

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Maple Ridge 150

Maple Ridge 150 series, our story part 3 of 6.

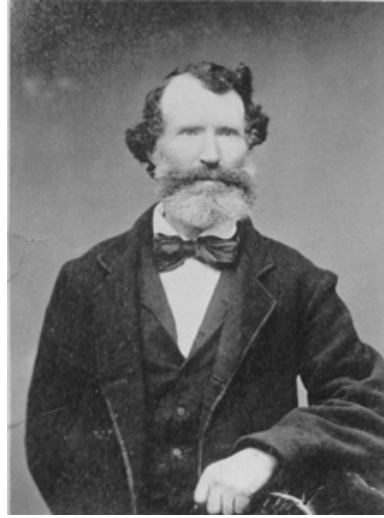
Our story of the founding of Maple Ridge continues with the newly formed government of British Columbia. As British Columbia was being shaped the founders needed to consider the British laws that ruled the way in which lands in British North America could be settled. In 1763 the British Crown issued a Royal Proclamation stating that all land would be considered Indigenous until it was formally ceded in treaty. As Europeans colonized British Americas, treaties ceding land were signed across Canada

as they went. In 1858 gold was discovered in the Fraser Canyon, which triggered a gold rush. Out of fear that American expansionism would spread north, the British government quickly formed the Crown Colony of British Columbia. With this, the Royal Proclamation was ignored and unceded Indigenous lands became British. The Royal Proclamation is enshrined in the 1982 Constitution act, making it a still valid Canadian law.

Shortly after the new British Columbian government passed the pre-emption act which allowed prospectors and settlers to buy tracks of land with the intention of farming and building industry. The goal was to settle the land and turn it into the gem of British culture in the Columbias. It was with this act that the first settlers to Maple Ridge bought their property. The first settlers here were connected to Fort Langley, which was the hub of Settler activity for miles around. The first non-Indigenous settlers were Hawaiian HBC workers known as Kanakas who cleared and cultivated land around the mouth of what would become Kanaka creek. About 20 years later, Samuel Robertson, Robert Robertson, and John McIver became three of the first European settlers to purchase pre-emptions in Maple Ridge. Samuel Robertson purchasing land in the Albion Flats, Robert Robertson in Whonnock and John McIver further west down the Fraser in The Ridge. These Hudson Bay men were quickly followed by retired Royal Engineers and other men and families from Canada brought west with the promise of land. Under the Land Pre-Emption Act, land could be purchased in British Columbia not exceeding 160 acres and a no more than \$2.50 an acre.

With all of the Indigenous lands being parceled out and sold to settlers, the Katzie and Kwantlen were forced to settle, and remain on, reserve lands. While originally larger tracks of land, the early British Columbia government shrunk this reserve land and the lands across Maple Ridge that remain Katzie and Kwantlen reserve lands still stand.

Join us for our next installment of Maple Ridge 150 when we will cover the early years of settlement and the time leading up to the founding of Maple Ridge on September 12, 1874



Samuel Robertson and John McIver, both early settlers to Maple Ridge, 1860's

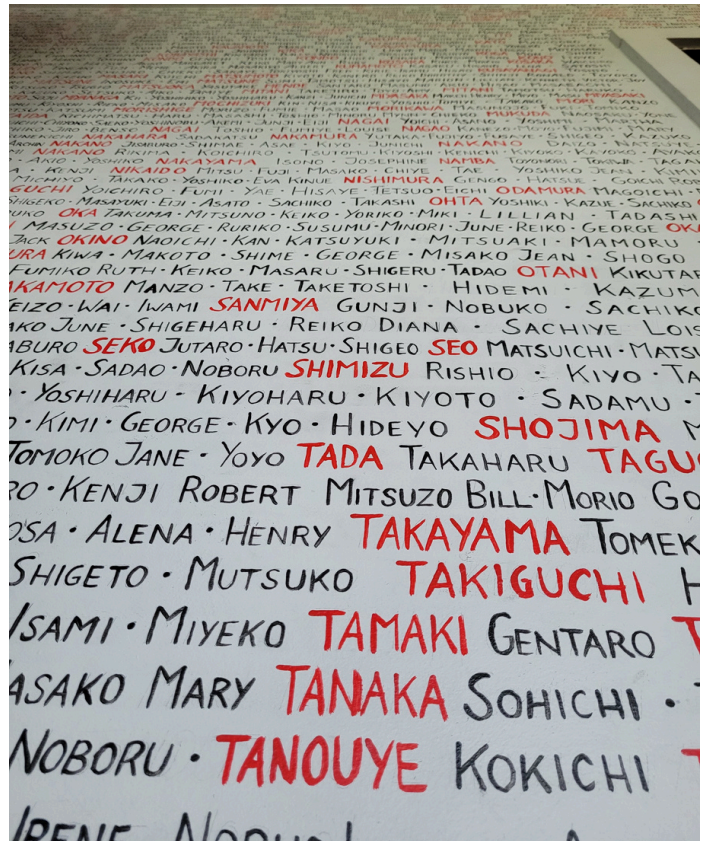


New Lapidary Exhibit Now on Display!

