

Newsletter September & October 2019



Summer students for 2019, from the left: Madelyn Huston, Jessica Hyde, Darren Ragoonath

SUMMER STUDENTS

We were so lucky to have three dedicated and hard-working summer students with us through the summer. With these students we are able to open 5 days of the week and have extended hours at Haney House, making our heritage more accessible overall. We were very excited to welcome back Jessica Hyde (SFU) and Madelyn Huston (UBC) who have been with us in years and summers previous. We were also joined by a new student Darren Ragoonath (Douglas College).

Throughout the summer the students gave tours, helped with summer camp programs and summer events. They also worked cataloging, inventorying, photographing and researching the archival and artifact collections, making a

great impact on both. Thanks to the students we learned more about the archives and are able to make the oversized map collection more accessible by digitizing that collection. They also researched and put together library displays on the amazing women of Maple Ridge past, the history of the Fraser River, and the history of our local schools.

In advance of our fall programming, the students very impressively designed and built an escape room puzzle for Haney House which will be coming this fall. We are so grateful for all of their hard work this summer! We are happy to have Jessica and Darren continue part time through the school year and wish Madelyn luck as she prepares to spend her fall semester studying abroad in London!



Our fourth beautiful evening of the summer featuring the band “Lincoln Street Union”. [Photo courtesy of CMR]

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

Four concerts and four beautiful evenings of clear skies! Our annual Music on the Wharf concert series was a great success this year with our four bands drawing large crowds and good times. Concert goers were also generous, with a total of \$1,011 raised from all four concerts. Thank you to everyone who came out!

Our Sponsors this year were Haney Rotary, Meadow Ridge Rotary, Kiwanis, the City of Maple Ridge and the Arts Council.

Special thanks also to the Billy Miner Alehouse which allowed concert-goers access to washrooms while also providing a handy spot for a pre-concert meal.

Thanks to all for contributing to this wonderful series that highlights local and regional musicians along with our historic Port Haney Wharf.

NEW WEBSITE

We are very excited to announce that the Maple Ridge Museum has launched a new and updated website! Over the past several months we have been hard at work setting up our new website which includes easy access to research historical resources. Take some time to check it out and you will find research resources like our “Discover our Stories” blog which will grow to include much of our research information and details about the history of the area, neighborhoods and pioneer families. You will also find information on tours, our upcoming events, exhibits, and on-line exhibits. Check it out and you never know what new things you can discover!



MUSSALLEM GIFT

We were delighted, in July, to receive a very generous donation from the Mussallem family of a set of uniforms and military paraphernalia Helen Mussallem used during World War Two. Helen Mussallem, daughter of former mayor Solomon Mussallem, was one of the most decorated individuals of Maple Ridge. She was coincidentally also a feature of our Summer Student Jessica Hyde's research and library display on the amazing women of Maple Ridge's past.

Helen decided at the age of 19 that she wanted to be a nurse and she pursued that dream by attending the school of nursing at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) in 1934. She continued to work at VGH until WWII, and in 1943 she enlisted, becoming a lieutenant in the No.19 Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. She was deployed to the United Kingdom not long afterwards where she was in charge of operating rooms. She then went on to work in field hospitals in France and Germany. Unlike most of the female officers in WWII, Helen Mussallem was often under fire. For her service during WWII, she earned 9 medals which made her Canada's most decorated nurse to serve in the armed forces during WWII. She was discharged from active duty in 1946 after which she continued her education at McGill



Curator Shea Henry with Research Assistant Jessica Hyde holding Helen Mussallem's WWII army and nursing uniforms.



Helen Mussallem in her formal nursing uniform during WWII.

University and became the first Canadian nurse to receive a doctoral degree in nursing education.

Helen was incredibly active for the entirety of her life. Among her many accomplishments, she is partially responsible for the reformation of nursing education, the unionization of nurses in Canada, the transformation of nursing into a career (instead of a vocation) by improving and standardizing nursing education in Canada and the establishment of the National Nursing Library which was later renamed after her. She earned many awards for her work in the field of nursing, the most notable of which were the Florence Nightingale Medal (the highest award that can be awarded by the International Red Cross), a Damehood of Grace (Order of St. John) and an officership of the Order of Canada.

Part of the collection donated to us by the Mussallem family in July was Helen's WWII nursing and army uniform along with some of her medals, canteen, nursing equipment and photos. We are so excited to have this piece of Maple Ridge's history and a glimpse of the life of this incredible person.

CULTURE DAYS

Saturday, September 28th 11:00am - 3:00 pm.

Admission free. Haney House

Culture Days is a national event throughout Canada celebrating and highlighting local cultural landmarks and events. This year for our Culture Days event, we will be highlighting the heritage orchard at Haney House with Harvest Fest! You can take a tour of the heritage orchard around Haney House, see demonstrations of an apple cider press, and even get to try some of the heritage apple cider and fruit preserves! Inside the house, we will have tours and exhibits on the history of local fruit growing and processing. Come to Haney House for this great family event and celebrate our community history on culture days!

