



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2017





Maple Ridge Historical Society

www.mapleridgemuseum.org.

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mrmuseum@gmail.com

Executive

President	Erica Williams
Vice President	Sandra Ayres
Treasurer	Mike Davies
Secretary	Julie Koehn
Past President	Faye Isaac

Directors at Large

Dick Sutcliffe
Sheila Nickols

Standing Committees

- Operations
- Family History
- Programs: Heritage Tea and Music on the Wharf

Museums Staff

Executive Director	Val Patenaude
Curator	Allison White
Community Engagement Coordinator	Alison Pocock
Building Manager	Tom Little
Webmaster	Andrea Lister
Accountant	Luba King
Curatorial Archival assistants	Kaity Neff Sarah Davies Jessica Hyde Kaiden Gartry
Summer students	Kaity Neff Jessica Hyde Sarah Davies Kaiden Gartry
LAC TIMES project grant	Laura Dickson

Cover: P13914: "Human-powered automobile race" on 224th Street from 119th to McIntosh and back. It was publicity for the Fall Fair. The vehicles were stripped -out VW Beetles with no running gear or engines. August 4, 1976. [MRMCA Gazette Negative Collection]

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

17 March 2017 6:30 PM St Andrew's Church Hall



1. **Adoption of agenda** | Moved by Mike Davies, sec by Sandra Ayres
2. **Minutes of 2016 AGM & motion to accept** | Moved by Mike Davies, sec by Sheila Nickols
3. **Reports**
 - a. *President's report* – Erica Williams: Erica acknowledged that we are maintaining our visibility in the public, and hope to build up membership and rebuild our brand. She thanked volunteers for their support during the year. She then presented the President's report as included in the 2016 Annual Report.
 - b. *Operations Committee Report* – Mike Davies: Mike outlined the FFS with the City and how the Operations Committee works. He mentioned the museums negotiations with the City, and our increase in funding. He discussed the ongoing issues with the Wharfinger Office (graffiti and vandalism), but mentioned the downtown business association (BIA) pledge to help repaint the office if/when it is vandalised. He thanked Tom Little and the city for their assistance during the year. He then presented the Operations Committee report as included in the 2016 Annual Report.
 - c. *Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House reports* – Val Patenaude: Val thanked museum staff for their support during the year. Val noted the return of the school tour program, and how that boosted attendance. She mentioned our growing social media presence and how widely the information shared on each platform is reaching the public. Val then presented the MRM and HH reports as presented in the 2016 Annual report.
 - d. *Membership report* – Val Patenaude: Val mentioned how successful the mail campaign for membership renewal was, and however overall donations are up over \$4,000 from last year. She noted however, that membership has stayed the same level, but how it would be nice to have an increase in individual members.
 - e. *Program Committee* – Allison White: Allison thanked the Program Committee for their help in planning for Music on the Wharf and Heritage Tea. Noted the success of donations at MOTW, helped



to bridge the gap in expenses from the Heritage Tea. Allison then presented the report as included in the 2016 Annual Report.

- f. *Family History Committee report* – Brenda Smith: Brenda talked about how the Family History monthly meeting has changed to the Fraser Room at Maple Ridge Library due to increased attendance, thanking the partnerships formed to bring about a wide audience, and for Yvonne Chui’s role in helping them to secure space at the library. She explained how they are a resource for the library. She then presented the report as included in the 2016 Annual Report.
- g. *Treasurer’s Report and Annual Financial Statements* – Mike Davies: Mike summarized the report and explained how grants fluctuate. He mentioned our new bookkeeper, Luba King. He then presented the Treasurer’s Report as included in the 2016 Annual Report. (Moved by Alan Woodland, seconded by Sandra Ayres.)

4. Election of Board members:

Val Patenaude presented the current list of MRHS Board for re-election as all had agreed to stand for another year; Faye Isaac, Mike Davies, Sheila Nickols, Dick Sutcliffe, Erica Williams, Julie Koehn and Sandra Ayres. Executive positions to be determined at the first board meeting.

