

# ***MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

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## ***The Maple Ridge Buddhist Temple***

*Heritage Building at Risk of Destruction*



Maple Ridge Buddhist Temple after it was built in 1933. BC Archives b-01020

Once again, an important and culturally rich heritage building is under threat of destruction. I can guarantee that you have driven by the Maple Ridge Buddhist Temple, built in 1933, countless times and have no idea that you did. That is because the building today is a liquor store. Like so many of the Japanese Canadian legacies here in Maple Ridge, buildings, parks, orchards, etc. were all dispossessed from their owners in the Second World War. The Internment of Japanese Canadians forcibly removed at least 35% of the Maple Ridge population, completely changing our community forever.

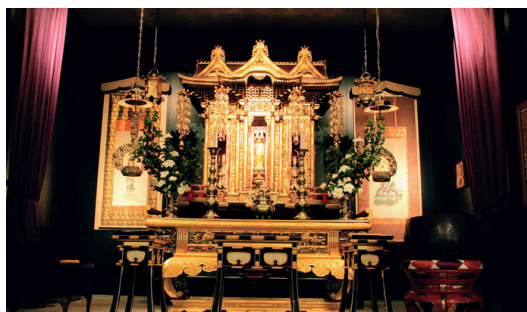
One of the many physical features left by this vital community was the first and only Buddhist Temple. The temple was hand built by master carpenter Shiro Koga and his assistants Enji Ariza, Tetsujiro Takashima and many volunteers, such was the importance of the building. A beautiful shrine, sent from Japan, was installed in the temple as the focal point of worship. The building acted as a place of worship, school, and community space for hundreds within the Japanese Canadian population. It served the Buddhist community for the next ten years, and would have continued on serving, but for internment.



Young men and women's society posing in front of the Buddhist Temple where they held meetings, 1937. P01365

When all of the parishioners and temple leaders were interned away from the coast they were sent to the interior of BC, Alberta, and Manitoba. The Canadian government did not allow Japanese Canadians to return to the coast until 1949, and the Maple Ridge Council had decided during the war that even when the war was over the Japanese Canadian community would never be welcomed back. They also decided that all Japanese property in custodian care, including the Buddhist Temple, should be sold so that the Japanese Canadian community would have nothing to come back to. After years of appeals by the last serving temple Reverend, Yutetsu Kawamura, was finally able to collect the shrine and moved it to the community where he had been interned in Winnipeg. The shrine remains in the Manitoba Buddhist Temple to this day.

In 1955 the trustees of the building were finally able to sell the property and it became a Christian Church. In the 1970s it was sold to become a private leisure center, and then in the 1980s heavily renovated to become a series of pubs and eventually today the Office Liquor Store. Beginning in late 2024 a committee of dedicated volunteers have taken it upon themselves to save this building when it was learned that the property is up for re-development. The ultimate goal of the group is to revitalize the building and return its dignity by making it a public space again. What we need to make this goal happen is a location to move the building, off private and developing property. The best possible solution would be to move the building onto private land where it can be renovated and made into a public space. If you are able to help save this building please get in touch with the museum, [info@mapleridgemuseum.org](mailto:info@mapleridgemuseum.org).



Maple Ridge Buddhist Temple shrine today, installed in the Winnipeg Buddhist Temple since 1951.

## *Upcoming Events*



### ***The Dead of Night: Paranormal Investigations at Haney House***

Just in time for Halloween, Cornerstone Supernatural and the Maple Ridge Museum bring you an eerie evening of fun at the Haney House. On this 1.5 hour long tour, you will explore the darker side of Haney House's history with a professional paranormal investigation team. Learn about their tools and techniques, and even try them for yourself, while discovering which spirits are lurking within the walls of this old building.

**Friday October 3 and Saturday October 4**  
**Tours begin every 1/2 hour between 6pm and 9pm**  
**\$30 per ticket**

**\*\*Tickets are limited! Gets yours today!\*\***

[mapleridgemuseum.org/ghosthunting](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/ghosthunting)

### ***Apple Harvest Festival***

Celebrate Culture Days and visit Haney House to enjoy all things apples to celebrate the harvest and Maple Ridge's apple-growing history!

Tours · Samples · Demonstrations · Crafts · Lawn Games

**September 21 11am-2pm · Haney House Museum**

[mapleridgemuseum.org/apple-fest](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/apple-fest)

### ***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.

**September 6 2pm - Maple Ridge Cemetery**  
**September 7 2pm - Downtown Maple Ridge**

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

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](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/motm)



## *Recap of July and August Events and Tours*

We certainly kept ourselves busy this summer! We started July with our annual appearance at **Canada Day**. Erica led our monthly **walking tours** at the Maple Ridge Cemetery and Downtown. We invited people to the museum for **Summer Family Fun** and encouraged them to participate in Historic Places Days. **Music on the Wharf** was incredibly successful this year; we hosted three new acts, as well as one returning favourite, and the concerts were enjoyed by approximately 800 people. We hosted four more **Headstone Preservation Sessions** two at Maple Ridge Cemetery and two at Whonnock Cemetery; a fifth session at Maple Ridge Cemetery was cancelled due to rain. Lastly, we kept ourselves busy at Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House with many visitors and several scheduled tours.



Left: Our Summer Students, Charlize, Sophia, and Gurnoor at Canada Day

Top Right: Gift Shop play to a large crowd at Music on the Wharf, August 11

Bottom Right: Volunteers clean headstones at Maple Ridge Cemetery on July 10

## ***Heritage Awards Returning 2026 Save the Date!***

The Maple Ridge Heritage Awards are a long standing tradition intended to honour community members who have gone above and beyond in their research, volunteerism, and educational efforts for our local heritage. Since 1996 the City of Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission has managed these awards and it has become a staple of the community during February's Heritage Week. However, as you may know, in December of 2025 the Community Heritage Commission was dissolved and new council advisory committees were established. Due to this restructuring, the 2025 awards will not take place.

Because Heritage no longer has a dedicated advisory council, the City of Maple Ridge and the Maple Ridge Museum & Archives will be jointly holding the 2026 Heritage Awards. The awards will take place during heritage week, **February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Albion Community Centre**. Nomination forms will come out in early November so start thinking about those individuals, projects, and organizations who have gone above and beyond to honour our past!



### 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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