

Newsletter September & October 2018

SPEAKING OF ART AND HISTORY

October 18th, 7 pm at the ACT arts centre

Melanie Talkington, owner and proprietor of a boutique corset shop in Vancouver, is a modern-day corsetiere and designer. She is also an avid collector of antique corsets and women's undergarments through time.

Melanie will be sharing her work as a corset designer and maker as well as showing some of her collection of antique Victorian corsets. This presentation will truly bring together the art of modern-day corset design with the history of corset wearing.

The event is FREE and we are grateful to The ACT Arts centre in providing us the use of their space.



TOUR THE MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY



... with Erica Williams starting at 1 pm on Saturday, October 6 or Sunday, October 14. Learn about the pioneer families represented there as well as the stones and symbols used for the memorials. Please let us know if you plan to attend at mrmuseum@gmail.com or 604-463-5311.

CULTURE DAYS

Haney House Museum will open its doors for free on Sunday September 30 1-4pm in honour of BC Culture Days.

Culture Days is a province wide celebration of local art, history, architecture, and music.

If you have not yet seen the renovations and restorations done at Haney House Culture Days is the perfect time!

We will have guided tours, Victorian lawn games, and parlour games for kids and adults alike. All are welcome!

HALLOWEEN

Sunday October 28th 11am-3pm

Admission is \$5 per child. Adults are free.

What could be a more fitting place to visit on Halloween then Maple Ridge's own historic Haney House Museum? The newly restored and renovated Haney House will be all dressed up for the occasion and ready for fall.

There will be cookie decorating and crafts for the kids and ghost optional guided tours for kids and adults. Feel free to come in costume because we sure will be! If the weather is chilly we will have something warm to drink inside.



An appreciative crowd gathered to hear "Flint & Feather" on August 13.

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

We have had another successful summer season with no rain-outs. Attendance was good and people were generous with a total of \$1,222 donated by concert goers.

Our Sponsors this year were Haney Rotary, Meadow Ridge Rotary, Kiwanis, the City of Maple Ridge and the Arts Council. Thanks to all for contributing to this wonderful series that highlights local and regional musicians along with our Port Haney Wharf.

We'd like to thank our volunteers especially Dick Sutcliffe who picked up and returned all the equipment for all four concerts, Andy Woodland, and our new volunteer McKenna Reubens.

Our volunteers assist in helping the band set up, getting people seated, sharing information about the Historical Society, and collecting donations. If you would like to help out at a concert, please contact museum staff at 604-463-5311 and we'll sign you up for next year.

SUMMER WORK

Summer brings us summer student staff – temporary full-time workers – who allow us to expand our open hours from 9 to 15 hours per week and equally important, to tackle large projects and the backlogs that grow through the rest of the year. Every time we accept a donation of collection items, archives or photos, there is an accession process to describe the items, store them in protective containers and document their locations.

If a donation consists of just a few items, that is not so large a task but for lots of hundreds of objects or thousands and even tens of thousands of photographs or document pages, it is a long and complicated process.

This year our collection efforts were focussed on completing our photographic inventory and then doing a box by box item inventory. This is done to ensure that items are where we think they are and that their packaging is properly protective.

Over several years with internal displays changing and external displays at the Maple Ridge Library, things can get out of place.

The archival work consisted of completion of arrangement and description for a couple of large collections and then a lot of scanning and transcribing of original records. Most early records are handwritten and frequently done in pencil on newsprint-quality paper that gets harder to read with each passing year. Scanning makes the originals available in a format that can be enlarged on a computer screen and more easily read. Transcription gives us more legible copies that can be word-searched – less authentic but more practical. We are feeling pressure to get as much transcription accomplished as possible before we run out of students who can read cursive writing.

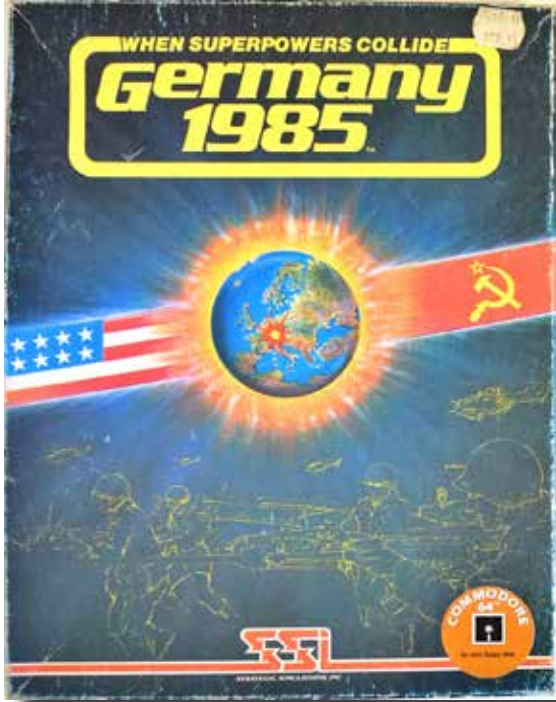
The “Ladies at Canada Day.” From left to right: Katie Neff, Sarah Davies, Madelyn Huston, Jessica Hyde, and Ashley Seymour



