

# SPRING BREAK

## challenge #3

During Spring Break, we challenge you to get out and explore Maple Ridge with your families! Every day, we will share a local historic location for you to discover, along with some great discussion and learning points to engage with local history.

We encourage you to print off pages 2 & 3 for your kids (or save this document to a mobile device), and go on a new adventure every day during Spring Break.

While you're out and about, check out the local EARTH DAY initiative at [www.mrearthday.ca](http://www.mrearthday.ca) with dozens of other challenges and local gems to visit! Be sure to snap a photo during your adventures and share it on social media with #emergeMR for a chance to win some great prizes!



**MAPLE RIDGE  
MUSEUM**  
& COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

# A short history of Webster's Corners



P01540: 1914, Finnish folk dance being performed at one of the summer picnics at Webster's Corners

You may very well live in Maple Ridge and have never heard of “Webster’s Corners”! Perhaps you’ve never explored the outskirts of our city and the rich history of those areas: Begin by looking at a map of Maple Ridge and follow Dewdney Trunk Road towards Mission. Just north of Kanaka Creek Park, but before the communities of Ruskin and Whonnock, you will find Webster’s Corners. Like its neighbouring areas, Webster’s Corners has over a 130 years of vibrant cultural narrative and a very strong agricultural industry.

Webster’s Corners is named after James Webster, a Scottish immigrant who moved to Maple Ridge from Ontario in 1882 and took up 160 acres of land to homestead near what is now 256 St. and 116 Ave. Nine years later, Mr. Webster became the first postman in the area and he carried the mail on his back all the way to and from Haney centre (8 kms each way!).

What is also very significant about Webster’s Corners is the large Finnish community that settled there. Interestingly enough, these people weren’t actually from Finland directly - but moved to Maple Ridge from a Finnish colony on Malcolm Island (off the northern coast of Vancouver Island) looking for a more urban way of life. In 1904, many of these families moved to Webster’s Corners and eventually purchased farmland. The community quickly prospered and more Finns moved into the area. In 1915, they built “Sampo Hall” entirely with volunteer labour: men, women, and even children came out to help build this new community gathering place. For years after, Sampo Hall was alive with Finnish picnics, parties, plays, and other gatherings. This hall was owned by the Finns for almost 70 years, but unfortunately, it was demolished in 2019.

# Today's Challenge



P08313, 1925, "The Uneven Triangle" Jenny Aho and Anne Rajala posing in acrobatic figure.

Take the family and drive to the area of Webster's Corners. Visit Webster's Corners Park and re-create this fun historic photo!

While you are enjoying the park, take a few minutes to reflect on your own cultural history:

- What is your family's cultural background?
- How long has your family been in Maple Ridge? If they were settlers to this area, what part of BC, Canada, or the world did your ancestors come from?
- Do you have cultural traditions in your family? Think about special holidays, food, clothing, art and culture, or anything else that is unique to your family's background.
- Once you have discussed these topics with your family, go home and write your family's story. Think about whenever the first person in your family moved to Maple Ridge: Who did they come with? What did they bring? Where was their first home? What did they do for work? Do not be afraid to interview other members of your family to get all of the information you need!

## For more at-home learning about the history of Webster's Corners:

The story of James Webster: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/james-murray-webster-family/>

The Finns of Webster's Corners: <https://mapleridgemuseum.org/the-finns-of-websters-corners/>

Sampo Hall: <https://mapleridgemuseum.org/the-sampo-hall/>

Explore our website for more great online learning and activities! <https://mapleridgemuseum.org/online-learning/>