Moved by Craig Speirs, seconded by Brenda Smith

5. Adjournment of formal meeting

Moved by Dick Sutcliffe, seconded by Sandra Ayres

Attendance



Voting Members

Dick Sutcliffe	Director
Mike Davies	Treasurer
Sandra Ayres	Director
Brenda Smith	Member
Sheila Nickols	Director
Dick Middleton	Member
Erica Williams	President
Julie Koehn	Secretary
David Koehn	Member
Patricia Woodland	Member
Alan Woodland	Member
Val Patenaude	Executive Director
Craig Speirs	Member/City Council

Voting member total: 13

Guests

Yvonne Chui	City Liaison
Don Cramb	Sr. Recreation Manager, City of Maple Ridge

Staff

Allison White	Museum Curator
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President's Report

ON BEHALF OF THE MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY I would first like to acknowledge the efforts of all the volunteers, our representatives on the Community Heritage Commission and museum staff who work to expand and promote our understanding of this great community of Maple Ridge. Your valuable time spent helping to spread the word about our unique history is greatly appreciated. You have continued to work hard this past year to increase our presence and engagement with other community groups, and thus increase the community's awareness of how important our role is in understanding our complex history.

There was some disappointment that progress was again stalled on developing new and more accessible facilities within the downtown core and becoming a leader in terms of community museums. However in the end I think that was probably a good move as the community was trying to rush a project through. However more important in the short term is the desperate need to greatly improve our storage capabilities from two off-site lockers and a steel shipping container with no temperature or climate control into a facility that respects our artifacts, our history and models best practice.

On behalf of the Historical Society I want to thank the City of Maple Ridge for beginning the process of repairing Haney House with first the new roof and now the doors and windows replacement to bring the outer shell of the building up to standard.

As I continue to explore the world of other museums I am always struck by their passivity through collections of objects. For example I visited the Royals BC Museum in Victoria a couple of times this past year and was struck by how static and single focus were the displays that hadn't changed since my first visit many decades ago. How many young people today know anything about the workings of the kitchen tools used by their grandparents for example. A display on the end of the ice age said nothing about how that series of events changed the landscape of the Province.

After 12 years of traditional schooling students typically end up with little or no understanding of their community's story. It therefore becomes even more important that we continue to expand our outreach and community events to increase the public awareness of the history of the third oldest community since British Columbia became a province. If you want to become more involved in promoting the stories of this great community please get in touch with us through the museum.

Erica Williams. President

Museum Operations



Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

OUR SPRING BREAK EVENT started off our year at Haney House with “Monster Sunday”, which had 35 children in attendance. Visitors were treated to crafts, a scavenger hunt and the spring tour of Haney House was “The Art of Storytelling” which showcased felt stories, and paper dolls.

In May the Maple Ridge Museum participated in Vancouver Attractions 17th Annual Tourism Challenge. This was not only a team-building exercise for our staff and volunteers, but also a way to connect to a tourism market that had escaped us in the past. Over the 5 weeks of the challenge, we had 950 people through the museum!

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who helped us cover open hours during those weeks, especially to DARS for coming on Wednesdays and Fridays, too. The majority of visitors were engaged in the space, asked questions and we also gave out our rack cards to other smaller museums, and even hotels. We learned a lot from participating this year, and ways to improve for next year.

In the summer of 2017 we welcomed back students Kaitly Neff and Sarah Davies to the museum(s), along with new hires, Jessica Hyde and Kaiden Gartry.

All our summer student positions are made possible through Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs.

Once again we commenced the summer season with annual Canada Day celebrations, this year celebrating Canada 150 in Memorial Peace Park. On display was a variety of touchable artifacts highlighting indoor and outdoor entertainment in Maple Ridge.



Staff outside Haney House



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

In July, we did a cemetery clean-up, and completed data entry on an unrecorded section of the Maple Ridge Cemetery. Also at the end of July the students installed their individual displays at the library. Topics were; recycling, history of naming, and radio and television.

Over the summer and fall, we worked with several volunteers to do a headstone check of cemeteries 4 and 5 while board member Sandra Ayres did an extraordinary amount of work to take advantage of new resources in BC Vital Statistics to fill out our understanding of the people buried in our cemetery.

For the first time this year we ran a new summer event called “Painting in the Park” at the museum, aimed as a family drop-in. It involved an outdoor paint craft, along with tours of the museum and diorama. After receiving positive feedback, we hope to continue to run this event again next summer.

At **Haney House** phase one of BC 150 renovations started, with a new roof kicking things off. Throughout July and August new cedar shakes were installed, starting the process of securing the envelope of the house. The second phase, the installation of new windows and exterior doors started in February of 2018.