SUMMER STUDENTS

All of the work we got done this summer is thanks in large part to the dedicated group of students we had the pleasure of working with. Sarah Davies (UFV), Katie Neff (SFU), and Jessica Hyde (SFU) rejoined us for another summer of work while Madelyn Huston, a first year history student at UBC joined us for her first summer. We are excited to have Katie and Jessica continue on with us a few days a week throughout the school year as they continue on at SFU, and Madelyn back next summer when she returns to town from UBC.

We are also excited for Sarah, who has been with us since June 2016, as she starts full time at the UFV teaching school earning her education degree and certificate. Sarah has been an incredible asset to the museum team over the past several years, working on the restoration and interpretation of Haney House, updating different brochures, tour guides, off site exhibits, and well as her archival and inventory projects. She will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best with her final year of studies and future career in teaching!



1983 Commodore 64 floppy disk computer game, part of the Maple Ridge Museum collection.

OUT OF THE BOX

In honour of our new exhibit on the history of video games entitled “20th Century Gamer”, we would like to focus on one of the games in our collection. Upon the release of the Commodore 64 computer, arguably the first affordable home computer, computer games took off. The Commodore was limited in function, with only 64 kilobytes of memory [that is not a typo – the total memory was the size of a small jpg file today], but one thing it did better than any other computer at the time was games.

Throughout the next decade hundreds of games were produced for the Commodore. This era saw the expansion of games we still know today like world building games, war games, and the infamous and ever popular, first person shooter.

One type of game that was particularly popular, especially the target audience of boys ages 12-25, was war games. “Germany 1985” reflects a time with growing computer games, game capacity, and complexity. Not only that, this game is a

product of the late cold war era in which it was designed. The game was released in 1983 and the player is tasked with stopping the Soviet Union after their 1985 invasion of West Germany.

Despite the complex strategies and political scenarios that are presented in the game, the graphics and interface are very simple, though at the time would have been ground-breaking. Games that envision possible military or political scenarios are very common today but saw their birth around this golden age of computer games.

NEW EXHIBIT: LET THE GAMING BEGIN!

Currently on display is “20th Century Gamer” an exhibition of computer and video gaming technology from 1950-2000.

On display are our collection of computer and video games from throughout the 20th century, displaying the development of computer and video gaming, beginning with tabletop pinball, through 8-bit computers, and all culminating in the development of bigger, faster, and better video game systems that you may even recognize.

Come check it out and revisit your own childhood computer and video games.

At the Maple Ridge Museum we often focus on our older local heritage but within our collection we also have, and continue to collect, cultural treasures from the recent past. We collect those things that make our community unique, and objects that speak to the everyday lives of the people of Maple Ridge.

Computer and video games, while not unique to the area, tell a story about a wider cultural movement and worldwide phenomena of which Maple Ridge is a part. On display are old computers, video game consoles, and games from the Maple Ridge area spanning 50 years of gaming history.

“20th Century Gamer” will be on display through March 2019



CRANBERRYBURGH?



Our excuse for running a bit late with this newsletter is that we were invaded by the “TV people” who wanted to film an Ocean Spray commercial here on September 4.

We agreed and in the process became an American museum called the "Cranberryburgh Museum & Archive" sporting an American flag out front. It was rather exciting and involved a lot more people than we're used to but "Means of Production," the production company making the commercial, were very generous and careful around our precious objects and we appreciate that.

After a very long day on Tuesday, they vanished into the night leaving us reeling a bit but with everything so completely back to normal, we wondered if it had happened at all.

Left: "The Dutch and Cranberry" display at the "Cranberryburgh Museum & Archive"

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In no time at all our little parking lot filled with big trucks and tents popped up in the park.

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

This issue of the newsletter with contributions from Val Patenaude and Shea Henry was prepared by Fred Braches.