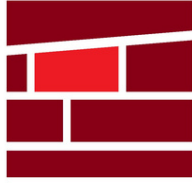


SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTING OUR NEW EXHIBIT AT THE ACT ARTS CENTRE GALLERY



Toiva Salmi, Anne Rajala and Svea in
Websters Corners in 1924 (P08307)

The roaring twenties often conjures images of beaded dresses, glamorous parties and life in the big city... but what was life like in the 1920s Maple Ridge? The Bee's Knees: Dressing Up in 1920s Maple Ridge will explore the changing social landscape of the period through the lens of fashion. Through the clothing and accessories on display, visitors will learn about the social movements and scandalous trends that make this decade so captivating.

More information at
www.mapleridgemuseum.org/thebeesknees

The Bee's Knees: Dressing Up In 1920s Maple Ridge

On from
September 11 - November 20, 2021

EXHIBIT OPENING: September 11, 2-4pm

CURATOR'S TALK: September 25, 2-4pm

Pre-register for these events at
<https://theactmapleridge.org/tickets>



New Exhibit at Haney House

Summer interns have created a wonderful new exhibit about the women of Haney.



Tori, Kate and Chiara standing in their new exhibit at Haney House.

As with every August, it's time to say goodbye to our summer staff. Before they left, our lovely summer interns put the finishing touches on their new exhibit at Haney House. We are hopeful that Haney House will be back to being open soon, and when it does their exhibit will be a must-see.

*Their exhibit entitled, **Cherishing Noble Ambitions: The Women of Haney**, explores the lives of women of early Maple Ridge. The phrase "Cherishing Noble Ambitions" takes inspiration from one of the pioneering works of modern feminist literature; *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) by Mary Wollstonecraft. Though the featured artifacts are mainly from the Haney family collection, it also pays tribute to others; Japanese and Indigenous women are of central focus as well. It was their hope with this exhibit to subvert traditionally held notions of historical womanhood and highlight the integral, but often overlooked roles that women have played in community development.*

SEPTEMBER 10 - 26, 2021

HANDS UP!

The Billy Miner Experience

It was about 9:30 on a September evening in 1904. The fog was thick on the Fraser River. And, as the Canadian Pacific train rolled slowly towards Maple Ridge, the engineer felt a hand on his shoulder.

“Hands up.” Gentle and polite, stagecoach and train robber Billy Miner was striking again. The train stopped. Panic broke out and the passengers were terrified! Miner and two men looted the express car. Gold dust, cash, and bond notes all gone! Then the trio vanished into the night, and into Canadian legend...

Visitors to “Hands Up!” will begin their journey on the caboose at the Museum, but filled with immersive technology, the voice of a kindly passenger, and some desperate train robbers armed with guns and dynamite. With choices to make and events to witness, each passenger must ask themselves “What would I do?” As their tour through the museum space continues, they will encounter the posse of Sgt. Wilson hot on the trail of the robbers. They’ll see the burgeoning historic town of Maple Ridge like never before, and then enter the Kamloops courtroom through a sea of howling newsboys, overly dramatic reporters, and townsfolk eager to lend their support to a genuine legend and folk hero.

HANDS UP! Opens on Sept. 10th: the 117th anniversary of the Silverdale train robbery. Showtimes are staggered Fridays thru Sundays to facilitate a small group, covid safe experience. More information & tickets at:

www.mapleridgemuseum.org/handsup



**VOLUNTEERS ARE
NEEDED FOR ALL
PERFORMANCES.**

**SIGN UP TODAY:
[https://signup.co
m/go/ViYeFpF](https://signup.com/go/ViYeFpF)**

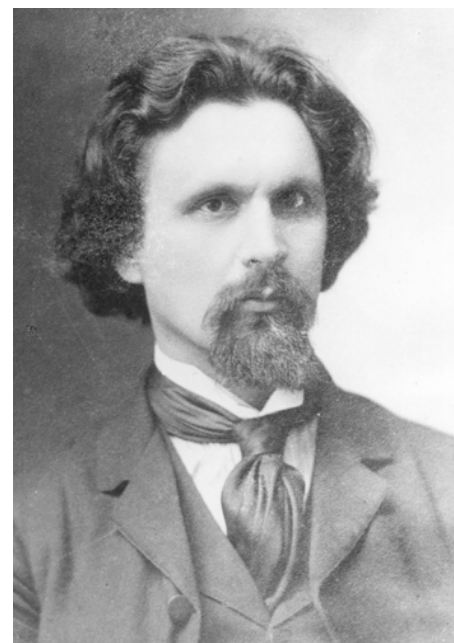
Tales from Sampola - Part 1

**Welcome to a good old fashioned print serial!
This series will explore the history of the Finnish
community at Websters Corners, known to the
original settlers as Sampola.**



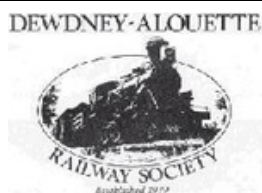
The original Sampola Farm commune, 1910 (P01580)

Our story begins on Malcolm Island, a spit of land off the northern coast of Vancouver Island. There, in 1901, charismatic socialist Matti Kurikka founded the idealist Finnish community of Sointula. The community was to be an escape for the Finnish people from the oppressive rule of the Russian Tsar in their home country. Though he was a visionary, Kurikka was not a practical man and after several years of poor harvests, bad weather, and debt he stepped down as leader of Sointula and planned his next venture. While Matti Kurikka believed in equality between men and women (in as much as a man in 1905 can) he believed that his next attempt to build a Finnish utopian society should consist only of men. With that belief and a handful of willing followers, he arrived in Websters Corners and took on the management of a shingle bolt operation. Within a few months of leading a group of men to Websters Corners, Kurikka left on a six month long recruitment expedition. He would however never see what the Finnish settlers would build, as only a few months into his journey he received a letter from the group stating that they had all found wives and he need not return. Despite this, the community that was growing (especially now that there were women there) and maintained the socialist Marxist philosophy in which it was founded: "from each according to his ability; to each according to his need." With this philosophy they named the farm and community they founded "Sampola" which means "haven of the Sampo." In the founding epic of the Finnish people – The Kalevala – Sampo is a magical mill that grinds out corn, salt, and coins. Symbolizing the prosperity they sought, this name would carry on well after the collapse of the Marxist ideals that inspired it. After seven years of communal living internal disputes led to disbanding of the commune in favour of living separately. Rather than discouraging the Finnish community, the break-up of the commune led to a stronger and more prosperous community, encouraging Finnish people the world over to settle in Websters Corners. The original 159 acres of Sampola farm land was divided up among founding community families, with one acre set aside for a community hall. On this spot in 1915 would be built Sampo Hall, which will be the subject of Part 2 of Tales from Sampola.



Portrait of Matti Kurikka (P03678)

Stay tuned for future parts of this serial as you learn about the spectacular, if not dramatic, new Sampo artifact recently donated to the historical society, and hear about our director's recent trip to trace the communities roots back to Sointula!



Visit the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society's diorama in the museum. Model Railroaders are welcome on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings before the last Sunday of the month. Recently, DARS train days have been cancelled due to covid but we look forward to bringing them back next fall or winter.

Info: Dick Sutcliffe at 604-467-4301 or

E-Mail: rasl@uniserve.com

Published and printed by the Maple Ridge Historical Society

22520 116th Ave. Maple Ridge BC V2X 0S4 | Phone: 604 463 5311

E-mail: mrmuseum@gmail.com | <http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org>

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