



Maple Ridge CEMETERY

GUIDEBOOK

Brought to you by
Maple Ridge Historical Society

WELCOME!

The Maple Ridge Guidebook has been created as a tool for self-guided tours at the Maple Ridge Cemetery. It can be adapted to suit different ages and group sizes. In this book you will find general information about the Maple Ridge Cemetery along with etiquette for all guests.

If you are a school group, please review the instructions and consider splitting into smaller groups. Remember to be respectful of others sharing the space.

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DIRECTIONS & PARKING

MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY

21404 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, BC

CEMETERY INQUIRIES

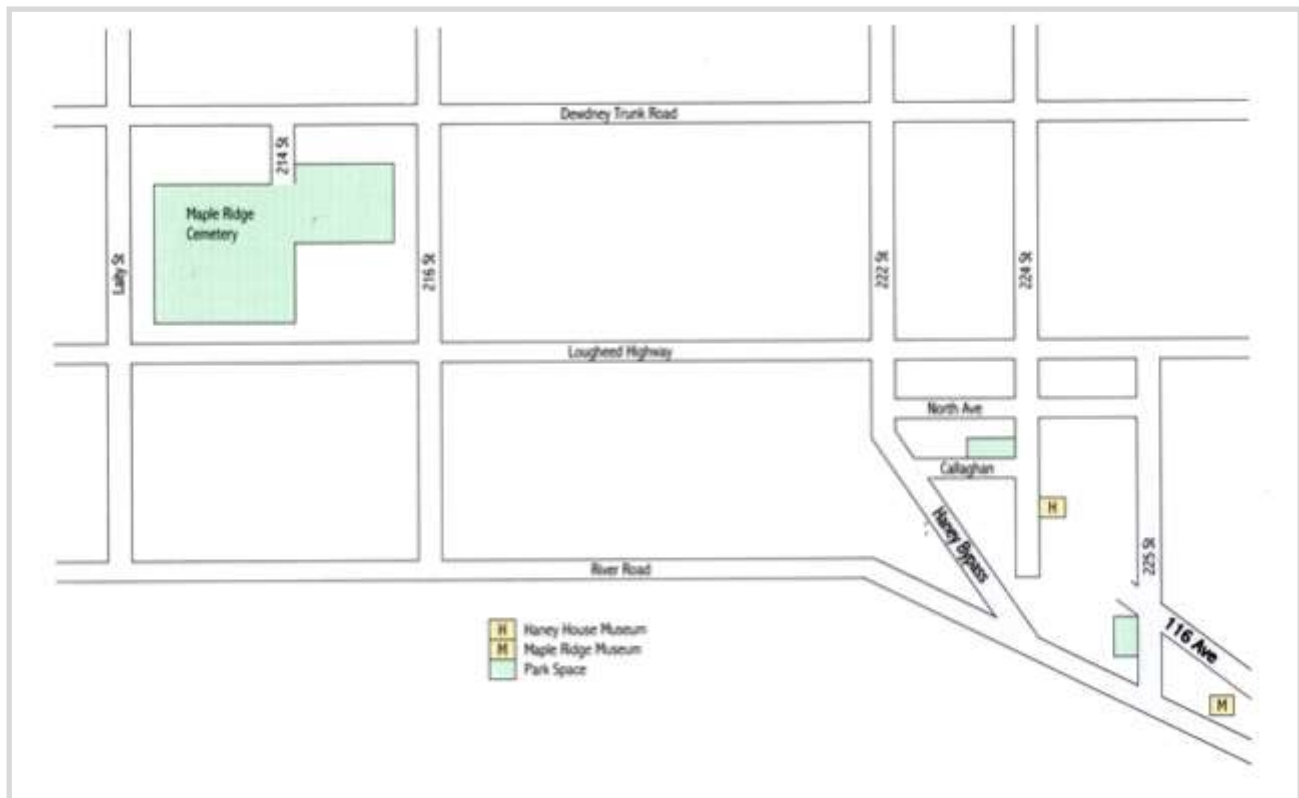
City of Maple Ridge 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC

cemetery@mapleridge.ca

Phone: 604-467-7307

PARKING

Turn onto 214th Street from Dewdney Trunk Road, there is a small gravel lot on the right side as you pass through the gates into the cemetery. Parking is limited, consider carpooling.



MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY MAP



CEMETERY NO. 1 MAP



GENERAL HISTORY

The Maple Ridge Cemetery was established in 1878 on land donated by two pioneers, George Howison and William Nelson. The cemetery's historical value lies in its association with the prominent settlers to Maple Ridge, both as its developers and as their final resting place.

Before 1880

- To be remembered after death, information was engraved on stone markers.
- The number of headstones in the cemetery was fewer than the actual burials, as not everyone purchased a headstone.
- In most cases, only one body was put into a burial pit, but on occasion, family members could be buried in the same grave.

1880-1914 (Victorian Era)

- During the Victorian Era there was a culture and industry associated with death.
- When family members died at home, loved ones would be invited to view the body. This would be the first stage in the mourning process.
- Grave markers became more elaborate, with symbols to reflect the deceased's life and beliefs. Writing became more common as literacy increased.

1914-45

- Due to the large number of tragic deaths in the world wars, the association of beauty with death was diminished.
- Births and deaths outside the home became more common.
- Cemeteries became more orderly and the markers became less ornate. Grave markers could be purchased in a variety of styles.

1945-present

- Death became less public and people involved professionals in the planning and management of the deceased.
- Burial markers became less religious and were simplified to make cemetery maintenance easier.



MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

INSTRUCTIONS:

For large groups, consider dividing into three smaller groups and have them begin at different starting points.

Suggested starting points:

- Cemetery Stop #1 – The Japanese Section
- Cemetery Stop #6 – Margaret Emmaline Trembath
- Cemetery Stop #10 – The Laity Family



Follow the map from site to site and find the corresponding pages in the workbook (#1 on the map is Cemetery Stop #1 in the workbook). Read the history, then try to answer the questions. Answers can be found at the back of the book. Have fun!

CEMETERY ETIQUETTE

Please remember to show respect in the cemetery by keeping voices down and staying on the paths. People may be attending memorials or visiting graves. Students should give space to other visitors.

Other Tips:

- Do not write on or mark the headstones.
- Do not leave any garbage in the cemetery.
- Do not climb, jump, lean, or hang on the headstones.
- Do not take objects or flowers left at graves.













GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

When walking through the cemetery, pay attention to the different details on each of the stones or grave markers.

Some things to consider:

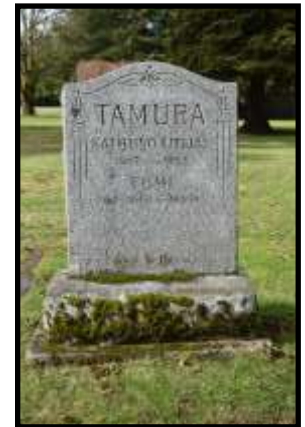
- How many people share the marker?
- Pay attention to the size and shape of the monument.
- Notice differences in lettering style, and the languages used for the inscriptions.
- Consider what the symbols on markers may represent.
- What type of material is the marker made of?
- How old does the gravestone or marker appear to be? Is a date given?
- Are there any unique features that make it stand out?

COMMON SYMBOLS

 <p>Anchor – Commonly used in the 18th and 19th centuries to represent hope or the seafaring profession</p>	 <p>Cross – Emblem of the Christian faith</p>	 <p>Dove – Holy Spirit, soul reaching peace, spirituality</p>
 <p>Draped Cloth – Mourning or mortality</p>	 <p>Gates – Represent entrance into heaven, spiritual palace or the mystical world</p>	 <p>Hand – Pointing downwards indicates mortality, while pointing upwards indicates a journey to the afterlife</p>
 <p>Heart – Soul in bliss, love in Christ</p>	 <p>Ivy – Immortality, friendship, faithfulness</p>	 <p>Lamb – Usually used for children's graves and indicates purity, innocence, gentleness, or sacrifice</p>
 <p>Lily – Light, purity, perfection, mercy, chastity, and majesty</p>	 <p>Rope – Eternity, binding, connected existence of intellect and spirit</p>	 <p>Rose – Brevity of earthly existence, completion, achievement, perfection</p>

CEMETERY STOP #1 – THE JAPANESE SECTION

- From the early 1900s Japanese settlers began to arrive in Maple Ridge as it presented opportunities for jobs, and a similar climate to Japan.
- Japanese settlers became successful strawberry, raspberry, and poultry farmers.
- They built several Buddhist temples throughout Maple Ridge.
- In the 1940s, the Japanese community made up about 30% of the population in Maple Ridge (approximately 1500 people). Following the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the government forced Japanese people into internment throughout WWII. Only 7 families returned. The government confiscated the property of all Japanese families, selling houses, cars and goods. It was not until 1988 that the Canadian government awarded compensation of \$21 000 to remaining descendants of any Japanese people who were interned during WWII.



