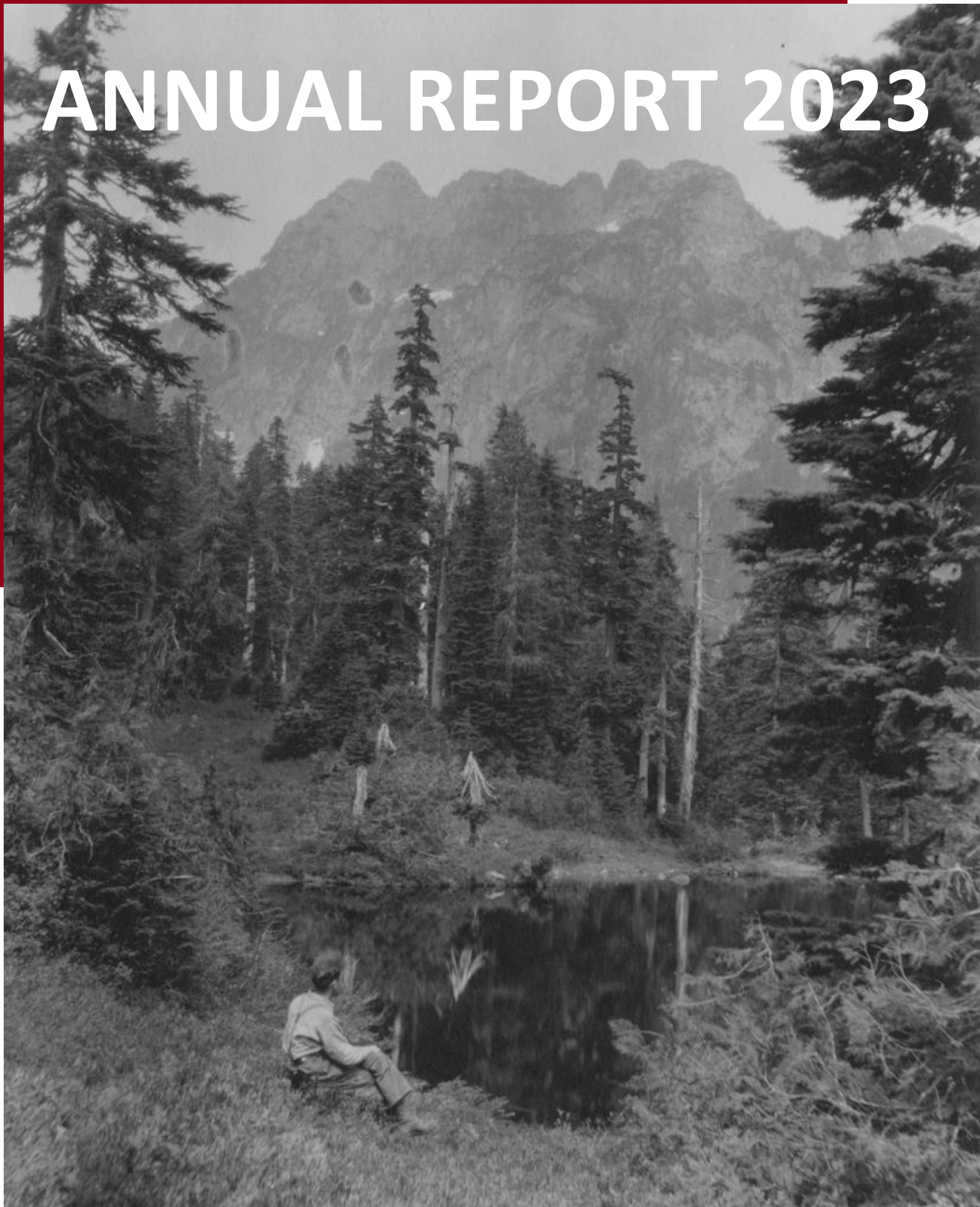


# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**MAPLE RIDGE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Cover Photo: Man sitting on the edge of a lake golden ears in background, 1920's. (P00722)

Photo Above: Rock the Block party at Jim Hadgkiss Park

22520 116<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Maple Ridge, BC  
V2X 0S4

604.463.5311  
mrmuseum@gmail.com  
mapleridgemuseum.org

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

## Executive

President	Ross Dunning
Vice President	Julie Koehn
Treasurer	Mike Davies
Secretary	Suzanne Parsons

## Directors at Large

Dick Sutcliffe  
Craig Speirs

## Standing Committees

Operations  
Family History  
Music on the Wharf

## Museum Staff

Executive Director	Shea Henry
Curator	Melissa Rollit
Community Engagement Coordinator	Abby Lizee
Archivist	Gordana Dimovska
Building Manager	Tom Little
Accountant	Luba King
Museum Assistants	Kate Li Camryn Page Tisha Acuña Kelsey Sullivan Yumi Sun Thorn Austin Chiara Pirritano

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Twenty twenty-three was a very busy and yet very encouraging year.

Over the past year, we had four new temporary displays rotate in our gallery spaces in the museum and one new permanent display on local sports history. November and December are usually our quietest times after a busy summer and fall, however we held our second of which is going to be an annual event, Holiday Ornament Making for families. Some very positive feedback.

The new Museum on the Move program that brings our history to you, has proven to be very popular. Rotating through many of our local community parks, and the Farmer's Market, it has been seen by more than 40,000 people.

We had a very successful event year with over 40,000 visitors at our Museum on the Move tent. We made a record \$4,500 with our annual fundraiser with Cornerstone Supernatural at Haney House Paranormal Night. We also continued a very successful Music on the Wharf series, bringing in \$1,020 in donations from the four concerts.

