts to partake in.

Feel free to come dressed up in costume. If the weather is chilly we’ll have something warm to drink inside as well.



GETI FEST - SEPTEMBER 19

This year we have decided to give up our second “History Goes to Market”, originally scheduled for September 12.

Instead we will be partnering with Golden Ears Transition Initiative (GETI) for “GETI Fest” on September 19. GETI is a part of a global grass-roots movement supporting citizen action toward reducing oil dependence and building local community resilience and ecological sustainability. We bring to the table a perspective on past practices from a day with less technology and more self-reliance.

We will be in the park with our displays from 10 am to 3 pm. Our building manager Tom Little will join us with a display on plants you can grow to attract Monarch butterflies.

WEB SITE RELAUNCH

Over the spring and summer we have been working to refresh and update our website. The new software is easier for our staff to use so we can make corrections and changes more quickly. Andrea Lister is still our Webmaster and we get her to do all the really hard stuff.

One big difference from the old site is that we are including a lot more artefacts. We have some truly fascinating objects that have been languishing in boxes for decades so we are letting them into the light – even if it is only digital light.

Our intention is to add some of our archival goodies as well and Val is gradually getting the family and other neighbourhood files posted. Check us out at www.mapleridgemuseum.org!



CULTURE DAYS

On Sunday, September 27th from 1-4 pm the Maple Ridge Museum will take part in Culture Days.

Culture Days is devoted to providing Canadians with opportunities to participate in, and appreciate, all forms of arts and culture. The national celebration will highlight thousands of artists and cultural organizations in cities far and wide to interact with visitors in “behind the scenes activities.”

Visitors coming to the Maple Ridge Museum on September 27th will have free admission for a tour of the museum, in addition to an “artifact accessioning lesson” where staff will illustrate the process of accessioning, with hands-on to various artifacts during the demonstration.

On the lower level of the museum, the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society (DARS) will be hosting an open house with model train building for children and a backstage pass to their world-class railway diorama.

Culture Days is an incredible opportunity to discover more about your community through the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, designers and creative people in their communities.

For a full list of activities and participating organizations is available at culturedays.ca and if you would like more information of the behind the scenes tour of the Maple Ridge Museum please visit mapleridgemuseum.org or call 604-463-5311.

culturedays
create participate share

ADDITIONS TO OUR ARCHIVES

It was a busy summer for archival accessions.

In 1982, our first art gallery opened in a purpose-built section at the south end of the curling rink building. The Ridge Meadows Art Gallery Society operated it. When the gallery moved to its new location in the ACT. The society continued to operate the gallery until 2005 when the society folded. We now have the records of that organization.

Courtesy of Menzies family descendent, Ken Carlson, we received a large collection of subdivision plans from the 1930s to the 1960s, which were part of Hal Menzies real estate and notary public operations. These will help us to date buildings based on when the land they stand on was subdivided.

The real gem of the summer was the photo collection from the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times newspaper. From its first edition in May of 1985 the paper's photography was film-based. Some time in 2002 film was phased out in favour of digital images.

The collection contains prints as well and many are the work of well-known local photographers Chuck Russell and Bill Elliott.

IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY

Over the past year, we have made great advances in making our buildings more accessible and disability-friendly. At the museum, the front door is now fully ramped for wheelchairs and other conveyances. At the side door, we have added a sturdy railing up the stairs. Finally, inside, we added a grab bar to the washroom wall.

At St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall, we have just had the old short toilet replaced with a taller one and also installed a grab bar.

These are all things we don't notice until we need them and then they are much appreciated.



SUMMER STUDENT WORK

This year we welcomed back students, Kaity Neff, Matthew Shields, and Kristina Kapitza to the museum(s), along with new hire, Ashley Vandepol who joined us as a recent graduate of UBC, majoring in Archeology.

We started the summer season with the Canada Day celebration, this year taking part in festivities at Memorial Peace Park. Photos on following page. We had a “touchable” artifact display for visitors to our tent, along with games and our very popular wooden stilts. We saw around 150 people drop into our booth up at the park, and will continue to take part in next year’s celebrations.

At the museum we repacked delicate materials from our First Nations artifacts and our textile collection, and made a detailed inventory. This will be a project that will go into the fall.

We continued to make a push for more of an on-line presence; this was helped greatly with our updated website. Students helped to photograph “objects of note” which will be added to the site over the next few months. Our Facebook page continues to grow and we add new content on a weekly basis.

In August, we did a cemetery clean up that brought out many new faces. A few volunteers even borrowed some of our tools so that could go back to the cemetery on their own time to continue the work. We were extremely pleased with the turnout and next year we hope to do two days of clean up.

At Haney House this summer we hosted a garden party for the Westgate Flower Garden. The house and gardens were decorated with sunflowers from top to bottom, and guests were treated to appetizers and free tours of the museum. Around 100 people were in attendance. *aw*

PICTURES CANADA DAY 2015



OLD NEWS

"We slid up beside the wharf at Haney, which place looks a bit tired for its twangy name, but boast of a nice brick church, a goodly sprinkling of houses and a fine yellow and white cat that lives in the store which backs up to the wharf. There is some get-up about Haney in spite of the fact that it does not put a name-tag on its wharf. It boasts a brick and tile kiln and a large lumber mill. " BC Saturday Sunset 30 July 1910

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

This season of Music on the Wharf we had 15 applicants, and although it was hard to choose only four, we managed to put together a great roster. We had no rainouts this year, and each concert averaged 200-220 people. We managed to raise just over \$460.

Many thanks to the Meadow Ridge Rotary, Haney Rotary, Lions Club and the City of Maple Ridge for their financial support, and to the volunteers who helped out at each concert.



STORAGE ADVENTURES

It wasn't just music, games and story-telling this summer, there was a little heavy-duty renovating as well. On the July 4th weekend, while our US friends celebrated, we spent some quality time repainting our storage container that currently resides at the City of Maple Ridge's Public Works Yard.



The City operations folks need the space where our container currently sits, so this project was in anticipation of having to move the container to its new home across the works yard later this year.

Prior to the move we were asked to spruce things up a little as the container will be located imme-

diately beside some homes in its new location. So, first thing on a Saturday morning a paint crew of museum staff and boards members met at the Public Works Yard and set to work.

Many thanks to Russ Carmichael and his works crew for all their help with supplies and access!

Further thanks to the incredibly generous team at Bob's A to Z Rentals on Lougheed Highway for donating the use of an industrial paint sprayer for the day. The day's work went much faster as a result; a very good thing given the heat that weekend.

In addition to the painting, we took the opportunity to inspect some of the great, and rarely seen, artifacts we have stored there. It was a solid morning of work, with sweltering temperature, but everyone was still smiling at the end. *dd*

Courtesy Trudy Desrochers



Clarice Durance: Ruth Miller; Willadee Hill; Doris Jamieson; Minnie Ball; Helen Black; Dolly Miller; Tory Thorstenson; Mabel Miller.

The order in which they are shown is not certain – presumably left to right.

They were probably students of a short-lived secondary class that existed around 1924 at the Ruskin school.

Soon after the students would have joined MacLean Highschool.



Two of the students are carrying lunch buckets. Most likely lard pails scrubbed out and reused.

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