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Symbolism differences between Japanese and European grave markers.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- Why do some markers have Japanese inscriptions, while others are in English?
- Why do you think the cemetery has a Japanese section?
- Why do some families, such as the Yamaura family, have so many infants or children buried together?

CEMETERY STOP #2 – THE HANEY FAMILY

- This monument is in memory of the entire Haney family, but specifically of Thomas Haney, his wife Anne, and their daughter Annie Beatrice.
- Thomas arrived in Maple Ridge in 1876 to start a brickworks. He bought a piece of land called the Wickwire Estate, which later became the town site of Port Haney. He donated land for two churches and a Municipal Hall.
- Anne Haney followed Thomas out west once he had found a place to live. She brought their daughter Mary Florence by train to California, by ship to Fort Langley, later making their way Port Haney.
- Annie Beatrice, nicknamed Birdie by her family and friends, was a schoolteacher, a bachelorette, and a basketball player. She died of “consumption” also known as tuberculosis in 1912 when she was 31 years old. In those days, the only treatment that seemed to help patients recover from this disease was to get plenty of fresh air. Birdie spent some time in an open-air hospital in Kamloops and then spent the last summer of her life at her home in Haney, where her parents had converted their balcony into an open-air bedroom.



The Haney family posed on the front porch of their house.
(P08738)

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- Take a look at the Haney gravestone, what features do you see?
- Why do you think Annie Beatrice shares a monument with her parents while her siblings are buried separately?
- Why do you think the Haney gravestone is so large and weathered?



CEMETERY STOP #3 – WELLINGTON J. HARRIS

-
- W. J. Harris
BORN
AUG. 4, 1924
DIED
DEC. 25, 1981
MARY JANE
HARRIS
AUG.
APRIL 28, 1944
DIED
FEB. 12, 1937
HARRIS

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- What does the size of this marker tell you about the Harris family?
- Why do you think this marker is wobbly? What could have caused this?
- Do you see anything nearby that might be associated with this monument?



CEMETERY STOP #4 – ANDREW HOLDSWORTH

- Andrew was killed at Westminster Junction, now Port Coquitlam, on July 12, 1910 at the age of 24.
- His untimely death was reported in the “British Columbian” on July 19, 1910, which was also the date of his funeral in Hammond.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- This gravestone does not include age or birthdate; why do you think that is?
- What is the marker made of? Why do you think that is?
- Why is this marker unique?



The grave marker for Andrew Holdsworth (P05421).

CEMETERY STOP #5– JOHN MCKENNEY

- John McKenney was a Royal Engineer until 1863. At this time, the Royal Engineers were disbanded and McKenney, along with several other engineers, accepted the free land that was offered to them.
- McKenney settled in Maple Ridge and was part of the first town council meeting to have Maple Ridge incorporated.
- He owned the Crown Hotel at Nelson's Landing (Hammond), and housed new settlers such as John Laity and William Hampton until they were able to settle their own land.
- McKenney served as Reeve (Mayor) in 1881. McKenney Creek is named after him.
- Note the symbols on this marker. Many carvings were used to symbolize beliefs of the individual, or the kind of activities they participated in throughout their life. This marker has a cross, a heart, and an anchor. The cross likely represents religious beliefs, the heart can symbolize love and devotion; the anchor can represent a hope to be "at rest" or at times if the individual was a man of the sea, it would symbolize his life's occupation.



John McKenney's tombstone. From 1897, and in fair condition. It was formerly standing but has broken off and been left flat.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- Do you think this marker is in its original position? Why or why not?
- Take a guess; was J. McKenney married, a bachelor or a widower?
- What do you think was the original colour of the stone?

CEMETERY STOP #6 – MARGARET EMMALINE TREMBATH

- Margaret died before she reached the age of five. Her parents were John and Emily Trembath.
- Childhood death was much more common in the 19th and early 20th centuries than it is today. This was due to lack of good-quality healthcare, vaccines, and proper nutrition. The most dangerous childhood illnesses of the past were diphtheria, tuberculosis, polio, scarlet fever, small pox, and whooping cough to name a few. All of these now have effective vaccines against them, and the diseases are extremely rare in parts of the world where people have access to those vaccines.
- The death of a child was a terrible tragedy that families had to learn to cope with, because it was a common occurrence.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER:

- This grave marker has degraded over time and has come off from its original stone.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- What is this marker made of, and are there any others like it in the cemetery?