Again, as in past seasons, we opened Haney House for visitors, before and after the CP Holiday Train so then many people who come to be part of the present experience can stop in and learn even more about our past.

Our archivist, Gordana Dimovska, has been busy successfully switching over our archives and collections database to a newer system that will eventually be searchable on our website.

Unfortunately, we continue to say no to most new donations due to lack of space.

During 2023 it was also discovered that a collection of over 100,000 photo negatives, received in 2003, was deteriorating or deteriorated past the point of no return. The museum staff immediately began to assess the collection and it was decided that the collection should be sample scanned and disposed of. We will only be able to keep a few thousand of them before they deteriorate completely. This is due to inadequate storage conditions.

Most concerns are all around archival storage. The City of Maple Ridge is a growing community with a rich and distinguished past. Unfortunately, we are now at over-capacity for the collection and retention of this rich history.

During our 150 Years of the history of the municipality and city, the museum staff have put together 150 days of "history". During the 7 weeks, a different community area of Maple Ridge will have its history and importance to this area on display. Look for this at the many displays put on by the city.

In Memoriam: It is with a very sad heart that I mention two of the finest men that kept putting our local history in the forefront.

Dick Sutcliffe: We were saddened to hear of the passing Dick Sutcliffe last September Dick was a local historian, whose enthusiasm for the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society was unbounded. Dick was a long-time Maple Ridge Museum board member, Maple Ridge Historical Society member, and Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society member. Dick joined the Maple Ridge Museum board back in 1983, when the museum was moving into its current location, and was still an active board member at the time of his passing. He will always be remembered for lending a helping hand, whether that be managing the set-up of Music on the Wharf for the past 26 years or liaising with the railway society.

Fred Braches: We were saddened to hear of the passing of Fred Braches in February. Fred was an avid historian and researcher who was dedicated to sharing local history, particularly of the Whonnock and Ruskin communities in Maple Ridge, where he lived since 1985. Fred had previously been a historical columnist for the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News and served as the editor of the B.C. Historical News. Among his many accomplishments, Fred published research and archival images on his website in a series known as the Whonnock Notes. Over the years, Fred also wrote and released several local history books.

As always, without the hours of dedicated time and effort of our staff and volunteers, this society would not be in the progressive position we enjoy. Thank you to all, especially Dr. Shea Henry who has put this very strong, and imaginative, team together.

Ross Dunning  
President  
Maple Ridge Historical Society

*Ross Dunning*  
Board President

# MINUTES 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23 March, 2023 7:00pm St Andrews Heritage Hall

## 1. Call to Order & Appointment of Meeting Chair & Secretary

Ross Dunning motions to start meeting, seconded by Mike Davies. All in favor; carried.

Appointment of meeting chair, Shea Henry, and secretary, Gordana Dimovska, for the purposes of this meeting.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

## 3. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes

Dick Sutcliffe moves to amend “Richard” to “Dick” at the end of the 2022 record. Motion by Alex Pope to accept amendment and approve minutes, seconded by Dick Sutcliffe. All in favor; carried.

## 4. Reports

**a. President’s Report – Erica Williams:** Erica commented on the reactivation of the Society in community events in the wake of COVID-19, including participation in Farmer’s Market and the Music on the Wharf return to the Wharf. Erica announced her resignation from the role of President and that she will remain the guide for heritage walking tours, including a Spring Port Haney walk. Erica thanked the City for their continued support and maintenance of the Museum and its facilities. She expressed her continued wish for a new facility and an invitation for new members. Ross led a standing round of applause for Erica.

**b. Operations Committee Report – Mike Davies:** Erica thanked the operations committee, with special attention to Tom Little. Mike drew attention to page 20 of the annual report, which concerns the Operating Agreement with the City, noting our success in our duties to the facilities. He commented on the success of patching the roof of the Caboose in 2022 via a relationship with the Man’s Shed, who would also like to update the interior of the Caboose.

**c. Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House Museum Reports – Shea Henry:** Shea drew attention to digital engagement report for 2022, commenting on the Top 5 Most Visited Webpages. She commented on the addition of a TikTok account and large engagement numbers. Shea presented photographs of the Permanent Gallery Renovations from July-August 2022. Shea additionally commented on the repair of the Caboose roof. She presented the two temporary exhibits for 2022 (Sisu: Finnish Resilience in Websters Corners and What Was Taken) and the pop-up In Uniform. She drew attention to the filling of collections storage space.

Attention was brought to the renovation and opening of the Archives to the public for the first time in its history, with the hire of archivist, Gordana Dimovska, who is on contract. Shea extended a thank you to the staff and volunteers at the Historical Society.



**d. Membership Report – Shea Henry:** She reported on the increased push for new memberships through the work of Abby Lizee, which also led to an increase in real memberships.

**e. Program Committee Report – Abby Lizee:** Abby commented on the launch of Museum on the Move and the over 40 events in which the Museum participated despite limited funding. She recounted events such as the Farmer’s Market, events with ARMS, and the introduction of a summer student through a new grant. Abby commented on how rewarding it was to be in the community and engage, leading increased awareness of the space. In 2022, Abby notes that the Museum had a number of craft and celebratory events in-house such as Apple Harvest Festival and crafts. Music on the Wharf returned to the wharf and saw 305 attendees, with \$470 in donations. A special thank you was extended to the Meadow Ridge Rotary, City of Maple Ridge, and MR Arts Council. Ross commented on the importance of even small numbers of visitors and the Society continuing to interact with them and help with requests.