We also hosted staff, volunteers and board members from the Roedde House Museum in August at Haney House. This was part of the small-museum house network, and continues to provide important connections to other similar sized museums throughout metro Vancouver.



Over September 19-20, 2017, a wallpaper paper investigation was done at Haney House, carried out by conservator Simone Vogel-Horridge, who had done preliminary testing in 2016. The goal of the investigation was to help date the older wallpaper found in the house, and also establish original paint colours throughout the house.

Work was carried out by Simone, with assistance from caretaker, Tom Little, MRHS board member Dick Sutcliffe and curator Allison White through removing drywall, door casings, door plates, climbing into the attic, crawlspace and looking in all of the metal vent-caps. The final report on the investigation will be issued in March of 2018, which will inform curatorial changes to the inside of Haney House.

In September, we were also able to start our project to organize and make accessible the TIMES negative collection, donated by Black Press Media during 2015. With a grant from Library and Archives Canada [LAC] as part of their

Museum Operations



Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

Documentary Heritage Communities Project, we were able to hire Laura Dickson to complete the securing and organization of the collection and begin the scanning process. The LAC project will continue until March of 2018.

Closing out the year at Haney House, our Hallowe'en Event, Eat, Drink & Be Scary drew in a good crowd this year; 35 kids were in attendance, along with their parents partaking in crafts, a scavenger hunt and tour of the museum. With both this event, and the spring break event we continue to break even, and draw in new families to Haney House.

Collection Processing

We had 18 lots of accessions in 2017, up 4 from the previous year.

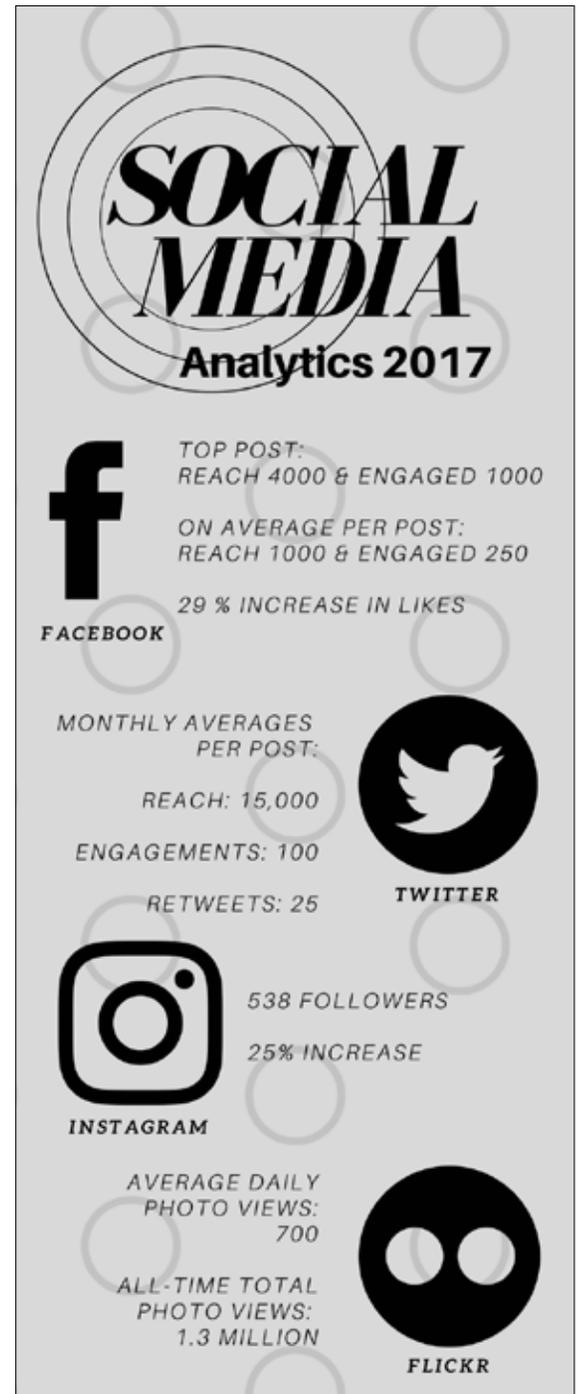
We also added to our teaching collection, with some household items along with textiles (quilts) that showcase different types of sewing, and also a lesson in thrift. We continue to add to our technology collection, and are still on the look-out for various mobile technology (cell phones) to make this a more rounded lot.