Margaret's mother (r). Emily Jane Trembath, was an early female educator in Vancouver. She became the Primary Supervisor for Vancouver Schools. (P00225)



CEMETERY STOP #7 – THE BECKETT FAMILY

- Henry and Mary Beckett and their sons arrived in Maple Ridge in 1885 from Sherbrooke, Quebec.
- Henry established a brickyard in Port Haney and he and his grown sons, Ernest William and Walter Earley worked there until Henry's death in 1896.
- E.W. Beckett worked as a Municipal Clerk for 22 years, as well a Crown Timber Agent in New Westminster for 10 years. When he retired, Mr. Beckett moved back to Maple Ridge until his death in 1935.
- One of Mary and Ernest Beckett's sons is commemorated on the side of the large headstone. Lieutenant John M. Beckett was killed in France in 1917. He is actually buried in the White House Cemetery in Belgium, along with thousands of other soldiers killed in Europe. John Beckett was married to Elizabeth Beckett who lived in Winnipeg.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Note the small grave to the left of the large Beckett stone – observe the misspelling of E.W. and Mary Beckett – the carver accidentally carved a “U” instead of a “W”.
- Notice that the marker is shared by several people.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- How does this marker differ from the other headstones in the cemetery? What does its size and shape tell us about the Beckett family?
- Why would Lieutenant John M. Beckett's name be on this stone if he is not buried here?
- There is no marker for Ernest William Beckett, but there is for the rest of his family. Why do you think that is?



In Memory of Mary Beckett, beloved wife of E.W. Beckett.
Died March 11, 1922, aged 33 years.

CEMETERY STOP #8 – WILLIAM NELSON

- Mr. Nelson was one of the first settlers in Maple Ridge when he arrived in 1860. He built a wharf on the Fraser, called Nelson's Landing. It is located at the foot of what is now Fir Street, where paddle-wheelers stopped to pick up passengers and freight.
- He and George Howison each donated land to start a cemetery which is now the Maple Ridge Cemetery, in which you are now standing.
- According to the memoirs of James Sinclair, the first schoolteacher in Maple Ridge, Mr. Nelson was a teller of tall tales. Nelson owned a boardinghouse and liked to fool those who visited.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- How is this monument unique; and what are some possible reasons for its shape?
- Is this marker in its original location? How can you tell?



Headstone of William Nelson. William donated first part of cemetery along with Justus Howison.

CEMETERY STOP #9 – THE HOWISON FAMILY

- George Howison donated a quarter of an acre of land to form the first part of this cemetery.
- The Howison family experienced a lot of tragedy. In 1880 Justus W. Howison lost nearly 20 acres of his land as it slid into the frozen Fraser River creating a tidal wave that knocked over trees and destroyed boats, killing William Edge on the other side of the river. It was heard as far away as New Westminster.
- George Howison was a postmaster, justice of the peace, and Reeve (Mayor) of Maple Ridge. He died at age 41 on October 4th, 1887. Only seven days later, one of the Howison babies died and in December of the same year George's wife **Seraph** (spelled this way in official documents, but **Saraph on grave marker**) died. Two other babies died in infancy, and four sons died between the ages of 19 and 22 years. Several of these deaths were due to tuberculosis.
- Common treatment for tuberculosis was open air treatment. Sanatoriums, hospitals for tuberculosis patients, were established in the 1890s to treat the large number of patients and were used until their gradual closure in the 1950s and 1960s due to the discovery of antimicrobials that fought the deadly germ.



SOMETHING TO CONSIDER:

- The marker is shared by several people. Note the ages of each individual.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- Why did so many people die young in the Victorian Era?
- Can you tell who carved this stone?
- There are twelve people commemorated on this marker. Do you think they are all buried in this plot? How could that be possible?

George H. Howison. Died Oct. 4, 1887.
Aged 41 years. Saraph M. Willey, his
wife, died Dec. 6, 1887. Aged 35 years.

CEMETERY STOP #10 – THE LAITY FAMILY

- John Laity was born in Cornwall, England. In 1873, John and his wife Mary went to Colorado where they met William Hampton and his wife Amanda. The four became close friends.
- The two families arrived together in Maple Ridge in 1879 and bought 160 acres of land from John Hammond. This was forested land that had a trail leading down to the river, which later became Laity Street.
- The Laity family is still farming the same land that belonged to John and Mary Laity. The Hamptons still farm the property to the west of them.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- Why do you think there are so many names on this monument?
- What symbols are on this monument? What do you think they mean?



