

SPRING BREAK

challenge #8

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 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 Jackson Farm & Albion Park



P06314, The Jackson farm with a wrecked fishing boat in the middle section. The wood foundation at the front is for an unfinished building (1973)

Continuing through our journey of the communities of Maple Ridge, we find Albion just east of Haney (what is today's downtown core). Originally, Albion was actually just called "East Haney" but it caused confusion in the names when a new post office was built specifically for that area. Canada Post did not allow both a "Haney" and "East Haney" office, because the names were too much alike! Therefore, the name "Albion" - which is a very old name used for England - was selected by the settlers of the area.

The first settler in Albion was Samuel Robertson; a former worker at Fort Langley originally from Scotland. He married an Indigenous woman named Julia and together, they took up the land near Kanaka Creek. But, because he had been coming across the river for years to plant and tend to a number of fruit trees, he already had a full orchard by the time they built their home! Some of those 160 year old trees still exist today in the Kanaka Creek area.

John Jackson was another prominent European settler of the Albion area. Originally, his last name was Hyvari and he was from Finland. It's possible that he chose the Jackson name upon arriving in Canada because he wanted a name that was easier to pronounce and recognize, but no one knows for sure why he changed his name. In 1901, Mr. Jackson purchased 80 acres of land and an additional 10 acres of gravel pit in the Albion area to build both his farm and his gravel business. Selling and hauling gravel for municipal road building projects provided the main source of income for his family. But, they also maintained a large orchard and a dairy farm with up to 70 cows at one time. Mr. Jackson and his wife had seven children and one of their sons, Vaino (or "Vin" for short), took over the family farm and lived there until his death in 1996. Today, all of the original buildings of this property are gone but some of the Jackson farm eventually became Albion Park, a popular community park just off Jackson Road and 102 avenue.

Today's Challenge



P04585, Looking across the buttercup meadow to the Jackson Farm House, taken by photographer Bill Amos in 1995

For more at-home learning about Albion and its early pioneers:

A short history about Albion:

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/albion/>

The Jackson family:

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/jackson-family/>

Samuel Robertson:

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/sam-robertson-family/>

Go outdoors!

Spend the afternoon, if the weather permits, exploring two important parks of Albion:

Kanaka Creek Riverfront Park (Sam Robertson's original farm - see if you can find any of his fruit tress still there!)

Albion Park (a section of the historic Jackson farm)

Stay inside...

If it's too rainy, or once you get back from your adventures, grab a notebook or your tablet. Imagine that you are an early pioneer, like Mr. Jackson, coming to settle to a new land. Mr. Jackson started a gravel business, in addition to his family farm, to earn good income. What business would you start? Write it all down and then create a "sales pitch" to get new customers. Practice your pitch on your family!

Think about:

- **Goal:** what would you sell / produce?
- **Resources:** what do you need to run your business (tools, land, labour, finances, transportation)?
- **Demand:** will your business be in demand by your neighbours? Is it something they need? Why?
- **Sustainability:** How will you get customers and maintain your business for the long term?



PHOTO CAPTION: P00750 Milka & Edith Jackson posed with 2 horses on their family property in about 1910.

For a searchable online database of Maple Ridge history and lots of great learning resources, visit us here! <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>