



CANCELLED OR POSTPONED

Alice's Tea Party – the Alice-in-Wonderland themed tea party we had planned for the March spring break was cancelled

Annual General Meeting – Our AGM potluck scheduled for March has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a date later in the fall when we can safely meet again. Keep a lookout for a rescheduled date.

Music on the Wharf – It is with great regret and sadness that our annual Music on the Wharf concert series has been cancelled for 2020. It is more than likely that while social distancing measures will be loosened by this summer, large community events of several hundred people will not be going forward by this summer. We will see you next summer!



Teenage girls in Maple Ridge clearing a local plot of land for a garden, 1941.

Read Shea Henry's article "V is for Victory, H is for Health" on page 4.

MUSEUM UPDATES

Though the museum is closed for the foreseeable future, our staff here are hard at work creating digital and online activities and ways to be connected from home. Times are strange but it is as important to us as every to be community teachers and culture leaders for the community of Maple Ridge young and old. Here are a few things we have been working on to keep our community engaged.

Daily Trivia – When social distancing first began and we were all feeling the initial shock of the world changing, the museum's social media began doing a daily trivia challenge to engage people in their communities history, while also interacting with us and other community members. The daily trivia has been a huge hit and lots of fun for both us and those who follow us on social media, with the City of Maple Ridge picking up the game as well! Check out our trivia games in the afternoons and test your knowledge of local history!

History Experiments Videos – Our Curator Shea and Community Engagement Coordinator Melissa have been putting out weekly videos, filmed at the museum and Haney House. In these videos Shea and Melissa challenge each other to complete tasks from the past, tasks that were once simple every day activities but to the modern person, not so easy. So far they have been challenged to a butter making race, stilts race, and a Second World War rationing cooking challenge. These videos can be found on our Facebook page, check them out for a good laugh!



Time Travel Challenge – In mid-April the museum issued a challenge to the community to recreate a set of photos from our image collection in the archives, and the challenge is still ongoing! We are sharing 10 photos of historical Maple Ridge and challenging you to recreate them with the members of your household, your pets, and anything else you find lying around your home. The photos span across Maple Ridge history, and include scenes and buildings of Maple Ridge which are still standing today. For some photos the key will be being in the exact same spot and position where the photo was taken, for others it is all about costuming and the dramatic. Just make sure to maintain social distancing protocols if you choose to go out to recreate the photos! To submit your photo, tag us in your post/comment/tweet and don't forget to use the hashtag #MRTimeTravelChallenge. You can also submit your photo to mrmeventplanner@gmail.com. Please note that by tagging us with your photo, you are giving us permission to share your photo via our social media.

Online Learning Activities - perhaps our most ambitious project has been to create online learning activities that can be completed by kids and teens who are now learning from home. Schools are closed and students trying to learn from home, teachers are trying desperately to adapt their curriculum to be done at home remotely, and parents are trying to work from home and make sure their kids are still learning. Considering this, the team here at the museum has put together a new page on our website with worksheets, crafts, learning adventures designed to teach about Maple Ridge, its history, geography, geology, and culture. They are designed for specific grades or grade ranges depending on the content and are great activities for kids and teens learning about our local community.

History Experiments videos can be seen on our Facebook page for a good laugh!



Photo Challenge Images – These images are the set we are challenging community members to recreate, some are in specific places, others can be done with setting and costuming at home. To see full images visit our Facebook page.

V IS FOR VICTORY H IS FOR HEALTH

With the ongoing pandemic and the social, economic, and political ramifications of such an event, comparisons are being made to the last great crisis the world faced, World War Two. The prime minister himself has made this comparison. Coming along with the world war associations is the idea of victory gardens, which has been prominent across social media. Though we are not yet sharply in need of food supplies as we were in the days of world war rationing, one thing is clear, those who are not frontline workers, those of us who have been asked to stay at home are desperately in need of something to contribute.

In Canada, victory gardens began in World War One. As a result of increased urbanization in the 19th and early 20th centuries, more people lived in cities and urban centers than any other time in history, thus losing the skills necessary for planting and maintaining home, or kitchen, gardens. During the First World War, to encourage and spread information on the importance of home gardens in a time of war and food uncertainty, women's organizations sponsored expert gardeners to go into schools and teach children how to garden. These home gardens were then brought back again during the Second World War. Presumably the children who received schoolroom teaching about gardening in world war one retained that knowledge once again for wartime use.

During the world wars victory gardens were planted mostly out of necessity for food. Rationing had hit the country hard, so planting and cultivate food at home greatly relieved stress on an already too stretched food system. The very name is meant to emphasize their importance to those on the home front, planting a home garden leads us one step closer to victory. Though need of food was what began the campaign for victory gardens, they also gave those at home a sense of doing something for the war effort.

Today, with our current crisis being vastly different than a world war, I suggest a rechristening of victory gardens to 'Health Gardens.' We are not at war and what we are striving for isn't victory in battle, but victory in health. Good health to our friends, family, healthcare workers, frontline workers, and everyone all over the world. Our health gardens are looking towards that hope for a Covid-19 free world. They are taking advantage of the spring season, a time of rejuvenation and rebirth. Just like with the world war victory gardens, they mean more than providing necessary food, they also feed our mental health.

It is spring and despite the dire circumstance, the world is blooming. We strive in the self-isolation of our homes to maintain our physical and mental health, planting a health garden works towards both of those ends. A health garden can be a cleared space in a backyard, in pots on a balcony, even in a jar on the windowsill. Plant the end off of your store-bought lettuce, plant the seeds out of your lemon, plant something, and watch it grow. Just like with victory gardens, the victory doesn't come when the vegetables are ready to eat, it comes with the hope we feel watching the new life we planted taking shape. *sh*





FAREWELL TO SHEILA AGAIN

Sheila Nickols, seen here with her friend Louise Poole in 1996, has been the heart of the historical society for so long that it is hard to imagine her no longer involved. It was Sheila's intention to resign from the board that she has been part of since 1984 at our AGM, which was cancelled. While the rest of the board has agreed to stay on while we sort out the rescheduling of the AGM, we have unshackled Sheila from her board duties.

Sheila's contributions could fill books and have, in fact, filled two. Her legacy will continue as our staff continue to share her Looking Back columns through our website.

When the world returns to something approaching normal, we will have a celebration of Sheila's long service but we couldn't just let her go with no fanfare at all. We send her off with wishes for good health and long life and with the gratitude of the entire city.

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 Shea Henry and Val Patenaude was prepared by Fred Braches.