Archives Processing

We had 12 lots of accessions in 2017, up 2 from the previous year.

There were some real gems this year. One lot included the 1913 to 25 minute books for the Ladies Aid Society for Hammond Presbyterian Church. The extent to which that small group of women supported their church and community was extraordinary and without having those minutes, their contributions would be lost to history.

As people "downsize" to move to smaller premises, we continue to benefit. People are being thoughtful about things like old records and contacting us to see what we might like. Bill Archibald, who has been so involved in our community for so many years, has been a wonderful donor of memorabilia and records relating to the many hats he has worn.





Maple Ridge Ridge Museum & Haney House Statistics



Painting in the Park
Family Drop-In at Maple Ridge Museum
Saturday July 29
 \$5/child, parents free
 12pm - 3pm
 Games, Crafts, Tours

 **MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM**
 & COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House	2015	2016	2017
Adult Admissions	1,065	912	1,665
Child Admissions	250	564	720
Off-site Events Attendance	2,160	2,500	2,580
Volunteer Hours*	668	932	1,311

*The increase in hours in 2017 is largely due to the incredible research efforts of the Family History Group in exploring the Pope family and from several major time-donors who worked on a massive upgrade of our cemetery database.

Maple Ridge Ridge Museum & Haney House Statistics



MONTH	OUTREACH	TOURS	PRESENT- ATIONS	DISPLAYS	COMMUNITY EVENTS
2017.01	School tour: Albion Elementary; Looking Back column	1			
2017.02	Heritage Week display at library – “Our Earliest Days”; Cemetery Tour & Downtown Tour [Erica Williams]; Looking Back column [2]	2		1	
2017.03	March Break Event “Monsters!” at Haney House; School tour: Yennadon; Presentation to Meadow Ridge Rotary; Looking Back column.	1	1		1
2017.04	Heritage Tea; MRSS Career Day; Speaking of Art & History event: Michael Kluckner; Earth Day; Environmental School teacher tour; Lower Mainland Tourism Challenge	1	2	1	5
2017.05	Lower Mainland Tourism Challenge; Presentations: SD42 Pro D Day, Laityview Elementary, and Meadow Ridge Rotary; Thomas Haney tour; Looking Back column [2]	1	3		1
2017.06	“History Goes to Market”; Kanaka Creek Elementary in-class presentation		1	1	1
2017.07	Canada Day; Music on the Wharf [2]; Library display; Cemetery Clean-up; Kids Camp tours; Seniors Tour; Art in the Park drop-in program at MRM; Looking Back column.	4		1	5
2017.08	Music on the Wharf; Summer Student library display; Haney House tour for other “house museums” staff; Looking Back column.	1		1	2
2017.09	Rivers Day; Looking Back column [2]			1	1
2017.10	Halloween at Haney House; Culture Days – Antique Toys; Speaking of Art & History – Brian Croft; Tours: Eric Langton, Garibaldi Grade 10, and Langley Church; Presentation for Webster’s Corner’s whole school; Looking Back column	3	2		3
2017.11	Upstairs Library displays; Looking Back column [2]			4	
2017.12	Christmas library display; Staff trip to Roedde House; Social Studies Teachers tour	1		1	
TOTAL		15	9	11	19



Operations Committee Report

THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE is responsible for overseeing, on behalf of the Society, the execution of the Operating Grant from the City of Maple Ridge and the upkeep, maintenance and operation of St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall, the Old Post office, and the Wharfinger's office.



St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available for rent and is regularly used as a meeting place by a number of community groups while the Old Post Office has a single renter. A full rate schedule is available from the Maple Ridge Museum or online at: www.mapleridgemuseum.org.

The Wharfinger's Office, located on the Port Haney Wharf, is used during the society's Music on the Wharf summer concert series.

Buildings Manager, Tom Little, looks after the renting and maintenance of the facilities. The only infrastructure project undertaken during 2017 was the replacement of the chairs and tables at the heritage church hall facility which hadn't been done for 25 years. The majority of the year's works related to the ongoing maintenance for the buildings with Tom Little managing or completing the work. The remaining 2017 infrastructure dollars will be carried forward to accumulate for future projects.