Masonic portrait of J. R. Laity in full regalia.
John was Reeve in 1908. (P08909)



CEMETERY STOP #11 – FRANCIS SINCLAIR

- There is no biographical information to be found about Francis Sinclair.
- He was only 17 years old when he died and is among the first to be buried in the newly established Maple Ridge Cemetery.
- This is a unique headstone. The inscription of Francis Sinclair's last words show an understanding of his beliefs. The hand pointing upwards symbolizes Sinclair's journey to heaven and belief in an afterlife.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER:

- Look at the symbols on the marker.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- What does the name "G. Rudge" at the lower left of the marker mean?
- Why might there be little information about Francis Sinclair?
- Do you think the marker is in its original position? Why or why not?



CEMETERY STOP #12 – GEORGE P. APNAUT

- George Apnaut's father was native Hawaiian (Kanaka) and his mother was the niece of the Cowichan chief.
- The Kanakas are among the first burials in Maple Ridge Cemetery. Though few aside from George Apnaut have markers. They were Hawaiian islanders recruited as crewmen on the Hudson Bay Company's trading vessels. A number of them made their way to Fort Langley and settled along the river.
- George was married to his stepsister, Julia after she was adopted from Victoria. Julia was unhappy in her marriage and with the help of a railroad worker she caught a boat to Victoria where she had the marriage annulled. On the day that George Apnaut died, Julia went out and bought herself a red dress. She remained in Victoria until her death in 1952.
- George was the first and only part-Hawaiian to serve Maple Ridge Council.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- What do you think is missing from the marker?
- What information might be missing?



Julia Apnaut, daughter of Ovid Allard of Langley. She was married to George Apnaut, Kanaka. C. 1880 (P13310).

CEMETERY STOP #13 – THE CHARLTON/ STOREY FAMILY

- Mary Berry and Alfred Charlton were married sometime between 1901 and 1902. They moved from Ontario to Port Haney where they took over the general store on the banks of the Fraser River.
- Alfred was a respected merchant, postmaster, and dock master. He died in 1907 while trying to cross the Fraser River on skates accompanied by a local boy, Thomas Carleton. They both drowned.
- Mary Berry Charlton continued to raise her two sons, run the store, and act as postmistress. She later married her husband's cousin, William Storey in 1918.
- Mary also built the Bank of Montreal (now the Billy Miner Pub).

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER:

- It is unique that Mary Berry Charlton Storey was known and commemorated by all of her names — most women in that era dropped their maiden name and were known only through their husband's name.

QUESTIONS AND

ANALYSIS:

- Why might these three markers be of different sizes?



Mary Charlton Storey and William Storey shopping in downtown Vancouver. (P13269)

CEMETERY STOP #14 – PHILLIPA HARVEY

- There is nothing known about Phillipa Harvey, except what is written on her grave marker.
- She immigrated to the west coast of British Columbia, but there are only speculations on the reasons and circumstances. She may have come with family, although there are no other Harvey's buried in the Maple Ridge Cemetery.

SOMETHING TO OBSERVE:

- Notice that there do not seem to be any family members buried nearby.

QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS:

- In what circumstances would women have been alone in early settler communities along the west coast?
- What would the appeal of coming to Western Canada be with such little development and such high risk?



ANSWER SHEET

Stop #1 – The Japanese Section

- While many immigrants wanted their grave inscriptions to be in their primary language, continuing generations may have favoured English, or a combination of Japanese and English.
- By the 1940s, the Japanese community made up about 30% of the population in Maple Ridge. They were an important part of the community, and were allotted a section of the cemetery.
- There was a high infant and child mortality rate at this time. Many babies did not survive birth or the first few weeks. Often families wanted a singular place to mourn.

Stop #2 – The Haney Family

- **I.H.S. inscription:** Abbreviation for the Latin phrase "*In hoc signo spes mea*" (in this sign is my hope).
Cross: the gravestone contains a cross as the family was Irish Catholic
- Annie Beatrice never married, so she was buried with her parents.
- The Haney gravestone is one of the earliest in the cemetery. It is from a time when large gravestones were valued by society, especially for pioneers of the community.