**f. Family History Committee Report – Erica Williams:** Erica commented on the history of the Family History Group since its inception in 1999. Participation has broadened to people in other regions through digital meetings. The Family History Group produces a history newsletter bi-monthly, accessible online. Programs from COVID-19 have led to “Down the Rabbit Hole”. In 2022, the website was redesigned to better reflect the work of the Family History Group. The group is in discussion with the City and the Maple Ridge Library to resume programming in the library. The group continues to participate in the library’s take-it-and-make-it program. Members of the Family History Group participated in outside projects, including transcription of an oral interview with a Vancouver settler, Navi Jack. Erica notes the way community stories do not always correlate to real history. The “On the River: The Fishing Industry in Maple Ridge” project was completed in 2022, which won multiple awards. Future goals further education of the community and outreach.

**g. Treasurer’s Report and Annual Financial Statements – Mike Davies:** Mike drew attention to page 25 of the annual report, the start of the financial report. He highlighted the earned funds of the society: the majority stems from the Operating Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge, highlighting the importance of grant funding and the support of staff in application for these funds. He notes that approximately \$70,000 of funding came from grants in 2022. He highlighted the Total Revenue vs Total Expenses, leaving a contingency of \$16,835 which will be put toward maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure of the Museum and Archives. Mike reminded members that the Society is a registered non-profit and that director Shea and accountant Luba King have fulfilled the respective requirements successfully. Ross Dunning asks whether the report has a line item that reflect maintenance of off-site storage, which he is concerned may be lacking due to low funding. Shea explains the increase in storage costs which have risen from \$7000 to approximate \$16,000 annually. Mike noted that restricted storage has possibly lost opportunities to gather important materials. Tom Little asks whether unwanted/unaccessioned items might be saleable in auctions, which Shea responds is particularly complicated with the nature of the Society.

Accept all reports: Moved by Ross Dunning, seconded by Mike Davies – all in favor; carried.

## 5. Election of Board Members

Continuing board members: Julie Koehn, Ross Dunning, Mike Davies, Dick Sutcliffe, Suzanne Parsons.

Craig Spiers would like to join. No nominations from the floor. Mike moved to elect the board, Tom Little seconded. All in favor; carried.

Shea and Julie presented gifts to Erica in appreciation of her service as President and board member. Erica made a short speech expressing her appreciation for her time spent as president.

## 6. Adjournment of Formal Meeting by Shea Henry at 8:04pm.



# MUSEUM OPERATION

## Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

The Maple Ridge Museum had a successful and exciting 2023. The year represented the continuation of our energy and new events from the previous year. We expanded our events and outreach and put on new and exciting rotating exhibits throughout the museum. We are very proud of how hard we have worked as a dedicated staff throughout the year.

We are grateful to have successfully received grants from Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs, Gaming, Library and Archives Canada, University of British Columbia, and the BC Arts Council. With these grants we were able to continue to expand our outreach in the community with new and returning programs, as well as enhance our collections space to keep our archives materials safe for future generations. As always, staff have brought their passion for their jobs to the museum and have continued to make the best of their resources and space.

Twenty twenty-three saw the first year that we had a full-time archivist on staff for the entire year. We are excited to have a trained archivist on staff bringing our collections online and making them accessible as well as providing the best possible protection to our current collections. Her work in the archives is now vital to its function.

Despite the hard work and expertise of staff our facilities continue to be inadequate for the function of a modern museum. Unfortunately, it was discovered this year that a collection of archival negatives was deteriorating and will need to be disposed of. This deterioration took place because our collections cannot be stored in a space with proper temperature and humidity control. Currently none of our storage spaces can control temperature or humidity which puts our entire collection at risk. We continue to seek the support of the community and the city to fix this and move the museum and archives into a more appropriate safer space to preserve our history.

Haney House Museum continues to be open Sundays throughout the year and Fridays and Sundays during the summer. The museum also operates as the host of most of our special events because it is such a lovely venue. At Haney House we hosted our annual Mother's Day tea, Apple Harvest Festival, Haunted House, and Paranormal Night fundraiser. These events give us the opportunity to invite community members to Haney House to experience its charm.

We were also very excited this year to be host to the City of Maple Ridge's *Rock the Block* Program. On September 1<sup>st</sup> the city hosted a large event in Jim Hadgkiss Park, highlighting the museum for visitors and bringing the community to the park for a block party. It was a very successful event which saw about 500 visitors to the museum. We look forward to future collaborations to bring more people to this part of town.

## Collections Report

This year we only had 10 accession lots, mainly consisting of one-item lots. Some highlights from the year include a gorgeous prom dress and wedding dress worn by Helen Rankin in excellent condition and a lifebuoy from the vessel *Kalaura*, one of the Albion ferries. As in previous years, empty storage space remains at an absolute low. With the loss of a shelf in the basement due to a structural defect, the museum's storage crisis has only escalated.

Behind the scenes, staff have been working hard to better care for our collections. Some of the projects taken on this year include clearing a back log of accessions, reorganizing box locations so that they are more easily accessible, and rehousing thousands of objects from our archaeological repository that are held in trust for Katzie First Nation.



Images of exhibits What Was Taken (left) and Maple Ridge Sports

## Exhibits and Displays

2023 was a busy year for exhibits and displays. Our temporary exhibit room was occupied by *What Was Taken: The Forced Dispersal of Japanese Canadians in Maple Ridge*, which opened at the end of 2022. The community response to this exhibit has been overwhelmingly positive and we are thrilled to announce that in 2024 the exhibit will be taking over one of our other gallery rooms and becoming a permanent exhibit.

