

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter February 2013

AGM AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Please save the date and join us for food and fun at 6:30 PM on March 21 at St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall. Remember to bring your own plate and cutlery and any serving utensils needed for your contribution to the potluck. Please let us know what you will be bringing by contacting Wendy Cook (phone: 604-290-1140; E-mail: wm-cook1@gmail.com). That helps us know if we're getting the right balance of sweet and savory. Feel free to bring friends, particularly if you think they would like to join the society.

Also, be sure and sharpen up your local history knowledge. Yes, there will be a test in the form of a trivia contest!



Members enjoying their potluck dinner last year!
All ages are welcome!

GETTING INVOLVED

The best way to get involved with the Historical Society is to join our board. We meet once a month except for July-August and December. The board oversees the general direction of the society, its activities, and the management of Maple Ridge Museum, Haney House Museum and St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall. There are lots of opportunities to focus on the aspects of the operation that interest you and it's an excellent way to get board experience, particularly for younger people who are looking to build their resume.



HERITAGE TEA BAKING!

The 21st annual Heritage Tea will take place on Saturday, April 6th, at the Seniors Centre. The committee is looking for a few volunteers to donate baked goods for the day. This helps offset food costs, and as we all know homemade treats are better than store bought!

If you'd like to donate baking, or help out on the day of the event please contact our Research Assistant, Alison Pocock, at mrmuseum@gmail.com or call the museum at 604-463-5311.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF



The Maple Ridge Historical Society is seeking musical groups to submit applications to perform at the Music on the Wharf Concert Series: July 8, 22 and August 12 and 26, 2013. Music on the Wharf Concert Series is a unique performance opportunity held on the Port Haney Wharf.

Now in its 17th year, the concert series is well established and well attended. The wharf is a lovely summer evening venue and can attract a large and appreciative audience.

Visit mapleridgemuseum.org for full details on submission guidelines.

Submissions are due March 15, 2013.

NEW STAFF MEMBER



We are pleased to announce that we have added **Megan O'Connor** to our part-time staff.

She has a Master's Degree in Museum Studies from the University of Toronto and has done internships at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC and at the Royal Ontario Museum.

She has also done a diploma program in conservation – how to protect, preserve and repair vulnerable artifacts – and then did an internship with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in the UK.

We intend to make full use of her knowledge and experience while we have her here.

To the right is her first column on preserving your precious family heirlooms. Later we will add these contributions to the Web site.

PRESERVING YOUR HERITAGE ARTIFACTS: LIGHT DAMAGE

We all possess objects of special significance, for example family heirlooms, vintage clothing, or a beautiful painting. There are a few simple precautions you can implement to ensure that your treasures stay in great condition. Light is one of the main causes of artifact deterioration. Light damage is irreversible, but there are ways to prevent damage and prolong the life of your heritage artifacts. Objects made of organic materials are the most susceptible to light, such as paper, textiles, wood, and works of art. Fading, loss of strength, and brittleness are all symptoms of light damage. Place objects away from direct light sources, such as windows and fluorescent or incandescent lights, where light levels are lower. Consider rotating the objects you have on display in your home so they aren't exposed to light for prolonged periods. Place objects that appear to have light damage in a covered box or drawer, as excessive handling may cause unnecessary damage to weak objects. These simple precautions will help keep your heritage artifacts looking great for years to come. *mo*



Samuel Edge and John Clapcott (from Hammond) posed with rifles, cougar and dog. Sam Edge was the first non-native person to climb the Golden Ears summit that came to be called "Edge Peak." He made that climb in 1875, just one year after his family's arrival in the district.

COMING EVENTS

BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE, KAMLOOPS, May 3-4. The BCHF conference called "Historic Grasslands 2013", will focus on such topics as the history of ranching, mining and brigade trails as well as modern concerns like creating blogs and wikis or sorting out copyright issues. Check out this link for all the details: <http://bchistory.ca/conferences/2013/index.html>

RIDGE MEADOWS QUILTERS GUILD SHOW, May 3-4 at the Burnett Fellowship Church. Titled "Quilt Stories ... Every Quilt Has One!", this two day show will include bed and wall quilts, a quilt challenge, a series of "Canadiana" quilts, a vendor's mall and a tea room. Hours are Friday, May 3 from 10:00 to 7:00 and Saturday, May 4 from 10:00 to 3:00.

