



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter June – August 2016

MRHS is gearing up for summer at both the Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum, and throughout the community. Here are some events to look for!

Please visit mapleridgemuseum.org for more details on upcoming events!

CANADA DAY IN MEMORIAL PEACE PARK



Again, the museum will be joining the free celebration in Memorial Peace Park for July 1st. This event will run from 10am – 3pm

There will be a chance to dress up in costumes, play with games, and heritage crafts. There will also be a touchable artifact booth and exhibits on display.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

Entering the 20th season, the free summer concert series on Port Haney Wharf begins at 7:30pm (with the exception of August 22nd which starts at 7pm). Below are the band listings.

There is no seating provided at these events so bring a lawn chair. The best seating area fills up fast so it is best to be there early. Parking is limited so plan ahead and carpool if you can. We are grateful to our many sponsors who help make this a success every year: Meadow Ridge Rotary, Kiwanis Club, the Arts Council and the City of Maple Ridge.

July 11th – Lonesome Sinners

July 25th – Siobhan Walsh Group

August 8th – Ben Klick

August 22nd – Wichita Trip



CAMPING WITH CARS

In the early days of our community, life was lived so close to camping that it held little appeal. The first campers appear to have been young boys who would grab some food and head off into the back country with a rolled up tarp and some sort of bedroll to escape Mother and her chores and have a wilderness adventure. In those days, Scouting organizations would take their charges on first camping experiences so they had the necessary skills.

[1] Molly Holt would ride off alone on her horse circa. 1916 with the “necessaries” and set herself up with a camp site to enjoy the peace of the woods. Her family lived at the north end of 241st Street where it hits the Alouette River so she was nearly there already.

By the 1920s, travel by car was taking over and it was possible to go further afield for camping experiences. Facilities started to spring up that catered to those with cars. In the second photo [2] we see primitive campsites with covered eating areas at Marble Canyon, Radium Hot Springs with a couple of cars belonging to the MacKay family parked on the grass in the background. These were designed as places where one could set up a tent for the night or make a lean-to out of the car.

In the early 1940s, a creative Ruskin dweller named Blanchard came up with a unique gimmick to attract people to his auto park on the former Stoltze Mill property. He purchased retired North Vancouver streetcars and set them up – sans undercarriage – on plinths in a large field in Ruskin overlooking the Stave [3].

Fitted out with stoves and with most of the seats removed and replaced with sleeping and eating areas, they eliminated the need to carry a heavy tent and other camping equipment. Sadly, the cars had an unfortunate tendency to catch fire and by the 1950s, this type of camping had been replaced by the motor hotel or motel as we know them now.

But others still wanted the more primitive tenting experience as it was less expensive, especially for those with children. In the 1950s, families would drive out from Vancouver to camp at Maple Ridge Park [4] or later, after the road opened, at Alouette Lake [5]. People camped on a first come, first served basis and when there was no more room, you moved on. As competition for campsites increased, we saw the development of the modern system of established sites with washroom facilities and firewood provided.

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[1] Mary Holt camping – ca. 1916



[2] Radium Hotsprings -1920s



City of Vancouver Archives

[3] Overlooking Stave River - Early 1940s



[4] Maple Ridge Park – 1950s



[5] Alouette Lake

SUMMER HOURS & STAFF

Starting Wednesday, July 6th both the Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum will be open for summer hours. Daily, Wednesday – Sunday from 1-4pm.

This year we are happy to welcome back three students; Kaity Neff, Ashley Vandepol and Alison Pocock in a senior role, with new recruit Sarah Davies as our junior student.

We are excited to have back a full roster of students - last year grant funding only covered 3 positions, which meant having a 4th student at the full cost to the MRHS.

This year, federal grant funding has increased, and we are already putting our senior students to work. Look for more of a presence on social media this summer, as we try out a few avenues.



The kids of 2015: The ladies are back but we've lost Matthew to a forestry job in Northern BC.



CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

Join the Maple Ridge Museum in a unique and rewarding project, preserving headstones at the Maple Ridge cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1878 on land donated by two pioneers-George Howison and William Nelson.

The cemetery's heritage value lies in its association with the prominent settlers of the District of Maple Ridge, both as its developers and as their final resting place.

Many of the older headstones no longer have individuals to care for them; therefore you can help to preserve these reminders of our community's roots.

Location: Dewdney Trunk Road and 214th Street

When: Saturday, July 16th





George Alfred Barrowclough photo of Maple Crescent in Port Hammond in 1909-10

DISPLAY CHANGES

As we head into the warmer months, with more hands on deck, we are revamping our displays. At the Maple Ridge Museum, we will have a new First Nations display up at the end of the month: adding more cases to the permanent display, along with switching out artifacts. There will also be new additions to our domestic corner, and updating of agricultural displays.

At Haney House Museum, we will have our summer tour in place, along with new pieces added to the "Boys Room".

July and August at the Maple Ridge Library we will have exhibits in the front display cases. Kicking things off in July, with "The Art of the Postcard"; Illustrating the different eras of post-

cards, along with showcasing cards and albums from local household collectors, with mention to George Alfred Barrowclough and his impact. He was one of the few Canadian photographers that showed interest in happenings beyond city limits, going into the Fraser Valley producing unique panoramas, and photographing people and places that were off the beaten track.

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming Events this fall

Rivers Day / Culture Days

– Sunday, September 25th

Speaking of Art & History

– Thursday, September 29th @ The ACT

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