In our main permanent exhibit space, we were happy to have *Maple Ridge Sports: A Brief History* added to our gallery space. The display, created by Tisha Acuna, focuses on both famous athletes from Maple Ridge and the local history of community sports.

Visitors to the museum this year might have also seen one or both of our pop-up exhibits this year; *Getting Hitched: Wedding Fashions of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century* and *A Night to Remember: Special Occasion Wear from Maple Ridge*. Both pop-up exhibits highlight some of stunning textile artifacts held in the museum's collections.

Guests to the museum could also enjoy our rotating Staff Pick case, in which any staff at the museum can create a display highlighting some of their favourite objects from the collection. This year's displays included: *Tea Time: The History of Tea Around the World* by Camryn Page, *We "herd" Y'all Like Horses* by Abby Lizee, *Double Feature: A Tale of Two Bombshells* by Chiara Pirriatano, Kelsey Sullivan and Yumi Son, and *The Great Maple Ridge Bake Off* by Tisha Acuna. Over at the Maple Ridge Public Library, we put on three displays this year, which were titled *Shoes Unboxed: The History of Shoes*, *Summertime Rewind: Summer Recreation in Maple Ridge*, and *From the Desk of the Maple Ridge Museum: A History of Stationary*.



Images of pop-up exhibits *Getting Hitched* (left) and *A Night to Remember*

## Archives Report

### Year at large

The primary work of the archivist in 2023 centred around increasing access to the records within the holdings of the Community Archives. The main driver of this was the implementation of the CollectiveAccess digital resource management software, which allows for an organised, unified database of collections from across the archives and museum. Schema design and data normalisation took place over the course of the year, resulting in the entry of 10,628 unique object entries and 19,925 archival entries, of which 16,359 are digitised images, now collected in one spot. Work continues on the CollectiveAccess back-end and interface, with a hope to launch the program as a public-facing portal by the end of 2024.

The Community Archives also received a generous grant from Library and Archives Canada through the Documentary Heritage Communities Program. Almost \$18,000 was contributed to allow the purchase of climate-controlled equipment, including: 2 heavy-duty storage cabinets, a micro-climate controller, upright freezer, dehumidifier, thermohygrometers, and new boxes in which to store sensitive materials. This equipment will first primarily be used to house the Don Waite collection of approximately 100,000 photographic negatives, which is suffering from poor environmental conditions and now must be processed into scans to preserve the content.

### Assistants and volunteers

To that end, archival and museum assistants have aided in selecting Don Waite images to retain and scan, ensuring coverage of all topics represented in the collection. This has condensed the collection from 36 plastic totes to approximately 6 bankers boxes, liberating roughly 40 feet of storage space for other materials in the Brickyard Office storage, where they had been kept. The sampling method was chosen after several months of scanning and assessment of time and material restrictions.

Two long-term volunteers also joined the archives in 2023, helping with digitization, research, and exhibit planning.

### Acquisitions

The archives received 8 donations, including artistic representations of iconic Maple Ridge buildings, early Ridge Rambler editions, materials from the Landale family of Whonnock, and newspaper microfilms, courtesy of the New Westminster Archives. The archivist aided in the salvage of materials from the former Rose Cottage retirement living facility, which was set for demolition, receiving donated materials and organising the community to disperse belongings of former residents.

### Community relations

The Community Archives continued to serve the public with research requests throughout 2023, with the archivist responding to 64 research requests by email or in person. The topics have ranged from First Nations issues, to Japanese Canadian property history, rail maps, and requests for photographs from the collection.



The archivist and curator were able to reconnect the Fujimoto family with their heritage as Japanese Canadians of Maple Ridge, guiding them on a tour of the old Kosaka property and to the graves of their ancestors. This experience was a highlight for the staff, as it proved the value of stewardship of the city's heritage as well as public outreach.

## CollectiveAccess

**SEARCH OBJECTS**

HISTORY:


ALLCO (227) ▶

SAVED SEARCHES:

- ▶

CURRENT SORT:

Relevance

 Set Tools


BASIC SEARCH

ADVANCED SEARCH





SEARCH BUILDER


BROWSE

Search:  Save


 Search

Jump to page:  ▶ Your search found 227 objects Page 1/10 Next ▶



  




ALLCO camp VIP guest hou...  
[P03324](#)




Longitudinal view of tre...  
[P03325](#)




Large group of men stad ...  
[P03329](#)




Allco Camp 2, logged (ph...  
[P07974](#)




Logs on rail car crossin...  
[P07975](#)




Curved section of rail s...  
[P07978](#)




Inside shingle storage s...  
[P07981](#)




Allco shingle mill under...  
[P07987](#)




Small lake tug transport...  
[P03801](#)



Allco Infirmary with mod...  
[P01812](#)



Allco Infirmary seated s...  
[P01813](#)



Grounds and resident cab...  
[P01814](#)

Search results using new CollectiveAccess system, soon to be accessible to the public.

## Annual Statistics and Community Engagement 2022

### Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House Engagement Statistics

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House	2021	2022	2023
Admissions and Attendance			
Adult Admissions	460	2123	1509
Child Admissions	114	542	278
Off-site Events Attendance	17691	47650	40867
Volunteer Hours	547	1746	1932
Online/Social Media Engagement			
Website Users	22723	29084	34340
Website Sessions*	28405	35876	39236
Facebook followers	2682	2830	3187
Facebook Reach**	175612	188609	150436
Instagram Followers	1290	1366	1401
Instagram Reach**	3948	3489	4053
TikTok Followers	384	963	9773
TikTok Reach**	-	129950	819149

\*A Session is a period of time in which a user is actively engaged with website content.