CURRENT DISPLAYS

All About Footwear is now on display at the Maple Ridge Museum, showcasing shoes, other footwear and accessories used and donated by residents.

This pair of silver heeled dress shoes was donated to the museum by Gail Neufeld. Although neither Gail nor anyone else in her family could ever wear the shoes, she thought they were too perfect to leave at the Salvation Army Thrift store.



Gail purchased the shoes, and has been holding onto them ever since. Now they are part of the museum collection, and will be on display in our temporary gallery until summer. Can't you just see Ginger Rogers dancing in these?

If you have a pair of shoes or a shoe accessory – in good condition – that you would be willing to donate to our collection, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311.



Val and the delegates on a foggy January day. Val is holding some lovely woven scrolls and some information on their archives in China that were given to us as gifts.

VISITING CHINESE ARCHIVISTS

We had a very interesting visit from a group of Chinese archivists during January. Due to language difficulties it was hard to understand why they had chosen us for their lower mainland visit. The five of them were the senior government archivists for the districts surrounding Beijing. Their interest was primarily in how our "community archives" were structured as compared to government archives, and how we were funded. Through their hardworking translator, we explained about our FFS agreement with the District of Maple Ridge.

They are concerned about the current state of non-governmental archives in China as they are widely scattered, volunteer or family run, and there is no way at present to encourage them to use good archival practices in organizing, storing and handling materials. They were most interested to hear about our society and its agreement with local government, and that part of our agreement is to maintain high standards through our collection and archives policies. Despite our lingering suspicion that their tour organizer chose us just because we use "community archives" in our name on the internet, we hope they felt they had landed in the right place.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE: YENNADON

The second profile in our neighbourhood series is for the area known as "Yennadon." Originally, the first settling families called it "South Lillooet" and 232nd Street was called "Lillooet Road." We don't know why the settlers of that day chose "Lillooet" – it may be that they thought the two rivers were somehow connected.

It was always a challenging area to live in and to farm. Flooding of either or both of the rivers occurred seasonally with serious flooding likely in late fall and late winter. Due to challenges to transportation, people logging in the area loaded their logs and shingle bolts into the river beds and waited for high water to carry them west to calmer waters where they could be boomed and taken to a mill. The side-effect of this practice was that all bridge crossings would be taken out at every episode of flooding, leading to costly repairs that municipal council was always grumbling about due to the predictability of their destruction.

The first school in the area was not on 232nd Street but up on the northern part of 224th Street where the second structure used as a school is still in use as a residence. Access to the school was so poor that some families sent their children through the swamp by boat and others – like the Edge family – built raised wooden plankways for their children to walk on.

By 1910, the focus of the community was shifting to the east, where the increasing coherence of the community drew the attention of officialdom in the form of Canadian map makers and Canada Post.

Due to the fact that there was already a Lillooet River, the map-makers rejected that as a name for the southern cousin. The name Alouette was chosen simply because it sounded something like "Lillooet." Canada Post was equally disinclined to have a second Lillooet, so the name for the district was left to new postmaster E. W. Prowse, whose only prior claim to fame was that he was one of the first commercial raisers of squab (pigeons) in BC. He looked back to his own roots

in Yennadon Down in Devon, England, with its manor house that was simply called "Yennadon", and so that name was chosen.

That post office lasted from 1911 to 1923, when the people of the district decided that the modern rural route, which allowed for both delivery and pickup to boxes on individual properties, was the more attractive option, and the Yennadon post office was closed.

Despite many efforts in agriculture – particularly hardy apples and grapes plus hay and dairy herds – the productive capacity was largely overshadowed by the recreation potential of its beautiful setting. Maple Ridge Park was a gift to the district from the BC Electric Company in 1924. Hiking and hunting into the mountains drew settlers and visitors alike. People from the city purchased lots and built summer homes on the Alouette Rivers. In the late 1920s the first equestrian facility appeared in the form of "The Hitching Post," which was a dude ranch and kept a string of horses for trail riding.

Later, the demise of the railway logging giant Abernethy & Lougheed provided roadbeds for access into what was Garibaldi Park and is now Golden Ears Park. *vp*



The South Lillooet/Yennadon school in 1931 in the original school location on 224th Street at 132nd Avenue.

This is the second building and it is still in use as a home, though it has been moved further north. The next Yennadon school building was located on 232nd Street.