Maple Ridge Museum is proud to present our latest temporary exhibit, 'Legendary Lapidary: Rocks, Crystals, and Minerals in Human Culture'. Created in partnership with the Maple Ridge Lapidary Club, the exhibit explores ways in which rocks and minerals show up in our daily lives, while also showing off the club's impressive collections. Make sure to stop by to see this legendary exhibit while it's still on display!

Japanese Canadian Exhibit Now on Permanent Display

We are delighted to announce that What Was Taken is now officially in its new permanent home in the museum gallery. The exhibit now includes two new objects that were donated to the museum just this year. One of the biggest changes to the exhibit is that the wall of Japanese Canadian surnames now includes (through copious amounts of research) given names and overall is a much more thorough list of all Japanese Canadians living in Maple Ridge at the time of internment.



Exit Archivist, stage left



(P01307)

For the last two and half years, the Community Archives has been under the care of a dedicated, full-time archivist, a first for the institution. Inheriting a large collection accumulating for decades was no easy task, and the archivist did not take this responsibility of managing our records lightly.

Since she joined the team, Gordana has been ambitious. She has taken on the renumbering and reorganisation of records to better enable access, has brought in funding to improve storage capabilities, and dabbled in IT to improve digital storage and provide a more powerful server for the museum and archives. To top it off, the archives space in the old Brickyard Office became publicly accessible for the first time.

The biggest project, however, has been the implementation of the CollectiveAccess digital collections management system, marrying old-fashioned databases together into one interface. This new program, customized by Gordana from the ground up, allows the team to access collections, archival descriptions, and images all from one page. The project required the normalization of data on over 7000 objects, 4000 archival files, and roughly 16,000 photographs. In time, the staff plans to take CollectiveAccess public, granting unprecedented access to our holdings.

But, all good things must come to an end. The role of the archivist was only temporarily funded, and Gordana has now found a different role to sink her teeth into. She will forever be fond of the records and the people she has worked with at the Community Archives, and is eager to see the role funded permanently in the future.

Upcoming Events

Walking Tours

Join Erica Williams, local history expert and president of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, on historic walking tours of Maple Ridge. On the first Saturday of the month learn about Maple Ridge Cemetery, one of the oldest continuously operated cemeteries in the Lower Mainland. On the first Sunday of the month tour the downtown core and learn more about how the city came to be.

Cemetery: May 4, June 1, 2pm
Downtown: May 5, June 2, 2pm

mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours



Art Studio Tour

Each Mother's Day weekend the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Art Studio Tour presents a unique opportunity for the public to visit artists' studios and meet a wide variety of local creatives. The Tour offers insight, increased understanding, and appreciation of visual art practices in Ridge Meadows. 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

Headstone Preservation Project

We are once again looking for locals who value historical preservation to help with the important task of cleaning and maintaining the headstones in our cemeteries.

- **Tuesday, June 11 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**
- **Thursday, July 18 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**
- **Saturday, July 20 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)**
- **Tuesday, August 6 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**
- **Saturday, August 17 9am-12pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**
- **Saturday, September 7 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)**

mapleridgemuseum.org/headstone-preservation-project

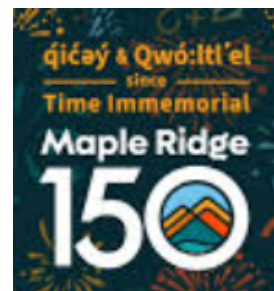
Maple Ridge 150 Events

The City of Maple Ridge is hosting a number of events around the city to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Maple Ridge. You will find us at every event with a display about our municipal history.

May 18 - Albion Neighborhood Event
June 15 - Silver Valley Neighbourhood Event
July 1 - Canada Day Memorial Peace Park
August 10 - Hammond Neighbourhood Event
September 14 - Maple Ridge Birthday Party - Memorial Peace Park

For times and locations visit the City of Maple Ridge Website here:

<https://www.mapleridge.ca/explore-maple-ridge/festivals-events/maple-ridge-150>



March & April Events Review

After a few months with very few events, things started to pick up at the museum. We attended our fourth **Repair Cafe** at Maple Ridge Library with a display of textile mending artifacts. We held our annual **AGM** and enjoyed some delicious food brought by our members. We kicked off festival season with **Earth Day** on April 20. Maple Ridge Museum stepped into a new role at Earth Day this year, coordinating the welcoming ceremony in addition to having a booth. Lastly, the **2024 Tourism Challenge** started on April 20 and over the first two weekends we had over 275 visitors to the museum as part of the challenge.



A close up of our display at Repair Cafe on March 16. This display was curated by Storm, a student of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Museum Lab program.

Upcoming MotM Appearances



MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

May 4 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Haney Farmer's Market

June 8 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Pride in the Park

June 22 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 29 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

July 1 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Canada Day

July 27 - Albion Fairgrounds
Event: Country Fest

August 3 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: Haney Farmer's Market

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

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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