\*\*Reach is the number of unique accounts who have seen content from our pages.

### Most Visited Webpages

Page	Page Views
Home Page	5030
Music on the Wharf	2466
Events	913
The Dead of Night	874
The Museums/About Us	836
Exhibits	781
Haunted Haney House	672
Headstone Preservation Project	613
Tokutaru Tsuyuki Family	523

### Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House Outreach Statistics

Outreach Event	Description	Date(s)	Location	Total Attendance
Virtual and Offsite Presentations	Zoom/offsite presentations on Maple Ridge History	Jan – Dec	Online/Various	175
Museum Group Tours	Museum and Haney House	Jan – Dec	MRM	96
Walking Tours	Cemetery and Downtown	Feb – Sep	Offsite	28
Winter Fun Fair	Literacy Day	Jan 28	MR Library	1500
Repair Cafe	Display with artifacts	Mar 18	MR Library	250
Trees in Bloom	Virtual event on social media	Apr 1-21	Online	20
Earth Day	Earth Day celebration	Apr 22	Memorial Peace Park	2000
Tourism Challenge	Participants toured the museum and answered questions	Apr 22- May 31	MRM	805
Mother's Day	Alice in Wonderland-themed activities	May 14	Haney House	32
Farmer's Markets	Topics included our current exhibits and Bordertown	May 27 & Aug 19	Memorial Peace Park	3000
Pride in the Park	Annual pride celebration	Jun 3	Memorial Peace Park	5000
NIPD	National Indigenous Peoples Day	Jun 17	Memorial Peace Park	5000
Father's Day	Train themed day at MRM	Jun 18	MRM	28
Headstone Preservation Project	Volunteers cleaned headstones in the cemetery	Jun 22, Jul 15, Aug 12, 17 & 26, Sep 16	Maple Ridge & Whonnock Cemeteries	121
Multiculturalism Day	Display on Maple Ridge's Japanese Canadian history	Jun 24	Memorial Peace Park	3000



Canada Day	Lawn games and photo display	July 1	Memorial Peace Park	10000
MOTM x Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhood-specific displays and activities	Jul 5 & 19, Aug 8	Offsite	22
MOTW	Four summer concerts	Jul 10 & 31, Aug 14, 28	Port Haney Wharf	770
Country Fest	Lawn games and a photo display	Jul 29	Albion Fairgrounds	10000
Block Party	City of Maple Ridge's Rock the Block	Sep 1	Jim Hadgkiss Park	500
Rivers Day	ALLCO-themed display	Sep 24	ALLCO Park	156
Apple Harvest Fest	Celebrating Maple Ridge's apple growing history	Oct 1	Haney House	140
Paranormal Nights	Partnership with Cornerstone Supernatural	Oct 13 & 14	Haney House	152
Haunted Haney House	Family-friendly haunted house	Oct 28, 29	Haney House	181
Ornament Making	Workshop for kids	Dec 9	MRM	13
CP Holiday Train	Haney House open before and after the Holiday Train	Dec 17	Haney House	25

# PROGRAM REPORT

2023 was a very successful year in terms of being present in the community. We hosted or attended 28 different events and programs over the year. We put a lot of effort into attending community events around Maple Ridge while also keeping some of our time-honoured in-house events at Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House, with a few new additions.



Maple Ridge Museum's 2023 Summer Students at Country Fest July 29, 2023

## Music on the Wharf:

Music on the Wharf returned for its 27<sup>th</sup> season with four new musical artists who brought a variety of musical styles to the historic Port Haney Wharf. 2023 brought us our largest audience in Music on the Wharf history, with 450 people enjoying the first concert of the series. We also had a children's concert for the first time ever. Maple Ridge Museum would like to thank the Province of British Columbia, the City of Maple Ridge, the Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge, and the ACT Arts Centre for their financial support of this event.



Gift Shop performs at Music on the Wharf July 10, 2023



### Museum on the Move:

Museum on the Move made 15 appearances throughout the city and at community partner events throughout the year. We were able to tailor our displays and interactive elements to fit the theme of the event and the location, creating a bespoke experience that supported the messages of our community partners. Under the Museum on the Move umbrella (tent?) we partnered with or attended the events of the City of Maple Ridge, Fraser Valley Regional Library, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society, Alouette River Management Society, Fraser River Indigenous Society, PLEA Society, the Family Education and Support Centre, Ridge Meadows Multicultural Society, and the Haney Farmer's Market. Lastly, Museum on the Move continued to receive recognition from the wider heritage community. Museum on the Move's biggest win, literally, was a Recognition award in Education, Awareness and Communications from Heritage BC.



Iron Man checks out the Museum on the Move display at National Indigenous Peoples Day June 17, 2023

**Headstone Preservation Project:**

Headstone Preservation Project had its biggest season yet. In previous years we typically coordinated two sessions during the summer, and in 2023 we coordinated six: four at Maple Ridge Cemetery and two at Whonnock Cemetery. Over 120 volunteers came out to clean stones and the project received excellent press, appearing on the front page of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News. We would like to thank the Holy Spirit Anglican Church for opening their doors to us so that we were able to have access to bathrooms and water during our Whonnock sessions.



