



# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter March 2010

# Remember AGM March 25

### AGM & POT LUCK SUPPER

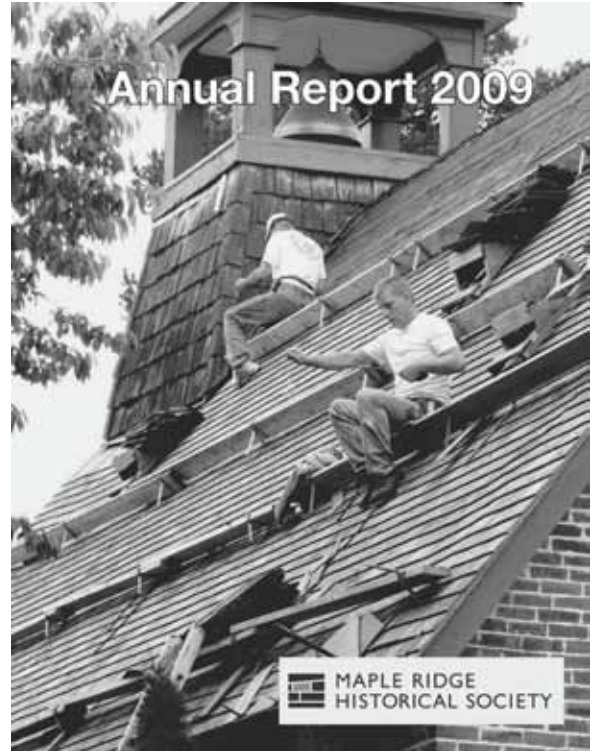
PLEASE JOIN US for our AGM on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will start with our annual pot-luck supper so please let museum staff know what you can bring and how many people will accompany you. The business part of the meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Even though it is our AGM, we encourage guests as it is mostly a social occasion and it's a good chance to meet the members of the society, particularly for those considering joining. Our entertainment will be a slide show based on our extensive museum image collection.

Remember to bring your sweet or savoury contribution plus a plate and cutlery for yourself and your guests. *vp*

### ANNUAL REPORT

OUR ANNUAL REPORT is available online at our website under "Historical Society" and "Annual Reports" and paper copies are available at the museum. We are not mailing the report this year as the cost has gone upto \$2 per copy. We will have a stack of copies at the AGM so if you want a paper copy, please pick one up there. *vp*



### PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

WITH THE RENOVATION now behind us, we have a new temporary gallery space at our disposal, and what better platform for the fresh paint and new carpets than to display our large assortment of photography cameras, dating back to the turn of the 20th century. The collection showcases the evolution of the camera and the developing process, as well as highlighting how photography changed (from portraiture to candid photography, etc.) through use of museum archive photographs. The exhibit will run through the Spring and Summer. *aw*

### HERITAGE TEA 2010

SATURDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> | 1-4PM | ADMISSION \$5  
SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE 12150- 224<sup>TH</sup> STREET

IT'S THAT time of year again! The 18th annual Heritage Tea is just around the corner, and MRHS would like you to attend. This event is a reunion which allows members of the community to reconnect with those that have left, and it is a great way to enjoy a cup of tea, snack on some of the delicious treats provided, while taking in good conversation and visiting the displays.



We are also looking for volunteers to offer up their baking skills as well. If you would be willing to provide cookies, tarts or squares (no cakes please), contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or <mrmuseum@uniserve.com> *aw*

## MUSEUM REPORT

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**W**E ARE HAPPY to report that we have achieved an agreement with the Maple Ridge Teachers Association for storage at their facility on Fraser Street. It is very close to the museum and we'll have good access so this will ease our storage crisis for at least three years.

Things may be looking up on the grant front. The provincial government has re-instated some of the gaming money taken away last year and there is one fund that is specifically designated for "Events, Festivals, and Museums." Only the society-run museums qualify and that includes us. We haven't yet received the guidelines for application and we won't learn if we've been granted any money until the end of summer but that is what currently passes as "hope" in small museums these days. *vp*

## ESL TOURS

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**L**EARNING "English as a Second Language" is a well-known feature of our multi-cultural society but our membership will be surprised to learn about the use of our Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House by the local ESL programs. We regularly host tours composed of people, particularly adults, from eight or nine different countries, the most common being Korea, China, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Ecuador, and Japan. There is also a scattering of Western and Eastern Europeans.

The tours are great fun and we spend as much time talking about how many of our display items are still in use in their country of origin. For example, school slates are still very much in use in hot and humid countries like India and Pakistan because paper tends to soak up moisture out of the air and it rapidly becomes impossible to write on. The conversations become very animated and the participants all want to communicate with each other and with the tour guide and of course, English is the only common language.