Stop #3 – Wellington G. Harris

- The Harris' were a wealthy and prominent family among the early Maple Ridge settlers.
- Several factors, such as vandalism or weathering, can affect deterioration.
- There is a small grave marker with the initials "W.J.H." This may have indicated where Wellington Harris was buried, perhaps before the larger monument was erected.

Stop #4 – Andrew Holdsworth

- Age and birthdate were not always well documented. Without local family members this information wouldn't be publically available. It is possible Andrew Holdsworth did not have family close by.
- The marker is made of wood; it is a cheaper alternative to stone.
- Wood deteriorates quicker than stone, so marble and granite are more common.

ANSWER SHEET

Stop #5 – John McKenney

- Gravestones change over time as they age, and occasionally fall over. It is likely this one has fallen to the ground through natural deterioration or vandalism.
- John McKenney was married to the woman buried to the left of his grave marker. Couples could share or have an individual marker.
- This marker is made of marble and would have originally been white.

Stop #6 – Margaret Emmaline Trembath

- This marker is made of zinc, a type of metal. It is unique in the Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Stop #7 – The Beckett Family

- Its size and shape is unique. It resembles a vaulted pedestal but is shaped more like a house. The grandeur of this marker indicates that the Beckett family was wealthy.
- It became common during and after World War I to commemorate a family member killed in battle. Although Lieutenant John M. Beckett is buried in Belgium, his family would have wanted to remember him at home.
- There is documentation of E.W. Beckett being buried nearby, but there is no headstone. The cement footing to the right of the main monument may have held his gravestone, but it has been removed or stolen.

Stop #8 – The William Nelson

- This marker looks like a tree stump which can symbolize life and immortality. It is representative of the Woodsmen of the World, a group that Mr. Nelson belonged to. The organization pays for the member's burials; and provides tree-stump markers.
- This marker used to stand on the base that sits next to it. The stone of the base and marker match, and you can see where the tree marker used to be attached.

Stop #9 – The Howison Family

- Lack of proper medicine and treatment, little knowledge about germs and illnesses and poor living conditions made long lives rare in the Victorian Era.
- The name "Alex Hamilton" which is carved on the west facing side was likely the person who carved this grave marker. This name can be found on multiple stones in the oldest section of the cemetery.
- It is unlikely that all the people listed on this marker were buried here; however some of them may have been cremated or share a single plot.

ANSWER SHEET

Stop #10 – The Laity Family

- A family would sometimes purchase one large monument for an entire family instead of having individual headstones carved for each deceased family member in order to reduce costs.
- The dove, olive branch and lily depicted on the Laity Monument symbolize the Holy Spirit, the soul, life, purity and mercy.

Stop #11 – Francis Sinclair

- “G. Rudge” was probably the carver of this marker.
- It may have been that Francis Sinclair was a new immigrant, new to the west coast or simply so young that his life was not well documented.
- This marker would originally have stood upright. Notice the broken base on the ground.

Stop #12 – George P. Apnaut

- There was likely a large carved structure such as a stone cross or a vaulted top on this monument. It may have been broken off because of natural weathering or vandalism.
- The missing portion could have held more information, such as the names of George Apnaut’s relatives or symbols that expressed his beliefs.

Stop #13 – The Charlton/ Storey Family

- With the change in attitude towards death in the 1940’s, markers became smaller and less ornate. It may also be because Mary and William lived long, full lives while Alfred died young and tragically.

Stop #14 – Phillipa Harvey

- Some women came to Canada as writers, explorers, or missionaries. They might have also been widows.
- People migrated to Western Canada as it was considered unexplored territory filled with opportunity. Land was abundant and it was believed that the Aboriginal people needed to be converted with European religion and culture.



A Maple Ridge Cemetery Graveyard in 1926 with a coffin completely covered with flowers (P4749).

How to Get Involved:

Throughout the summer we organize several cemetery clean ups and extra help would never go amiss. Advertisements will be posted around town, in the community “What’s On” magazines available at the Maple Ridge FVRL location, on our website and on Facebook closer to the date(s). The Maple Ridge Historical Society is always looking for passionate volunteers, if you are interested in getting involved with cemetery cleanups or cataloguing information from the stones, please contact us!

The Maple Ridge Museum is located at 22520 116th Avenue, just off the Haney Bypass.



Maple Ridge Museum Contact Information

Phone: 604-463-5311
Email: mrmuseum@gmail.com
Website: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>
Hours: Winter: Sun/Weds/Fri 1—4pm
Summer: Weds—Sun 1—4pm