Ali and her daughter Amelia clean a headstone at Whonnock Cemetery August 12, 2023

**Haney House Events:**

We held a few larger events at Haney House in 2022. The first was Mother's Day, which was an Alice in Wonderland-themed event with a photographer on-site to take family photos by donation. This event also kicked off the second year of Croquet, All Day! where croquet was available to play at Haney House on Sundays as long as the weather was nice.

Our contribution to BC Culture Days was Apple Harvest Festival, which was very well attended. The Haney House caretakers graciously picked and provided heritage apples from the Haney House orchard. We also received a donation of apples from Haunted History.

The wonderful people at Cornerstone Supernatural facilitated In the Dead of Night, our annual public paranormal event. This two-day event sold out and the museum raised over \$4500!

We transformed Haney House into a family-friendly haunted house for the last weekend of October with a mixture of Halloween décor and artifacts from our collection. Most of the visitors who attended this event had never visited either museum before. Visitors commented on how perfect Haney House was for a haunted house and many took the time to interact with the existing Haney House exhibits as well.



A skeleton takes a bath during Haunted Haney House October 28 & 29, 2023



# OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Operations Committee is responsible for overseeing, on behalf of the Society, the execution of the Maple Ridge Historical Society Operating Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge and the upkeep, maintenance, and operation of St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall and the Old Post office.

St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available for rent for events and is regularly used as a meeting place by four community groups while the Old Post Office has a single renter and is in full-time use as a pre-school. A full rate schedule for St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available from the Maple Ridge Museum or online at: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/about-us/rentals/>.

In addition to the ongoing, day-to-day maintenance of both the Museum and the Archives building, this year included air quality and hazardous materials inspections for the Museum and Archives buildings. The result with the identification of lead dust in the basement of the Archives building which was remediated by a professional contractor. Society still awaits the remediation of lead paint from the exterior of the Archives building. During the year, staff provided city representatives with a tour of the museum facilities, providing an opportunity to ask questions and better understand the societies operations and requirements.

Buildings Manager, Tom Little, continued to look after the day-to-day maintenance at the Post Office and St Andrews Heritage Church. Tom Little retired from his tenure as buildings manager at the end of December 2023 and will be replaced by a new buildings manager in the new year. Thank you, Tom, for your years of service.

The Historical Society works closely with the City of Maple Ridge to assist in maintaining the buildings we occupy but they own, which includes the Museum building, Archives building, St. Andrews Church, and Haney House. We work together to maintain these buildings to provide the citizens of Maple Ridge with an understanding and a connection to their community's history. We also work to maintain the Old Post Office building which is owned by the Historical Society and sits on city land.

I would like to thank the Operations Committee members, Executive Director Shea Henry, our Buildings Manager, Tom Little, museum staff, and the City of Maple Ridge staff for their hard work and support through 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Davies*  
*Chair 2023*



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the end of 2023, the society had a membership of:

- 48 Individual Members,
- 22 Family Memberships (eligible for up to two votes),
- 6 Life members, most of whom make a donation each year.

This total is equivalent to 98 members, down just one from the previous year. This is a maintenance of membership from last year's membership. After a very successful membership campaign at the end of 2022, we gained several new members, some of whom continued on their membership and some did not. We completed another membership campaign at the end of 2023 and gained 21 new members in 2023, up from 17 the previous year. This membership campaign targeted those who have been following our content on our social media channels. We continue to use our online sign-up and payment system for new and renewing members which makes the process easier. The increase in memberships gives us hope that we are reaching wider audiences with our new programming, exhibits, and archives space.

In addition to membership fees, members donated a total of \$1582. We issue tax receipts for donations over \$20.

*Shea Henry*  
*Executive Director*

# FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

## *The Family History Group*

The Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society and by extension of the British Columbia Historical Federation, an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies. This allows for participation at various levels in that organization.

The Maple Ridge Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month with an average attendance at meetings of between 12 and 17 members. While we are missing some of our regular members, meeting virtually has allowed other interested persons from around the province to easily participate.

The Family History Group decided to continue to hold our meetings online when the Maple Ridge branch of the Fraser Valley Regional Library changed their closing time to 8:00 PM rather than 9:00 PM. We have been fortunate to be able to use the Zoom platform for our monthly meetings since April 2020. As a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society we have been able to use the Historical Society Zoom account. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Society.

Meetings are informal and include presentations and discussions about upcoming virtual programs of interest, updates on individual research, research brainstorming, and celebrating research successes. *Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter* is produced bi-monthly and is accessed online through the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives website. Members and guest contributors write feature articles on genealogical topics. The newsletter also contains notice of upcoming programs, conferences and webinars, and draws attention to research sources. The newsletter is shared on a reciprocal arrangement with several genealogical societies within the province.

Members have expertise in a wide range of skills and topics. The group is consulted by researchers and those interested in the Maple Ridge story through queries arising from the website, newsletter, and community history projects. Members also serve as presenters in a variety of library, family, and local history programs.

Our short program coordinator, Alberta McNamara keeps meetings interesting with various challenges for our members including a reminder to document our own history with the “2023 New Year’s Challenge” to find an ancestor who was a member of a fraternal order, charitable organization or community group. Brenda Smith added “A Sitting in the Shade Challenge” to determine the owner of photos found in a book.

Some of the topics covered in 2023 were: installments of the cemetery series; “Taking a Fresh Look at Community Lore”, “Celebrating Mothers”, “Celebrating Fathers”, Researching with Canada’s First World War Diaries”; “Tracking Family Lore: So, your great grandmother was an Iroquois princess? Or was she?” with special guest Sharon Syrette, and our traditional November “Lest We Forget” where those who have served in military conflicts are recognized.