The adult ESL programs are also making great use of our website – particularly the slide-show

type presentations – as they teach these always-eager newcomers about the history of our community using pictures and simple captions. *vp*



## MUSEUM RENOVATIONS

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**I**T'S VERY EXCITING to have new paint and carpets after 25 years but it is a painful process involving the moving of a great deal of collection stuff. We also discovered some interesting elements of the house. In order to retain access to the upper floor on the house, we asked the painters to leave an unpainted strip up the middle of the stairs as it would be covered by carpet. When we stripped off the old carpet, it was discovered that everyone who has ever painted those stairs has made the same decision as there are several layers of paint on the outsides of the steps and the original brown-stained wood up the middle.

Our third display room—where the telephone exchange is—was formerly the kitchen of the house and had wallpaper and a kind of small acoustic tile on the ceiling. Removing those proved to be a serious challenge as they came off leaving dense brown "pucks" of old glue behind.

In the front room the textured ceiling was applied one day and found sagging to the floor the next. There had been wallpaper on the ceiling but it was covered by so much paint it was undetectable. It all had to be stripped and then the texture re-applied.

We are renewing and updating our displays. Watch for an announcement of a grand re-opening in a few weeks time. *vp*

## MEMBER NOTES

Our members are fascinating people who explore and promote history wherever and whenever they can. This month we have two contributions from members about topics as widely spaced as Sooke and South Africa.



### THE CHEEWAT CEDAR

**B**ERNICE AND DON GEHRING recently returned to Maple Ridge after a stint in the wilds of Sooke on Vancouver Island. They relate the story of how they went from Sooke to see the Cheewat Cedar, one of the oldest and largest trees in the world. According to a description of the trip written by Sooke Region Museum Director Linda Eversole, the journey wound its way from Sooke to Port Renfrew to Lake Cowichan and then onto logging roads heading into the Carmanah Valley.

From the end of the last bit of road, it was a hike of about one and a half hours to get to the tree which is thousands of years old. It is estimated to hold 15,870 cubic feet of wood. Both Don and Bernice considered standing in the presence of that magnificent giant well worth the effort to get there. *vp*

### THIS LAND WAS MY LAND

**T**HANKS TO LAUREN HEWSON, Legislative and Administrative Services Manager, City Clerk's Office, Coquitlam we know now that Maple Ridge lost its northwest corner across Pitt River to Coquitlam in May of 1894, when Coquitlam was incorporated. *fb*

### SURFING SOUTH AFRICA

**A**FLEDGLING GROUP of surfing enthusiasts evolved with John Whitmore or the "Oom" (Afrikaans for uncle) as we called him, at the core. From the very earliest time a loose gang of surf bums, locals and schoolboys gathered in a cul-de-sac in a corner of Muizenberg on the False Bay coast. In time this venue was simply known as "the corner." Skip forward some 50 years and one of the original locals, Henk "Farmer" Schagen, suggested in casual conversation to another old timer that perhaps a gathering of the old corner surfers would be fun. The idea was to get together 20 or 30 guys for a beer and 'braai' (Afrikaans for BBQ for the uninitiated).



And so was born what now promises to be perhaps the most significant event in South Africa's 50-year history of modern day surfing, The Muizenberg Surfers' Corner Reunion. Organizers Charlie Moir and Nick Hough have been forced to close the guest list RSVPs at 500 acceptances.

Surf Boomers from around the globe will show up in Muizenberg on March 19, including one old geezer from Port Haney who won't be at the Maple Ridge Historical Society's 2010 AGM, owing to a previous engagement with his friends from the 1960s.

Perhaps the most surprising thing to come out of all this is that now a "Muizenberg Surfing Museum" is being promoted and donations are already being received. A number of small surf museums have already sprung up in South Africa, but if the dream of a Muizenberg museum for surfers comes to fruition, it promises to be one of the most interesting. Our "Oom" will be proud.

*Claus Andrup*



## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

THE MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM is participating in the celebration of this important anniversary being celebrated with a gala dinner event at Meadow Gardens Golf Club on March 20. We are providing displays and images for a multimedia presentation and in exchange, the Chamber of Commerce is holding a silent auction with proceeds to benefit the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows museums.

In 1908, the "Port Haney Progressive Association" was created to promote Port Haney as a place to live and to lobby all levels of government

Board of Trade directors from the 1950s. From left: Ray Shaw, Les Osborne, Graham Mowatt, Harry Allen, and Eric Dunning.

and the CPR for increases in access and services. In 1910, they became the Maple Ridge Board of Trade – part of a widespread movement that saw associated boards all across the province who met regularly and exchanged ideas. The Maple Ridge Board included Whonnock, Ruskin, Webster's Corners, Albion, and Haney. Hammond had its own board.

Reading through the minutes of the Board of Trade is a fascinating view of our history through the eyes of our early "movers and shakers". The display will also be used at our Heritage Tea. *vp*



This sign was erected near the Haney Station by the Port Haney Progressive Association. The Board of Trade later had it repainted with their name on the bottom.

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](mailto:ras1@uniserve.com)

