



# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *A Ridge of Maple*

*A History of the Land Currently Home to the Maple Ridge Golf Course*



This picture captures the transition between the McIver family farm and building of the Maple Ridge Golf course which opened Labour Day 1925. The first club house is visible in the distance. P03765

This spot, situated along the banks of the Fraser River, holds a tremendous amount of history to the past, present, and future people of Maple Ridge. Last year we celebrated, with quite the fanfare, our 150 years since becoming a municipality. That act of a group of early settlers signing our Letters Patent to become a municipality happened on this very spot. John McIver's farm hosted the signing of this act of incorporation, as well as subsequent meetings. That land continued to be the McIver family farm for John McIver who passed the property to his son John Alexander McIver. In May of 1925 John A. was approached Thomas Lawrie, a local golf enthusiast, with a request to lease some of his property for the first golf course in Maple Ridge. The Maple Ridge Golf and Country Club committee was formed an agreement was reached to lease 32, and later 35 acres of the 52 acre McIver farm, to the golf course. On Labour Day of 1925 the Maple Ridge Golf Course was opened. The golf course continued to lease the land from the McIver family until 1978 when the City of Maple Ridge purchased the property from Georgena Gwendolyn McIver, John Alexander's widow.

While the settler history of the site is so important to many, the longest and deepest history of the site is of the Katzie First Nation, past, present, and future. The Katzie have lived on, farmed on, and buried their beloved ancestors on that very ridge for thousands and thousands of years. This piece of land is very important to the Katzie First Nation and people, being so close to the long and heavily populated village centre of Cxwi't, and for having known ancestral burials.

There are many important archaeological and historical spaces around the large municipality of Maple Ridge, but few, if any, are as deep and meaningful to so many of us. Whether the land is a village site, sacred ancestral burial ground, early settler farm, golf course, or whatever the future holds, the most important thing is that none of these uses is forgotten or ignored. Our history is under every step we take, in every building we walk through, and every tree we enjoy the shade under. The past is present at scenic ridge looking over the Fraser River, and always will be.

## ***Updates on the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian Family Heritage Map Website***



While a succinct title for this website project continues to evade us, we are happy to report that the project is otherwise coming along smoothly. SplitMango has been doing a wonderful job with the website design and the wireframes have the whole team excited for the final product.

On the museum side of things, Tisha, Special Projects Curator, Melissa, Curator, and an ever growing team of volunteers have been hard at work, prepping material for the website. Profiles for each of the Japanese Canadian families have been created and linked to their profiles on the Landscapes of Injustice database. We have also started going through our collection of newspapers and high school annuals searching for mentions of members of the Japanese Canadian community. We have already found many entries that we hope will offer descendants some insight into the lives and personalities of their families in Maple Ridge.

Once again, we would like to thank the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society for their generous funding. It is thanks to their support that we are able to undertake such a tremendous research project.

## ***Here of all Places: New Temporary Exhibit***



The 2025 theme for Maple Ridge's Earth Day celebration is Stories: sharing stories creates identity - when we see the world and ourselves reflected back to us, we feel less alone, more confident, and have the courage to act on our beliefs, to hope for a better future, to strive for a better world.

In partnership with Earth Day, we are asking the question: Why here, of all places? Let's face it: Maple Ridge has a bit of a reputation amongst the rest of the Lower Mainland, whether it is deserved or not, and people often have an idea of this place that is not grounded in reality. Maple Ridge is a beautiful place: both physically, and in the diversity of its citizens, and together we can shine a light on the rich history that connects us all. So we ask you, what's your story? What brought you or your ancestors here, to this place?

Stories collected during this exhibit will be added to an online exhibit on the Maple Ridge Museum website at a later date.

## *Upcoming Events*

### *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.

**May 3 2pm - Maple Ridge Cemetery**

**May 4 2pm - Downtown Maple Ridge**

[mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours)

### *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 10 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**

**Thursday July 10 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**

**Saturday July 12 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)**

**Tuesday Aug 5 5-8pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**

**Saturday Aug 16 9am-12pm (Maple Ridge Cemetery)**

**Saturday Aug 23 9am-12pm (Whonnock Cemetery)**

[mapleridgemuseum.org/headstone-preservation-project](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/headstone-preservation-project)

### *Music On The Wharf*

Since 1997, this concert series has taken place on the historic Port Haney Wharf. Every year Maple Ridge Historical Society selects four bands or performers to entertain the residents of Maple Ridge and beyond in a location that is uniquely Maple Ridge. These concerts are free to the public, but donations are welcomed.

**July 14 7:30pm - Curds & Whey**

**July 28 7:30pm - The Shorties**

**August 11 7:00pm - Gift Shop**

**August 25 7:00pm - Janelle Reid**

[mapleridgemuseum.org/events/music-on-the-wharf](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/events/music-on-the-wharf)



### **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.

June 14 - Memorial Peace Park  
Event: Pride in the Park

June 21 - Memorial Peace Park  
Event: National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 28 - Memorial Peace Park  
Event: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

July 1 - Memorial Peace Park  
Event: Canada Day

September 28 - Memorial Peace Park  
Event: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

November 22 - Maple Ridge Library  
Event: Repair Cafe

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

## *Recap of March and April Events and Tours*

We have been particularly busy with tours and presentations lately, for school-aged kids and other groups. In the first quarter of the year we welcomed more visitors to Haney House than we did in all of 2024! We ran our annual **Spring Break** event, which included a scavenger hunt, crafts, and other activities. At the end of April we participated in **Earth Day** and brought the mobile version of our *Here of all Places* exhibit so that festival-goers could participate.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Haney Cub Scouts donated quite a few headstone cleaning supplies to the museum!

## *Thank You 1<sup>st</sup> Haney Cub Scouts!*

Last autumn, the 1<sup>st</sup> Haney Cub Scouts reached out to us because they wanted to do a Headstone Preservation session and a fundraiser as their service project. We sent them a wish list of cleaning supplies.

On April 6 we met at the Maple Ridge Cemetery. We gave the Scouts a quick historical tour of the cemetery, followed by a talk about cleaning headstones. Over the next few hours the group cleaned 80+ headstones in the pouring rain. They used supplies donated from Haney Builders, Home Depot, and Princess Auto, which they then donated to the museum.

We thank the 1<sup>st</sup> Haney Cub Scouts for their hard work at the cemetery, as well as their advocacy for the museum and museum programs.

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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