The Historical Society continued to rent the two storage units that were secured in 2012.

The Historical Society works closely with the City of Maple Ridge to assist in maintaining the other buildings we occupy and operate.

I would like to thank the Operations Committee members, Val Patenaude, our Buildings Manager, Tom Little and the City of Maple Ridge staff for their hard work and support through 2017.

Mike Davies

Membership Report



AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2017, the Society had a membership of:

- 61 Individual Members
- 21 Family Memberships (eligible for up to two votes)
- 3 Life members, most of whom make a donation each year.
- 3 Organizational/Business Memberships [\$120]

The total is equivalent to 106 individual members, with a modest increase of 6 members over last year. We have reached the point where only about 25 of our newsletters are still mailed, the rest being delivered digitally. However, in 2016, we reinstated the practice of sending out a membership renewal reminder to the whole list continues to result in more and faster renewals and more donations. PayPal is an option chosen by more people each year.

In addition to membership fees, members donated a total of \$3,015. Our total income from membership for 2017 was \$1,595 for a combined total of \$4,610 – an increase of \$567 over the previous year.

While we have vastly increased the number of people we reach through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, it is not translating to paid subscriptions.



Val Patenaude



Program Committee Report

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

2017 Concert Series on Port Haney Wharf

July 10
The Kwerks- 7:30 PM

July 24
Bruce James Orchestra- 7:30 PM

August 14
The Palomars- 7:30 PM

August 28
Kailyarders- 7:00 PM



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KIWANIS CLUB

MAPLE RIDGE PITT MEADOWS ARTS COUNCIL

Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge

Music on the Wharf

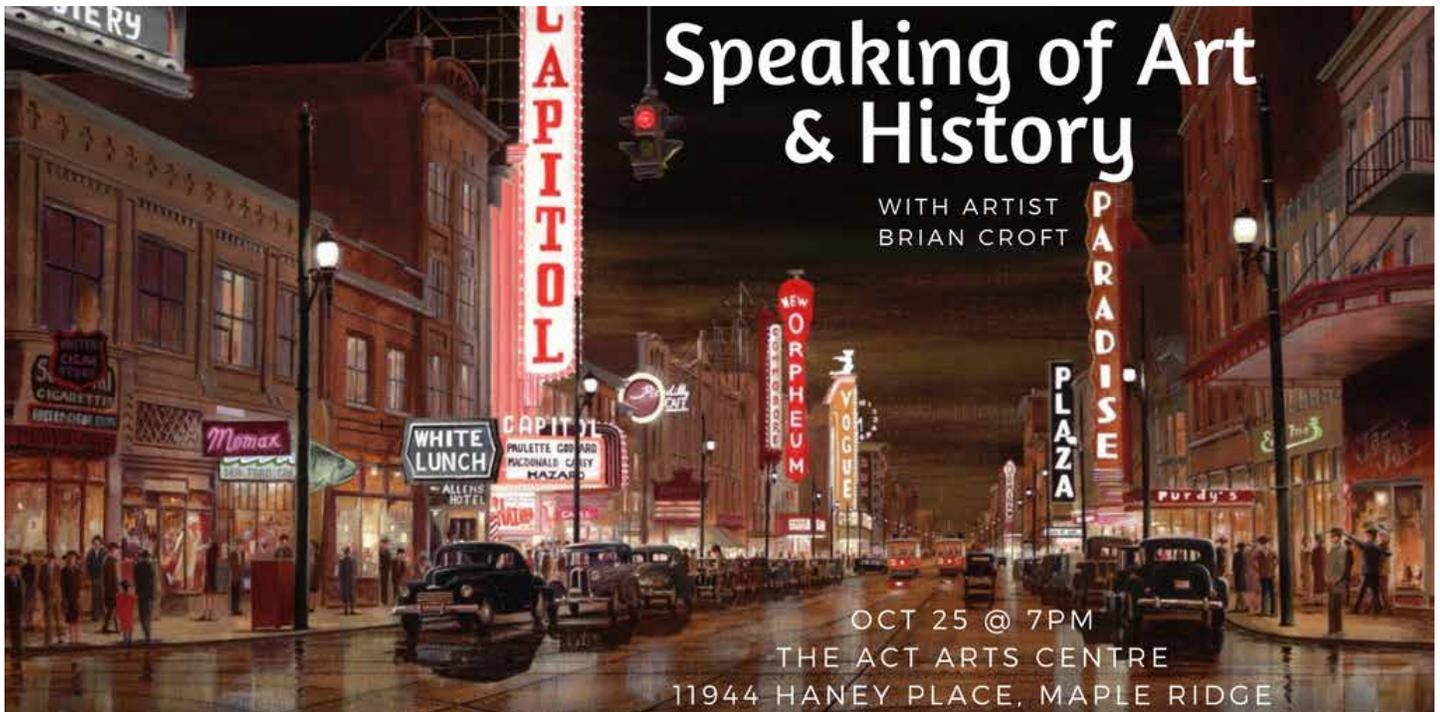
An upswing in attendance and overall interest was paid to our concert series in 2017. Over 50 applicants applied, with only 4 spots to fill. The committee had the hard task of choosing which bands to play, but were thankful for the variety.

