



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Val Patenaude



Val Patenaude, Sheila Nickols and Daphne Sleight at Haney House. All of the former leaders of the Maple Ridge Museum.

We are saddened to say that we have lost a champion, giant, and friend in Val Patenaude. Val passed away on May 16th after a short illness. Her loss has come as a shock to us at the Historical Society and Museum. Val began working at the Maple Ridge Museum in 1991 as its first paid employee. Taking on the reigns from Sheila Nickols, her long time friend and mentor, Val dove in head first. She brought with her a love of history and local heritage through her work as an archaeologist in the local area. Through the years she gained the respect of the community and all of those she worked with. Her legacy is particularly felt here at the museum through all of the students, volunteers, and young employees whom she mentored. When she retired she had worked at the museum for 27 years, bringing it from a small volunteer run museum to a registered charity not-for-profit and treasured community partner. She was always humbly there with her enormous wealth of knowledge and was always happy to share it. We would like to encourage anyone with memories of Val to share them with us by sending them to info@mapleridgemuseum.org. We are compiling these memories and remembrances of her and will be creating a memorial page for her on our website where people can come and remember her and her contribution to local heritage.

Remembering Val

The following is a remembrance from our current Executive Director, Shea Henry.

"When I stepped into Val's shoes as executive director of the museum I knew going in that they were enormously large and I would never be able to fit them. Five years into the position that remains the case. Val Patenaude gave her passion and wisdom to the Maple Ridge Museum & Archives for 27 years and her legacy here is felt each and every day. Val was the heart, soul, and knowledge keeper of this place, though she would deny it. She was forever humble about her depth of knowledge and the sheer accomplishments that she achieved in her time leading the museum. She brought this organization from a single volunteer run local museum to a thriving charity not for profit that is a fixture of the community. She was always straightforward, honest, and endlessly generous with her knowledge and skills. I worked for Val for several years before taking on her position when she retired. Working for Val was a privilege, and I will never forget the lessons she taught me. I always admired how strong she was and how easy it seemed for her to stand up to people and stand up for heritage. She was my mentor, my teacher, and my friend and I will miss her very much." - Shea



Val at Heritage Tea event



Val Patenaude and Don Merkley at the Maple Ridge Cemetery gate dedication ceremony.



Val leading a tour of the Cemetery

Introducing our Summer Staff

If you stop by Maple Ridge Museum or Haney House this summer, you're likely to see this year's summer staff. We are excited to welcome Charlize, Gurnoor, and Sophia to the team. Without our seasonal staff, it would be impossible to have the Haney House Museum open in addition to the Maple Ridge Museum and our regular events. When they aren't greeting visitors, our Museum Assistants are hard at work on various projects such as archival research for our Traces of Home project, object photography for our collections, and of course providing event support.



Updates on the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian Family Heritage Map Website

We are happy to announce that the project formerly known as the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian Family Heritage Map Website has finally been renamed to a more succinct title; Traces of Home.

Tisha, our Special Projects Curator, and an ever growing team of volunteers have been hard at work searching through the archives to find any mention 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.



Upcoming Events

Music On The Wharf

Join us for the 29th annual Music on the Wharf concert series at the historic Port Haney Wharf.

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

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 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

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!

Sunday July 13 10am-4pm

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

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.

July 5 2pm - Maple Ridge Cemetery

July 6 2pm - Downtown Maple Ridge

mapleridgemuseum.org/historic-walking-tours



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.

July 1 - Memorial Peace Park

Event: Canada Day

September 28 - Memorial Peace Park

Event: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 21 - Maple Ridge Library

Event: Volunteer Fair

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

We Have Merch!

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

Recap of May and June Events and Tours

Summer is always the busiest time for events, and even though we have stepped back a little to allow ourselves more breathing room, we still found ourselves all over the place. In May we attended the **Children and Family Resource Fair** at the library for the first time, encouraging people to contribute to our Here of all Places exhibit. We have been very busy with **school presentations** lately, speaking of general Maple Ridge history, as well as Japanese Canadian history. We had another **Cub Scout group** join us for a Headstone Preservation session; this time it was the 1st Laityview Scouts. They also visited the museum a couple weeks later as part of their annual **Amazing Race**.

June started off with our monthly **walking tours**. We had our first **Headstone Preservation Project** session, working in the second section of Maple Ridge Cemetery. We went to **Pride in the Park**, bringing our mobile Here of all Places display. We attended **National Indigenous Peoples Day** and talked about archaeological repositories and what to do if you find archaeological materials on your property. Lastly, we attended **Canadian Multiculturalism Day** with our lawn games and handouts of different outdoor games from around the world.



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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