



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Maple Ridge 150

Maple Ridge 150 series, our story part 4 of 6.

Our story of the founding of Maple Ridge continues with the intervening years between the release of Indigenous lands for pre-emption by European settlers and the 1874 official founding of the municipality of Maple Ridge. The years after 1858 were marked by the steady influx of settlers into the area and purchasing of 160-acre plots of land. Much of the information on daily life from this time comes from the memoirs of settlers who were children at the time. In their memoirs they are recounting their own childhood memories or otherwise retelling stories passed down from their parents about the early years. While recounting childhood memories and second or even third hand stories are often imprecise, I do believe that these stories offer a much

richer description of the past than land deeds and census records alone. In the early years, all transportation was either on horseback, on foot, or along the river. The river was the highway and most transportation was done via paddlewheeler, rowboat, or canoe. Three main landings were built along the Fraser River and used in those years, the most prominent being Nelsons landing, which was, on today's grid, at the bottom of Fir Street. This is where paddlewheelers would deliver packages, freight, and people.

Since most of the early settlement took place along the Fraser River, the early settlers lived on land that was still occupied by the Katzie. Accounts of that time note that the Katzie population in the 1860s and 70s was much larger than it would become by the early 1900s. While the Katzie reserve at the time was where it remains today, the Katzie during this time continued to fish, and plant, and live where they had for thousands of years, across Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Settlers in Hammond make many notes of Katzie artifacts and settlements being found across the whole area. The first settlers to the area were primarily farmers, each purchasing large tracts of land to clear and plant crops. The goal with these acreages was to build a profitable farm industry on the rich arable land found in Maple Ridge. In the early years, to sell their crops, these farmers loaded up their row boats and rowed to New Westminster or Langley to sell their produce. This was not a long-term solution however as the ultimate goal was to grow and create a bustling economy closer to home. What was primarily needed for this enterprise therefore were roads. Roads were needed to be able to travel between community with larger loads as well as attract more settlers to purchase land further from the river. Without a formal local government, the sparse settlers of the area couldn't do much to build roads as they were busy with their own farms and families. Therefore, what they needed was formal leadership, and formal governmental recognition to be able to request funds and assistance in growing. So that is exactly what they did. We will continue our exploration of the founding of Maple Ridge in September of 1874.



Rear view of sternwheeler "Onward" along the Fraser, preparing to leave a small dock after loading, 1860s.



The End of an Era... *For Our Old Storage Units*

This June our staff undertook the big project of changing storage units. The Curator is happy to report, with a great sigh of relief, that the transfer is now complete. Our previous storage units were becoming an untenable situation due to rent increases, and poor conditions from a lack of climate and environmental control. Our new units have HVAC, are located inside a building (which will reduce exposure to dirt, pollen, etc.), and even have upgraded security. While it was an extremely tiresome week (moving our oversized objects including a 125lb mortar and pestle from the Mussallems is no easy task), the Curator believes it was all well worth the trouble.

The next task will be organizing our new storage units into working order; a hopefully easier job. Stay tuned for our next newsletter for the final results!

Meet our new summer interns!



Kelsey Sullivan, the archaeological repository assistant, is starting her second summer internship at the museum, having also maintained her position as a museum assistant throughout the school year. Currently in her third year of undergraduate studies at SFU, she is pursuing a degree in archaeology and Indigenous studies. Her passion for archaeology drives her interest in the museum field, where she aims to actively contribute to the preservation of cultural belongings and the history of the community she grew up in. Kelsey is eager to continue learning from museum professionals and contributing to the vital work of the Maple Ridge Museum.

Charlize is joining the Maple Ridge Museum as the Program and Education Assistant Summer Intern. She is currently a third-year student at Simon Fraser University, studying Anthropology and Social Justice in Education. Her decision to work at the museum stems from her desire to deepen her understanding of the community she grew up in and to enhance her skills for her future career in teaching. Charlize's goal for the summer is to help develop and update educational programs and resources that align with upcoming exhibitions or themes. Additionally, Charlize is eagerly looking forward to participating in the various events scheduled for the summer.



Upcoming Events

Music on the Wharf

Join us for the 28th annual Music on the Wharf concert series at the historic Port Haney Wharf.

July 8, 7:30 - Luc LeMans

July 22, 7:30 - Teresa Marie and the Three

August 12, 7:30 - Niki Kennedy

August 26, 7:00 - Duane Watson Band

mapleridgemuseum.org/music-on-the-wharf

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.

Thursday, July 18 5-8pm (MR Cemetery)

Saturday, July 20 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)

Tuesday, August 6 5-8pm (MR Cemetery)

Saturday, August 17 9am-12pm (MR Cemetery)

Saturday, Sept 7 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)

mapleridgemuseum.org/headstone-preservation-project

Fun & Games at MRM

Tour the museum, play some lawn games, and participate in the National Trust selfie contest for a chance to win a prize!

Saturday, July 13 10am-4pm

mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-places-days-at-maple-ridge-museum

Family Yoga

Join us for a fun morning of family yoga with Karen LeSage from Baobab Kids! Enjoy 60 minutes of yoga, then tour the museum and take home a craft kit! Proceeds from this event will go Alisa's Wish.

August 18, 9:30am

\$20 for one parent and one child, additional child \$5

mapleridgemuseum.org/yoga

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 Museum: We have Merch Now!

Show your love for Maple Ridge Museum with some fun merchandise options! This is your chance to get historical Maple Ridge icons like The Beast or one of the dinosaurs from Dyck's Dino Park on a t shirt, tote bag, sticker, or notebook. Best of all, you can choose the style, size, and colour of your shirt and have it shipped directly to you through RedBubble!

redbubble.com/people/mapleridgemuseum/shop



May and June Events Review

May and June are some of our busiest months of the year. We started off May with a day at the **Haney Farmer's Market**, where we promoted our *What Was Taken* exhibit and talked about Japanese Canadian farms. We participated in the **Art Studio Tour** for the first time, welcoming artist Jennie Johnston, who displayed her artwork at Haney House. We attended our first **Maple Ridge 150 Rock the Block** event at Tsuyuki Park.

Throughout May we continued to welcome **Tourism Challenge** participants, and over 1100 people visited the museum by the end of the challenge. Lastly, we started up **Croquet, All Day!** again at Haney House.

In June we participated in **Pride in the Park**, with a display on the history of the word "queer." We were supposed to attend another 150 Rock the Block event, but it was rescheduled due to bad weather. We attended **National Indigenous Peoples Day** with information about Maple Ridge Museum's role as a Katzie First Nation archaeological repository. Our last event on the month was **Canadian Multiculturalism Day**, where we set up in the children's section with plenty of games, along with their histories.



The games display at Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 29 attracted quite a crowd!

Upcoming MotM Appearances



MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

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

August 10 - Hammond Park
Event: **Maple Ridge 150** Rock the Block

August 24 - Blaney Hamlet Park
Event: **Maple Ridge 150** Rock the Block

September 22 - ALLCO Park
Event: Rivers Day

September 29 - Memorial Peace Park
Event: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

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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