

# SPRING BREAK challenge #6

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

# The Village of Port Hammond



P00227, Picture of Maple Crescent sometime between 1916 and 1926. On left is Bank of Hamilton, on the right is J.M. Dale's second store, Wilson's confectionary and pool room.

Named after the Hammond brothers who first arrived in Western Canada in 1863, the area of Port Hammond is what remains from the original Hammond townsite. Today, Hammond and the neighbouring area of Haney are just a few minutes apart. But, in those days, they were separated by 6 kilometers of very rough and dangerous riverbank. Once the Canadian Pacific Railway was finished, it became very easy to take the train between the two communities.

The name "Port" Hammond comes from, not only the area sitting on the river, but the hope that it was going to become a major link between the railroad and the shipping lines. However, that busy port was moved to New Westminster so the port of Hammond never really took off. The town though did have a bustling centre with lots of local businesses, like in the photo above. But, very unfortunately, a major fire destroyed most of these original buildings in 1926 and much history was lost.

Port Hammond was also the location of John McIver's family home. Mr. McIver moved to Canada from Scotland in 1851 and traveled through Eastern Canada to Manitoba by boat. Then, he and several other men, WALKED all the way from Manitoba to Fort Langley!! After working at the Fort until 1858, Mr. John McIver and Mr. Samuel Robertson went across the Fraser River to settle in what is now the Hammond area. Mr. McIver named his property "Maple Ridge" because of the row of maple trees on his land and that is how our city name came to be!

# Today's Challenge

## Activity 1

Go for a drive with your family to Maple Crescent in Port Hammond. Walk down the street and see if you can recognize any of the original buildings. Unfortunately, most of them were destroyed in the fire of 1926 but one or two of them remain. Look at the old buildings... What differences do you notice between the buildings of 100 years ago and those of today?

## Activity 2

At home, take 2 pieces of paper and some colouring pencils. On the first page, draw a river along the bottom of the page and fill the rest of the page with trees and grass. At the very top, draw some mountains. Now, imagine that you are a pioneer in 1860 coming to start a new life on this land. On the second paper, draw that river again along the bottom of the page. Now, think about where you would put your farm. Draw your farm and your house. Next, build your town centre. What businesses would you need? Draw a store, a bank, a post office, and anything else you'd like to see in your town. Remember, until the railroad connected the settlements, the people of each area needed to be able to provide for themselves and their neighbours.



PHOTO CAPTION: P03759 view of the Hammond townsite in the 1910s

**For a searchable online database of Maple Ridge  
history and lots of other great learning resources, visit us here!**

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>