



Newsletter January 2014



Sheila Nickols and Kelly Walton cut the ribbon to open the new museum.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

2014 is the 40th year that Maple Ridge has had a museum. From humble beginnings in a small, walled off corner of the public library in 1974, a move to the Brickyard manager's house in 1984 gave us our first free-standing facility. So it becomes a double anniversary as we also celebrate 30 years in our brickyard home.

Through the year, we will be having special displays and events to acknowledge this history and the people who made it possible. We owe our extensive collections to those people who had the vision early on that our community had stories worth preserving. Each month, we will highlight one of our "History Makers" in our newsletter.

Our first public outing will be with the library displays for February. As this is Heritage Month, we will combine the story of our museum with the Canada-wide Heritage theme of "History Afloat" which will allow us to explore all the



Crowd at the opening of the museum at the brickyard site in August, 1984.

various aquatic adventures of our past. Be sure and check those out after February 3.

Our big event will be on August 10 to commemorate the day we opened at the brickyard site. Tiller's Folly will play a free concert so mark your calendar and save that date! We will be needing lots of volunteers to help at the event and in the planning of it so if you can help, please contact Allison at the museum (604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com).



Counselor Belle Morse cuts the ribbon for the new museum corner at the Maple Ridge Library. Note the carved sign above the door, which later hung on the front of the brickyard museum.



In 2004, the Heritage Society of BC granted an award to Ed Villiers in recognition and in honour of his special projects and accomplishments in the field of heritage conservation. Here he is entertaining the gathering on that occasion.

HISTORY MAKER ED VILLIERS

Ed gained his love of history listening to the stories of old-timers in Savona, BC, where he grew up. When he moved to Maple Ridge in 1945, he brought his enthusiasm for things historical with him. Working in the Hammond Mill Office put him in contact with a whole new set of old-timers who told him the stories of the lower Fraser, the CPR and the town of Hammond. He also got to know Katzie First Nation chief Simon Pierre and learned his story of being taken to England to be presented to royalty.

Ed wrote historical stories that appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* and later in the local *Gazette*. By the mid-1950's, with his credentials as a historian established, Ed teamed up with Gordon Byrnell in an attempt to find new life for the old St. Andrew's Church by turning it into a museum. They even began a collection and were storing it in the church when thieves broke in and stole many of the items.

Disheartened but not dissuaded, in 1961 Ed became a founding member and chairman of the "Museum Management Committee" of the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Historical Association, the original name of our society. Also on that committee were George Clarke and Gordon Byrnell, who was president of the society at that time.

They set about cleaning up the church building and removing the annex portion that had been the Sunday school room but had fallen into disrepair.

The work that Ed did in gathering and publishing the stories of this community – a task he has continued – did a greater service than most probably realize. Not only did he preserve the stories, he shared them in a way that has delighted his audience for more than five decades. He set a value on our stories for generations of readers who have become our supporters.

Most of Ed's published stories can be found on our Flickr site at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mrcommunityarchives/sets/72157627272087721/>

PAYPAL ON OUR WEBSITE

For the past few years, we have struggled with the problem of not being able to take forms of payment other than cash or cheque. Credit



cards have a monthly fee that is too steep for us. But now we can have PayPal on our website so that people can process their memberships or renewals or even donations in a way more comfortable for most people today. Check us out at: http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org/05_society/05_04_membership.html.

If you renew your membership or make a donation through the website, you will still get a receipt [including tax receipt for donations] and membership card in the mail.

HERITAGE TEA COMMITTEE

Our annual Heritage Tea will take place Saturday, April 5th at the Ridge Meadows Senior Centre from 1-4pm.

The committee is in the planning stages, and is looking for volunteers to either assist in the planning stages or volunteer on the day of the tea. Please contact Allison at mrmcurator@uniserve.com or call 604-463-5311 if you are interested in helping out.



A wonderful image taken by Bill Saunders inside the Aggie Hall during a dance probably between 1955 and 1965. When his sister Margery passed away, along with her estate we received a large box of Bill's loose negatives – some of which were fabulous local scenes. Unfortunately, negatives rarely carry dates or any other information. This one is in our most recent Flickr set – “Let There Be Light!”.

MORE ON FLICKR



For those of you who don't spend half your life staring at a computer screen, “Flickr” is a website that allows us to make available an almost unlimited number of photographs for a very small annual fee. For many smaller institutions, this is the only way we could afford to have this much web space. Given our small premises, making sets of photographs available to researchers, schools, and the general public would be difficult by any other means.

This winter we have been very lucky to have retained summer student Matthew Shields part time and he has been creating new Flickr sets. Each set has 20 to 40 images on a variety of topics. To find them, if you are not reading a digital version of this newsletter, do a Google search for “Flickr”, then enter in the search box “mrcommunityarchives” and you will arrive at our page with the sets to choose from. The digital version is: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mrcommunityarchives/sets/>

Another wonderful asset at Flickr is called “The Commons”. Many of the great museums of the world – who are also not made of money – have taken advantage of this very inexpensive space to publish literally millions of their images.

If you love old photos, do check out The Commons: <http://www.flickr.com/commons/>

17TH ANNUAL MUSIC ON THE WHARF: CALL FOR MUSICIANS

It may seem a bit early to start thinking about summer concerts but we are well into planning for this year's Music on the Wharf, and are currently accepting submissions for the following dates: July 14, 28 and August 11, 25, 2013.

Interested groups should meet the following requirements: (1) Be established with proven performance record; (2) Have their own instruments and equipment for performance.

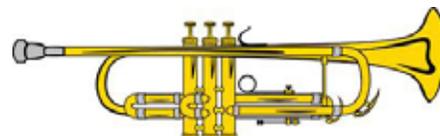
Interested groups should submit the following information:

- Name of group and contact information
- Brief resume of performances
- Brief group biography
- Sound recording with at least three selections on CD
- Preferred date of performance

Thank you in advance for your interest in our event. If you have any questions please contact <mrmeventplanner@gmail.com> or call 604-463-5311.

Music samples and group information will ONLY be accepted by MAIL due to sound quality. Please submit the above by Friday March 14, 2014 by 4pm. You may also drop off your package at the Maple Ridge Museum.

Attn: Music on the Wharf Committee, 22520-116th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0S4





The first picture used by Sheila Nickols for a Looking Back column was this circa 1900 view of Port Haney from the river.



The District of Maple Ridge with our support has used historical photo's to illustrate the magic boxes that go with traffic lights. This one at Whonnock shows Brian Byrnes at his first garage.

PUBLICATION PLANS

To mark our 40-year anniversary we are working hard on two publications.

The first one is a new edited version of *Maple Ridge: A History of Settlement* with new cover and layout and more pictures.

We are also working on the first volume of the columns penned for "Looking Back" by Sheila Nickols and published in *The News* from 1987 to 1991.

We have been greatly aided by volunteers who have typed all of those early columns for us as we had no digital versions.

We extend a very special thank you to Wayne Robinson who has typed 8 years' worth of columns.

Thanks also to Mary Blackstock and Annette Fulford.

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.

Info: Dick Sutcliffe at 604-467-4301 or E-Mail: ras1@uniserve.com