Each band is paid \$500 for their performance. Donations from the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, The ACT Member Grant, and City of Maple Ridge Festival grant went to pay the cost of performers, insurance, outdoor washrooms and advertising. Also, donations from people attending the concerts brought in \$1865.15, which was up over \$400 from last year. We are thankful for a very generous year, which helps to offset years with inclement weather, where we still have to pay artists fees.

All four concerts were well attended, averaging 275 per concert.

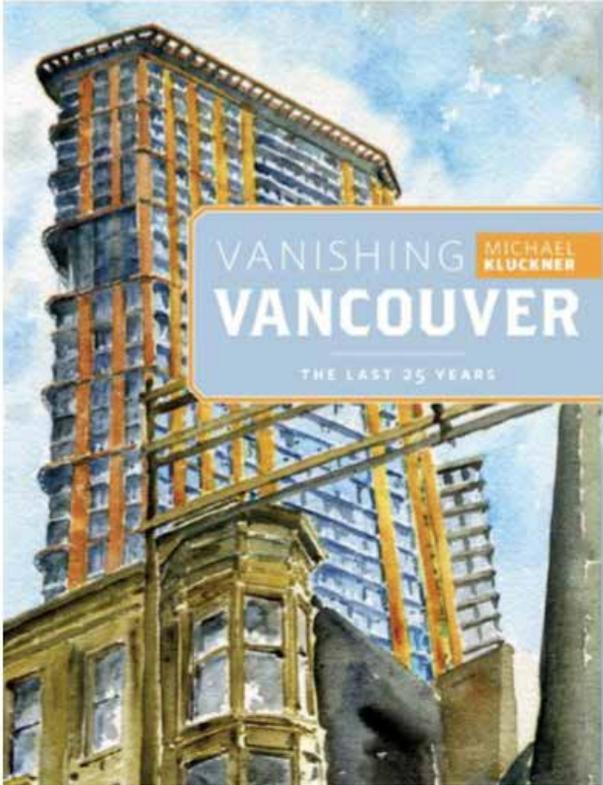
Speaking of Art & History

WITH ARTIST BRIAN CROFT



OCT 25 @ 7PM
THE ACT ARTS CENTRE
11944 HANEY PLACE, MAPLE RIDGE

Program Committee Report



**SPEAKING
OF ART &
HISTORY**

**Artist and Author
Michael Kluckner**

**Vanishing
Vancouver: The
Last 25 Years**

**Thursday, April
13th @ 7pm**



Speaking of Art & History

This was our second year doing a speakers series at The ACT Arts Centre, and it highlights the intersections between art and history.

Our first speaker on April 13 was MICHAEL KLUCKNER – artist, writer, and current president of the Vancouver Historical Society. He spoke of his history creating watercolour paintings of both the loved and the unloved of Greater Vancouver’s aging buildings. He told us about some more recent work he had been doing on the Japanese internment, including a graphic novel about a Japanese teen who was interned with her family in the BC interior.

For our second event on October 25, we had BRIAN CROFT a former fighter pilot with the Canadian Forces, residing in Langley, B.C. Today he is a widely recognized artist whose work emanates from the beautiful locales surrounding the lower mainland. His talk, “An Artistic Approach to History” had over 40 people in attendance. He has introduced a historical and heritage perspective into his work which has become the focal element and trademark of his various collections.



