

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Maple Ridge 150

Maple Ridge 150 series, our story part 2 of 6.

Our story continues with the beginnings of colonization in the area that would eventually become Maple Ridge. The first Europeans to venture down the Fraser River were Spanish Explorers Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés in 1792. They set out believing that perhaps the River met up with the Columbia River, which would connect it to valuable trade lines, British explorers like Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser traced it. At the time these explorations were done to determine how lines of trade could be set up in the area as the Canadian fur trade moved west.

As more and more of the continent was being mapped and settled by European colonists the British government set in place a proclamation on how that settlement should take place. George III passed a royal proclamation stating that all properties rights of British North America land belonged inherently to the First Nations who occupied it until it was ceded in formal nation to nation treaty. The land along this area of the Fraser River was recognized as belonging to several different Nations, therefore any settlement by the British or British company was illegal.

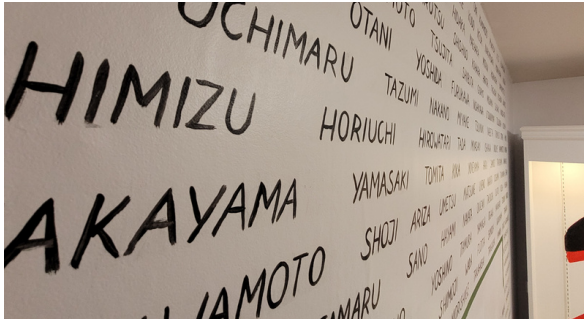
Despite this, settlement was proceeded by the Hudson Bay Company who were expanding their reach further north from the Columbia River in Oregon. In 1827 the first Fort Langley was built on what is today Derby Reach just across the Fraser River from today's Haney. The location of this fort was ideal as it was about 50 kilometres from the mouth of the Fraser River and close to several large indigenous villages who they hoped would be willing trading partners. Early maps and journals note that the fort was quite close to the large village known simply as "Indian Village" which we know today to be the large Katzie village that occupied what is today Port Hammond for many thousands of years.

Fort Langley would eventually move downstream to its current location as the company moved away from fur trading and more towards farming, fishing, and cranberry harvesting. As a result, the company began encouraging its employees to consider settlement in the area. It was at this time that the British Government transitioned from privatizing its colonization to encouraging active settlement by British citizens and establishing a formal British Columbia government. It was these Fort Langley employees who would eventually become the first European settlers to colonize what would become Maple Ridge just across the river from Fort Langley. Our next installment will pick the story up with the founding of British Columbia and disbursement of vast tracts of newly created crown land.



Drawing of Fort Langley in its second location 1840s

What's in 1000 Names?



Wall of names in original configuration of *What Was Taken: The Forced Dispersal of Japanese Canadians in Maple Ridge*

When *What Was Taken: The Forced Dispersal of Japanese Canadians in Maple Ridge* debuted in 2022, the archivist and curator were proud to present a wall bearing the hand-painted surnames of all families present in Maple Ridge at the time of internment. Pulling from a 1942 directory, the archivist had uncovered 287 households. Visitors have located the names of their ancestors on the wall, telling us that this was a worthwhile and critical piece of the exhibit.

It was decided last year that *What Was Taken* would become a permanent exhibit to honour our Japanese Canadian neighbours, who were forcibly uprooted to camps all over Western Canada. The decision was also made to expand the list of names to the first *and* last names of all uprooted residents, children included, as the original condensed list did not fully capture the magnitude of the dispersal.

Between archivist and curator, several hours were spent perusing the Landscapes of Injustice archival database, yielding **1,655** individuals, almost 6 times the amount of names on the original wall. We are aware that even this list may not be complete - poor data collection on the part of the government in 1942 has led to inconsistent reporting. Nevertheless, we hope that this project leads to greater opportunities to connect the Japanese Canadian community to its roots and acknowledge its role in building Maple Ridge as it is today.

Meet the New Faces at the Museum!



We are delighted to introduce our new Maple Ridge 150 Curator, Tisha Acuña.

This new role, created with special funding from the City of Maple Ridge, will focus on creating displays and educational programming, and sharing our history at community events. Although not necessarily a “new face” (Tisha has previously worked at the Maple Ridge Museum as a Museum Assistant), we are excited to see the thoughtful and thoroughly researched displays she will undoubtedly make!



Introducing our new Museum Assistant, Mitra Arianfar. Previously a volunteer at the Maple Ridge Museum, she earned her BA in Architectural Heritage Restoration at Imam Khomeini International University and has previously worked for ICOMOS. Her work at the Maple Ridge Museum has focused on researching heritage buildings previously owned by Japanese Canadians and completing archival processing. With her unique educational and professional background, we are very glad to have her on the team!

Upcoming Events

Museum on the Move at Repair Cafe

Bring your broken items to get fixed by volunteers and stop by our table to see a selection of artifacts that have either been repaired or were used for repairing other items!

March 16, 10-2 at Maple Ridge Seniors Activity Centre

mapleridgemuseum.org/motm

Walking Tours

Join Erica Williams, local history expert and former president of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, on historic walking tours of downtown Maple Ridge and Maple Ridge Cemetery.