The Family History team has logged 75 hours of time for communications, website updates, promotion, and program coordination.

The group participates in the annual Family Literacy Day / Family Fun Day held at the end of January at the Maple Ridge Public Library. This is a great opportunity to meet members of the community who might not

otherwise think about researching their family histories and recording their family stories. The group takes displays of the community history projects to events such as Maple Ridge Heritage Awards Evening and the Abbotsford Family History Day.

The Maple Ridge Family History Group launched *Honouring Those Who Served* at the Heritage Awards on February 21, 2024. *Honouring Those Who Served* is a community history project that builds on two decades of research conducted by local historian Annette Fulford. The goal of the 12-member team was to discover the stories of the people named on the First World War faces of the Maple Ridge Cenotaph and other memorials throughout Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

The team started in May 2023 researching 49 names, as well as the history of memorials and honour rolls in the area. The aim was to augment the research already done and package all the stories in a way that would make it accessible to students and researchers from around the world. To date the team have spent approximately 1,000 hours of volunteer time researching attestation papers, census data, directories, birth records, burial records, tax rolls, passenger lists, newspapers and more. The stories of the First World War names inscribed on the Maple Ridge Cenotaph can now be read on the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives website. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Maple Ridge Community Museum and Archives for giving us space and access to their website.

<https://mapleridgemuseum.org/honouring-those-who-served/>

# Honouring Those Who Served



A community history project by



**MAPLE RIDGE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Maple Ridge Family History Group







Scan me

**Discover the stories  
behind the First World  
War names memorialized  
on the Maple Ridge  
Cenotaph and other  
memorials throughout  
Maple Ridge, British  
Columbia.**







<https://mapleridgemuseum.org/honouring-those-who-served/>

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

KING BOOKKEEPING

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17887 Ford Road Detour Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 0A7

March 2, 2024

To the Board of Directors, Maple Ridge Historical Society

I have prepared the balance sheet and statement of income and expense for the Maple Ridge Historical Society for the year ended December 31, 2023.

These statements were compiled from the data supplied by the Maple Ridge Historical Society according to generally accepted accounting principles.

These statements have not been subject to review or audit, however, I have attempted to maintain accuracy and completeness in the preparation of these statements.

Yours truly,



Luba King

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## Treasurer's Report

The funding required for the operation of the Society comes from three sources: the Maple Ridge Historical Society earned funds, the Maple Ridge Historical Society Operating Agreement with the City of Maple Ridge, and from successful grant applications.

Grants continued to provide the Society with funds to extend its activities through the Community Gaming Grant of \$31,200 and the summer student funding from the Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs programs of \$23,900. In addition, this year we received \$28,209 of project based external grant funds from successful grants to Library and Archives Canada, Arts BC, and UBC.

In 2023 the staff continued the development of online opportunities to engage the citizens of Maple Ridge and continued in-person programs. We continued with Museum on the Move for which we received several external grants. We also returned to our fundraising events like the annual Music on the Wharf event bringing in \$1,020 and Paranormal Nights at Haney House, which brought in \$4,500.

Based on a carefully prepared budget, all financial matters are reconciled monthly and reported to the Board through quarterly reports, which allow the board members to review the status of each budget category. The preparation of these reports is carried out by our Executive Director, Shea Henry, who also monitors the work of our accounting service provider, Luba King. During the year, the financial committee work was carried out by the Board of Directors at their monthly meetings.

As a Registered Society with a Charitable Tax endorsement, we are subject to an audit by the governing authorities at any time. The financial management system, along with the support of Luba King and the excellent work of our Executive Director, Shea Henry, allows us to stay "Audit Ready."

The Society continues to develop the infrastructure program. The balance remaining from funds budgeted but not spent will be added to those restricted funds to provide for future projects.

Thanks to the members of the Board, Shea Henry, and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Davies*

*Treasurer 2023*

## Financial Report 2023

### MRHS Summary 2023 over 2022

	2023	2022	Change	%
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Maple Ridge Historical Society	84,306	83,943	363	0.4%
St. Andrews Heritage Church	11,215	14,855	-3,640	-24.5%
Maple Ridge Museum / Haney House	293,345	281,146	12,199	4.3%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>388,866</b>	<b>379,943</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Maple Ridge Historical Society	42,938	38,297	4,641	12.1%
St. Andrews Heritage Church	6,062	5,589	473	-8.5%
Maple Ridge Museum / Haney House	337,867	319,222	18,645	5.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>386,867</b>	<b>363,108</b>		
CONTINGENCY FUNDS	1,999	16,835		

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<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>FUNDS ON DEPOSIT</b>				
Maple Ridge Historical Society	143,630	167,317	161,956	
Maple Ridge Museum	22,195	33,950	44,747	
Direct Access Gaming	18,788	8,906	20,831	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS ON DEPOSIT</b>	<b>184,612</b>	<b>210,174</b>	<b>227,534</b>	
<b>RECEIVABLE</b>				
Deposit with ECRA	50	50	50	
Accounts Receivable	1,401	1,400	6,481	
Petty Cash Accounts	156	156	156	
<b>TOTAL RECEIVABLE</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>6,687</b>	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>186,219</b>	<b>211,779</b>	<b>234,220</b>	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
MRHS equipment	3,396	3,396	3,396	
MR Museum equipment	2,424	2,424	2,424	
MR Museum computers	5,483	5,483	5,483	
Haney House equipment	1,616	1,616	1,616	
St. Andrew's equipment	2,731	2,731	2,731	
Costume Collection	1,019	1,019	1,019	
Old Post Office building	65,000	65,000	65,000	
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>81,670</b>	<b>81,670</b>	<b>81,670</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>267,889</b>	<b>293,449</b>	<b>315,890</b>	