Program Committee Report

Heritage Tea

Our Heritage Tea on April 1st, 2017 at the Ridge Meadows Senior's Centre attracted 87 people in attendance, which was down over 35 people from 2016. This left us with a \$498.64 deficit, as it cost \$1368.64 to run the event.

After much careful thought and consideration, the historical society has decided to cancel the annual Heritage Tea. The very first tea took place on March 27, 1993 at St. Andrew's United Church. The nostalgic tone was set with a vintage light blue 1947 Mercury car, which was parked outside of the church to welcome guests, while the tea was open to members of the community who had lived in Maple Ridge before 1945. Throughout its 25 year run, the teas provided residents with a chance to see old friends and reminisce about how the community had changed.

However, during the past few years due to lower attendance, the rising costs for space and food has made the tea increasingly more expensive to manage. As such, we feel it's important to hit pause and reflect on how to better serve the community. The tea may be reborn in the coming years, in a different capacity, but for now we are saying goodbye to an old friend. With a very big thank-you to all of the volunteers and residents who helped make this event such a great success for the past two decades!



Canada Day



Visitors to the museum booth at Canada Day were able to try out vintage toys like this Viewmaster.



The Canada Day cake cutting team, from left; MLA Bob D'Eith, MLA Lisa Beare, Mayor Nicole Read, MP Dan Ruimy and Katzie First Nation Chief Susan Miller.



Maple Ridge Family History Group Report

The Maple Ridge Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Maple Ridge Library. The group has an average regular attendance of between 15 and 20 members at meetings.

Meetings are generally informal and include: upcoming programs and events of interest to members, updates on individual research, discussion about breaking down brick walls, celebration of research “finds”, and a short program.

Our popular monthly short program varies from having guest speakers and presentations to topics that challenge members to delve into their family histories and research to answer questions posed. Topics have included: computer safety, history of the ALLCO Infirmary, interpreting DNA results, research trip to England, and researching an American Revolution ancestor.

The Family History Group attended family history conferences: Abbotsford Stake Family History Day in May and Surrey Stake Finding Your Roots 2017 in October. The group had displays at both conferences. Several members have been guest speakers at these conferences and have presented on a variety of topics.

The group maintains three display cases in Maple Ridge Library with changing displays.

A monthly newsletter is produced and is accessed online through the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives website. Members contribute to the newsletter with articles they have written on topics of interest. The newsletter is shared on a reciprocal arrangement with a number of genealogical societies within the province.

In 2016, the group undertook research into Edmund Pope and his family. Edmund Pope was the first Police Constable in Maple Ridge. His contributions to the municipality however went far beyond law enforcement. He was also the Cemetery Commissioner, a path master, issuer of licenses for a variety of fees and services, and in general a valuable and valued member of Maple Ridge. Myths were dispelled and a fuller picture emerged of the family’s contributions, the loss of their son in World War I, their donation of land to St John the Divine Church, as well as their connections by marriage to the Laity and Rogers families. The completed project was presented at the Maple Ridge Heritage Awards in February, and the research materials and displays have been deposited in the community archives. The project team proudly accepted a Maple Ridge Heritage Commendation Award in 2017 for excellence in enhancing the understanding of community history.

Maple Ridge Family History Group Report



The Haney family some time between 1905 and 1910.

Back row, from left: Frank, Anne, and Thomas.

Front row: Daniel Thomas, Elizabeth, and Annie Beatrice.

Following previous practise, the group undertook a new community history project in 2017, which was unveiled at the most recent Heritage Awards Ceremony. Research was undertaken into the Haney family – their origins and their contributions to community building.

Presently, the Family History Group has completed three family specific projects requiring many hours of research and time spread through a group of approximately seven people. The accumulation of the research is then distilled to displays on presentation boards that are presented around the community and at specific venues outside the city boundaries. All information gathered is deposited to the community archives. The Historical Society funding received for the Family History Group is used specifically for these Community projects.

With the support of the Family History Group, the Fraser Valley Regional Library, the Community Heritage Commission, Golden Ears Writers and the Historical Society, the library program “Local Voices” runs six evenings during the year where local people speak about their passions and the stories of their lives.



P13605: John Maughn and Dick Sutcliffe [R] working on the DARS model railway diorama on the museum's lower level in 1992.



P13631: Sheila Nickols and a crowd of people on the museum's front porch for the unveiling of the Heritage Plaques during the opening of the Heritage River Walk in 1992.