First weekend of each month starting in May

mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours



Art Studio Tour

We are pleased to host mixed media quilt artist Jennie Johnston at Haney House for the 2024 Art Studio Tour. Jennie combines traditional craft techniques like embroidery and quilting with painting and fabric design.

May 11 - 12, 10am - 4pm

artstudiotour.ca



MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

Museum on the Move brings free, accessible, and inclusive museum learning to all corners of Maple Ridge. The goal of this project is to bring the museum's stories and programs to the residents and visitors of our city by setting up a mini "pop-up" museum in locations that are frequented by the public as they go about their usual summer activities.

March 16 - Seniors Activity Centre
Event: Repair Cafe

April 20 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Earth Day

June 29 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

July 1 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Canada Day

September 22 - ALLCO Park
Event: Rivers Day

More appearances are being added all the time! For an up-to-date list, visit:
mapleridgemuseum.org/motm

Recap of January and February Events and Programs



The Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society and Emil Barrow pose with Mayor and Council at the 2024 Maple Ridge Heritage Awards

The winter months are typically slow for events as we prepare for the summer, but we still managed to get out into the community. In January we attended the **Winter Fun Fair** at the library, bringing artifacts and a selection of take-home activity sheets. In February we had a table at the **Maple Ridge Heritage Awards** and brought a small display of trophies from our collection.

Volunteer Spotlight

Congratulations to Emil Barrow for winning the History Hero Award at the 2024 Maple Ridge Heritage Awards!

Maple Ridge Museum wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Emil for all the work he has done for us since March 2023. If you attended one of our events or found our tent at a community event, chances are you met Emil. His friendliness and seemingly limitless energy made him a great asset to our team, and his enthusiasm to participate in whatever we had going on was crucial to us being able to attend so many events. Sadly for us, Emil is leaving for Toronto in March. While we are going to miss him dearly, we wish him every success in the future.



Emil and Community Engagement Coordinator Abby having some fun at Pride In the Park, June 3, 2023

MARCH - APRIL 2024

Fred Braches 1930 - 2024

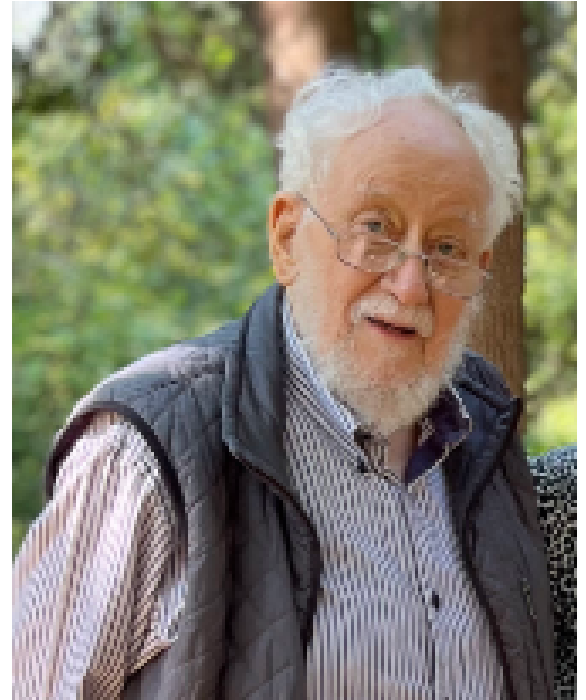
We are very sad to hear that Maple Ridge has lost a great champion of local history. Fred Braches, born October 8, 1930, passed on February 1, 2024 at the age of 93. A resident of Maple Ridge since 1985, Fred took it upon himself to become the voice of Whonnock and Ruskin history. With tireless efforts, he researched, wrote, and campaigned for the history of these Maple Ridge neighbourhoods. He was a voice for preservation and appreciation of our shared past. He published books about the myth of Slumach and the Pitt Lake Gold, Whonnock and Ruskin History, and was a regular contributor to the local paper. He was a member and volunteer with the historical society for many years doing research and editing this newsletter. He has added immeasurable research and knowledge to our community archives.

He was honoured by the City of Maple Ridge with heritage awards four times, with a Heritage Commendation in 2023, History Hero Special Award in 2015, Heritage Achievement Award for History and Heritage Research and Publication in 2006, and a Heritage Achievement Award in 1997.

Fred was a lively, kind, and helpful soul who eagerly worked with the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives to enrich the historical knowledge of the community. To our staff, he was a beloved fixture of the city, always willing to help with requests for information with a twinkle in his eye. Visits from Fred always brightened our day and we looked forward to every email.

The staff at the Museum will dearly miss his positivity and endless energy for heritage. Our deepest condolences go out to his dear wife, Helmi.

Farewell, Fred, you will be fondly remembered.



DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE



Visit the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society's diorama in the museum. On the last Sunday of every month, members of the Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society are present to "talk trains" and operate the Diorama. Model Railroaders are welcome on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings before the last Sunday of the month.

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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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