<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Note</b>
Direct Access Gaming funds	18,788	8,906	20,831	
Arts Council Grant	500	500	500	
Memorial funds	810	810	810	
Accounts Payable		3002.94	3390.45	
St Andrews damage deposits	1,055	1,055	1,055	
Receiver General payable	5,002			
WCB payable	3,805	2,711	1,674	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>29,960</b>	<b>16,985</b>	<b>28,261</b>	
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Retained Earnings	165,406	148,676	148,410	
Restricted Funds	70,422	110,953	138,953	
Current earnings	2,359	16,835	266	
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>238,187</b>	<b>276,464</b>	<b>287,629</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>268,148</b>	<b>293,449</b>	<b>315,890</b>	

REVENUE	2023	2022	2021	Note
<b>MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>				
Memberships	1,096	1,235	1,200	
Donations	1,582	5,673	2,446	1
Rentals	19,465	23,555	13,355	
Events	4,637	2,127	1,783	
Project Income	28,210	38,208	1,500	2
Restricted Funds	40,531	28,000	4,000	
Interest Income			390	
<b>TOTAL MRHS REVENUE</b>	<b>95,521</b>	<b>98,798</b>	<b>24,674</b>	
<b>MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM/HANEY HOUSE</b>				
City Operating Grant	228,767	207,589	207,589	3
Direct Access Gaming grant	21,819	43,625	24,928	
Canada Summer Jobs/YCW/ MRHS funds	23,939	20,626	18,962	
Donations	1,366	1,991	620	
Sales/Research Services	465	453	606	
Events/Programs	5,329	5,842	3,485	
DARS rent	1,020	1,020	1,020	
Project Income			5,000	
Interest Income			195	
Demutalization Funds			5,173	
<b>TOTAL MUSEUM REVENUE</b>	<b>293,345</b>	<b>291,786</b>	<b>278,217</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>388,866</b>	<b>390,584</b>	<b>302,891</b>	

EXPENSES	2023	2022	2021	Note
<b>MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>				
Promotion & Branding	237		315	
Buildings Expenses	6,883	4,334	4,367	4
Buildings Utilities	1,269	1,627	1,774	
Events	2,084	2,570	1,642	
Membership Activities/Conferences	337	200		
Memberships	1,172	727	916	
Administration/postage	9,120	9,110	9,352	
Contributions to museum operations	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Restricted Funds Expenditure				
Insurance	4,466	4,084	3,876	
Honoraria & Gifts	35	31		
Project & FHG Expenses	17,291	26,056	3,730	
Workman's Comp	2,105	1,787	1,653	
<b>TOTAL MRHS EXPENSES</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>54,526</b>	<b>31,625</b>	
<b>MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM &amp; HANEY HOUSE</b>				
Wages & Benefits	271,987	243,838	206,869	5
Office Expense	6,871	3,310	2,886	6
Programs/Projects/Events	1,693	470	1,433	
Advertising	487	585	439	
Equipment rental	694	3,024	2,589	7
Display	823	396	1,032	
Storage	9,843	12,304	13,853	8
Conservation supplies	976	897	433	
Utilities	10,276	9,593	8,790	
Building Expenses - Brickyard Site	1,582	2,291	1,318	
Professional Development/Library	1,033	1,094	183	
Merchandise for sale		65		
<b>TOTAL MRM/HH EXPENSES</b>	<b>306,266</b>	<b>277,867</b>	<b>239,826</b>	
<b>Gaming Grant Disbursements:</b>				
Wages	31,100	41,355	24,610	
Bank Charges	1		391	
Program/Event costs	500		1,000	
<b>TOTAL GAMING EXPENSES</b>	<b>31,601</b>	<b>41,355</b>	<b>26,001</b>	

<b>TOTAL MUSEUM EXPENSES</b>	<b>337,867</b>	<b>319,222</b>	<b>265,827</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>388,866</b>	<b>390,584</b>	<b>302,891</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>386,867</b>	<b>373,748</b>	<b>297,452</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>16,836</b>	<b>5,439</b>

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### Breakdown of Restricted Funds

<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>Purpose</b>		
Infrastructure	Repair/upkeep of buildings	21080	
Museum Expansion	New building expenses	36905	
UWC Publication Fund	For History of Settlement	7446	
Contract Employee supplement fund	For wages and industry recovery	22264	9
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		<b>87695</b>	

### Notes:

1. The last few years we have had large individual member donations which did not come in this year.
2. Project income is the individual grants that are awarded to the historical society, this year they include grants from Library and Archives Canada, UBC, and BC Arts Council.
3. Per our operating agreement with the city our annual operating grant has increased and will increase in 2024 as well.
4. This year building expenses included the addition of a \$2,500 expense for a new set of stairs and back door for the Old Post Office.
5. Wages increase reflects having our archivist on staff full time for the first year.
6. This increase reflects the purchase of new museum computers, approved by the board at the March 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting.
7. This decrease is due to us purchasing out the lease on the copier, now we only pay for copies rather than a rental payment.
8. This decrease is due to paying only half a year on one of the units, we have done this to align the payments to be paid at the same time on both units so they can be moved in 2024.
9. This is the remainder of this fund after using \$40,531 this year for archivist wages.