



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian History Website in the Works

Interactive online map will explore the family histories of Japanese Canadian families living in Maple Ridge prior to the Second World War.

We are excited to announce that the Maple Ridge Museum is a proud recipient of a coveted Japanese Canadian Legacies Fund grant. These grants are generously funded by the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS). The Museum received \$275,000 in funding for various projects focused on educating the public on the Japanese Canadian community in Maple Ridge prior to the 1942 uprooting and displacement of 22,000 coastal-living Japanese Canadians. Maple Ridge was home



Fraser Valley Agricultural Association directors at Hammond Hall, 1942

to one of the largest populations of Japanese Canadians in all of Canada prior to the war and make up a large part of our local heritage. These funds are going to help us facilitate educating, researching, conserving and preserving the legacy of these valued community members in Maple Ridge.

The JCLS grant will be funding several projects including the museum's latest research project, the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian Family Heritage Map website. Other funds from the project will go to the City of Maple Ridge to support their Japanese Garden project that they were awarded a JCLS grant for in the previous year. These funds will go towards enhancing the Japanese Garden proposed for Jim Hadgkiss Park. The Museum and our staff are very excited to be awarded this grant in order to put together an interactive and searchable website that will serve the many Japanese Canadian Maple Ridge Descendants world wide.

The website will be a cross between an interactive map based on Japanese Canadian land ownership in Maple Ridge and an online database of all of our archival materials related to the Japanese Canadian community. This new website will build on our previous work and package all available resources and information into one place that Japanese Canadian descendants and current Maple Ridge residents alike can easily access and explore.

The project is already underway with website development being contracted out to SplitMango, a web design and development company who has had extensive experience making interactive maps for other local cultural institutions including the Vancouver Heritage Foundation and BC Heritage. We are also happy to announce that, thanks to funding from the JCLS, Tisha Acuña will be working on the project as the new Special Projects Curator. With our team for the project assembled, we are excited to hunker down and start diving into the research. The website is projected to be complete by July 2026.



**JAPANESE
CANADIAN
LEGACIES**

*We gratefully acknowledge support from Japanese
Canadian Legacies Society*

Haney House Changes

Starting this month, Haney House will be changing it's hours of operations to a seasonal basis. We will be open for extended hours in the Summer months (June-Labour Day) and for special events and bookable tours throughout the year. Although it was a difficult decision to make, we simply do not have enough staff to keep both the Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum open throughout the year.



When Haney House became a museum in 1980 after it was donated to the City of Maple Ridge by the Hawley Family, it was in the care of caretakers and eventually a dedicated Haney House curator. Over the years the operations transferred to the Maple Ridge Historical Society and Maple Ridge Museum staff, who eagerly and happy take it on in order to keep the doors open to the public. However, visitors during open hours have become fewer and fewer, with 90% of our visitors coming in through events and booked tours. Our hope with this new schedule is to remain accessible and maintain consistent hours by keeping the Maple Ridge Museum open from Thursday to Sunday, while also acknowledging the limitations of being a small team. To learn more about our special events year round at Haney House or to learn how to book a tour, visit our website, mapleridgemuseum.org.

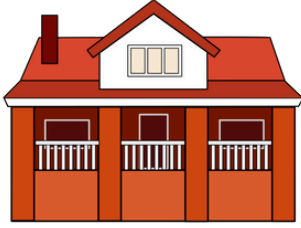
St Andrews Heritage Church



Are you looking for a rental space to hold a small gathering of up to 60 people? Don't forget that the Maple Ridge Historical Society rents out the St Andrews Heritage Church and Hall for group meetings, small gatherings, weddings, celebrations of life, baby showers etc.

Visit our website for rental rates and to see a copy of the rental contract. If you are interested in renting the church for your group our event please contact our Buildings Manager at samantha@maplevalleylandservices.ca

Upcoming Events



Spring Break at Maple Ridge Museum

Visit Maple Ridge Museum for some Spring Break fun! Complete a scavenger hunt while checking out our exhibits and displays, play lawn games, and take a craft and other activities to do at home.

March 20-23 & 27-30, drop-in at Maple Ridge Museum

mapleridgemuseum.org/spring-break

Earth Day Stories: An Interim Exhibit

In partnership with Earth Day: Stories, we invite you to visit Maple Ridge Museum starting April 17 to share your stories: stories of Earth Day, the environment, and of Maple Ridge life. No story is too big or too small. Every story collected will be added to a future online exhibit!



Last Chance to See 'Legendary Lapidary'

Come by before April 6th to see this amazing exhibit!



Time to see this exhibit is quickly running out! This bright and punchy exhibit all about rocks and the art of lapidary was done in partnership with the Maple Ridge Lapidary Club. The exhibit brought some much needed colour and joy to the museum gallery space, and has been a hit with kids and adults alike. A special thank you to Walt Pinder and all of the lapidary club members who contributed their own pieces to the exhibit. 'Legendary Lapidary' would not have been the same without their enthusiasm and knowledge. While we are sad to see this exhibit go, we are excited for the next two exhibits to go up, an interactive environmental exhibit and a partnered exhibit with Katzie First Nation.

You are Invited!



Maple Ridge Historical
Society
**Annual
General
Meeting
& Potluck**
March 27th 6:30pm

Join us for our Annual General Meeting, Thursday **March 27th at 6:30pm at the St Andrews Heritage Church.** We had a fantastic year celebrating the 150th anniversary of Maple Ridge and we want to continue the celebration through a **potluck** evening with our members!

Bring your favourite dish to share and join us to approve the annual report, learn about our accomplishments over the past year, and elect board members. We are also excited to hear a presentation by **Brenda Smith** of the Family History Group on their current research into the Marc Family. We hope you can join us!

Recap of January and February

The first few months of the year are always a little quiet, but that's okay because it gives us time to work on other projects and prepare for the upcoming event season. We attended the annual **Winter Fun Fair** at the Maple Ridge Library in January. We have also had several school tours to keep us busy!

We have been working on creating more programs for different age groups, and in January we presented our brand new preschool-aged presentation, **Puppets to Projectors**, for the first time at a local preschool. This presentation looks at projection and some of the ways people have been entertained at home throughout time - without TVs and tablets.



Children at Little Willows test out ViewMasters during the Puppets and Projectors presentation on January 21.

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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