This year we are partnering with other events in Maple Ridge with the Culture Days Passport. Get your passport at Family Fun Day on September 27th from 6:00-8:00pm at Eric Langdon Elementary and visit the other Culture Days events on September 28th including Fishy Fun at the ACT and Arts in the Library. Get all your stamps for a chance to win prizes!

EAT DRINK AND BE SCARY

Sunday, October 27th 11 am -3pm. Admission \$5/child, adults free. Haney House

Join us at Haney House Museum for Eat, Drink, & Be Scary. Children can participate in Halloween games, decorate cookies, 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.



Mary Hawley-Isaac partway up a ladder in a Haney House apple tree with a bucket in her hand. 1938.



THE DEAD OF NIGHT

Saturday, October 19th 6-10pm. Advanced Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 children. Haney House

Join the Maple Ridge Museum and Cornerstone Supernatural at Haney House on October 19th for a fundraising evening of the paranormal. On this evening, ghost tours exploring the darker side of Haney House's history - one of Maple Ridge's oldest homes - will be sure to thrill and delight! While you're here, learn about the equipment and techniques used in a paranormal investigation, and even try them yourself with a ghost tour of the house! All proceeds go towards maintaining Haney House as a local heritage treasure.

SPEAKING OF ART AND HISTORY

Thursday, October 3rd 7:00pm

Admission: Free. THE ACT

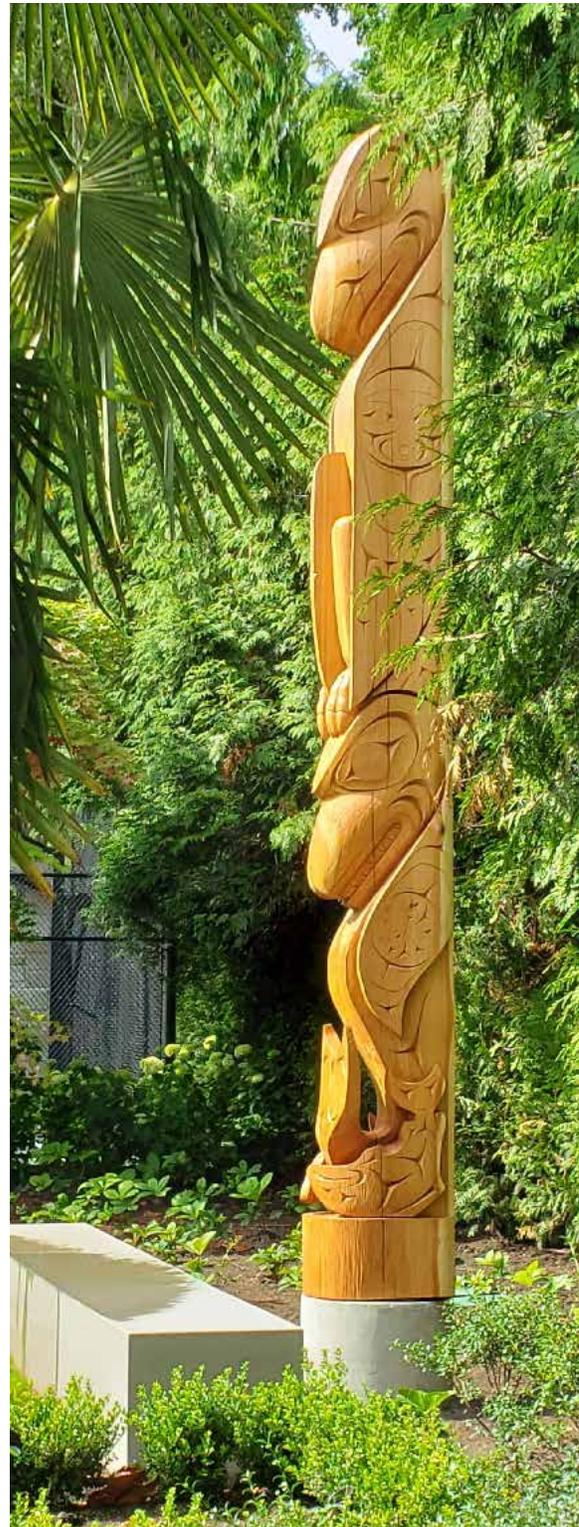
Speaking of Art and History is our bi-annual speaker's series highlighting local artists and their use of heritage in their art. Our October speaker is Gerry Sheena.

Gerry Sheena is one of three new artists in residence for the City of Maple Ridge. Gerry is a Coast Salish carver who has been a full-time artist for the past 30 years.

He is coming from an artist residency for the Collingwood Neighborhood House in Vancouver, where he raised a 20-foot red cedar totem pole named "Ancient Cedars Journey Home." The totem pole was carved outside of the community center with the help of three youth apprentice carvers over ten weeks.

As part of his residency he plans to provide painting, designing, and carving workshops and to continue his work of designing and carving large sculptures.

At Speaking of Art and History Gerry will be talking about his work as an artist and his connection between his art and heritage.



Totem pole carved by Speaking of Art and History speaker Gerry Sheena.

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.

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This issue of the newsletter with contributions from Val Patenaude and Shea Henry was prepared by Fred Braches.