



# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter September 2013



### RIVERS DAY

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It's hard to believe but this year is the 20th year for this annual celebration of our local rivers and streams.

The museum will have a display at the Allco Hatchery from 11 am to 3 pm on Sunday, September 29th. Join us for music, children's activities, and fishing!

### PUMPKINS AND PIONEERS

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A Halloween celebration at Haney House.

Join us on Sunday, October 27th for a tour through the spooked-up house and activities including cookie decorating, crafts and a scavenger hunt.

Admission is \$3 per adult and \$2 per child. Costumes are encouraged.



### DO YOU LIKE TO TYPE?

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Do you like to type? We need you!

As part of our publication project, we need to have typed in digital form the "Looking Back" columns from 1990 to August of 2003.

We have photocopies of the published version of each one but we need a text file for publication. If you can help, we can send you images of columns so you can type them at home when you have some spare time.

Contact Val at 604-463-5311 if you're interested.





An early batch of summer students in August of 1984 packing up the museum at the library for the move to the brickyard manager's house under the watchful eye of Alice Clayton.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have finally made a start on a project that many people have encouraged us to undertake – we are going to publish the best of Sheila Nickols' "Looking Back" columns from the NEWS newspaper. She started writing the column in 1987 and is still doing it as part of a team of writers. There is some incredible material based on interviews with elders who have since passed away. There will likely be more than one volume but we're aiming to get the first out next year.

In addition to the columns, we are preparing the "green book" – *Maple Ridge: A History of Settlement* for re-publication. We plan to modernize the layout and have more and larger images but essentially, the text will remain as is. We're also planning a new cover so we'll have to learn to call it something other than "green book"!

A great deal was accomplished over the summer on our massive digitization project. Those of you who have used the research files at the museum

or the copy at the public library (all those purple files) will appreciate what a task it is to scan the contents of every one of those files. We are hoping to eventually make the collection available online, but for now it allows us to share these resources with citizens, schools, newspapers and libraries without having to provide physical access to the files. Once the files and photographs are finished, we will start on our archival records.

We are planning for a celebratory year for 2014. The museum as an entity will be 40 years old – it began in a corner of the public library in 1974 – and we will celebrate 30 years at the Brickyard site. We will also celebrate our most steadfast supporters like Sheila Nickols and Dick Sutcliffe who have not only contributed many hours annually but have been on the board for the entire 30 years. We intend to make the point that while we love our old brickyard buildings, 30 years in a house poses severe limitations on a museum and archives and the services they can provide and that its past time for a more modern facility!





Above: Curator Allison White, dressed for the fifties, demonstrating proper vacuum cleaner deployment.

Left: Our hard-working summer staff – back row is Elena, Kaity, Matthew and Alison with curator Allison in front.

## THE ETERNAL FOREST

The British Author George Godwin and his wife, Dorothy Purdon, lived in Whonnock for a few years ending at the start of the First World War.

Godwin's novel *The Eternal Forest: Under Western Skies*, published in 1929, caused quite a stir when old timers recognized Whonnock as the stage of the novel on which some of their neighbours, in mostly unflattering disguises, played imaginary parts.

In 2000 Fred Braches published "Ferguson's landing: George Godwin's Whonnock" about *The Eternal Forest*. For a digital version go here: [whonnock.ca/whonnock-history/pdf/WN06-Web.pdf](http://whonnock.ca/whonnock-history/pdf/WN06-Web.pdf). Fred has since continued his research and will present and discuss his findings, new and old, at the Maple Ridge Library on Saturday, October 5th, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.

One Book Whonnock, a readers group, has selected *The Eternal Forest*, republished in an edited version in the 1970s, as the book to read this season.

## HANEY HOUSE

This Fall and Winter Haney House is displaying the different forms of entertainment for a family in the early 1900s.

The display highlights the evolution of movie theatres in Maple Ridge, with reference to the Ruskin Drive in, the Gem Theatre, and the Stardust Theatre. It also showcases the 1920s Glee and Theatre club, showing the importance of music before electricity.

## MUSIC ON THE WHARF

This season of Music on the Wharf started off on all the right notes. We had 15 applicants, and although it was hard to choose only 4, we managed to put together a great roster.

The first 2 concerts averaged 260 people, with the last one bringing in 185. Unfortunately, our 4th concert was rained out.

We still managed to raise just over \$650.

## FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK

As always, this summer flew by. This year we welcomed back students Alison Pocock, Kaity Neff and Elena Van Buschbach to the museum(s), along with new hire Matthew Shields.

We kick-started our summer season with annual Canada Day celebrations at Haney House. Our 1950s themed *Rock Around the Clock* was met with sweltering heat, so our attendance for the event did not reach expected numbers.

Also this year, due to low attendance, we cancelled our weekly Tea on the Veranda and instead opened the house up for private bookings. We found this method went over quite well and we will continue to focus on booking the veranda for spring/summer events in 2014. Knowing the head count before each event allows us to properly plan.

Our big project of the summer was working at the Maple Ridge Cemetery cleaning the headstones. Over the course of two weekends this summer, with help from our students and volunteers, we were able to finish cleaning the oldest part of the cemetery. It's amazing what a little elbow grease can accomplish. We will be revisiting this project next summer, in a different section of the cemetery.

At the museum we focused on doing a box inventory and moving artefacts from the basement to off-site storage. The basement now is a much better working space, with the larger pieces off-site.

The students also tackled scanning the research files, which is a project that was started in the spring with our Research Assistant, Meghan. We are nearly onto the last file cabinet now, and hope to have this finished by the end of the year. This will be a huge asset for us in conducting research requests, and display work.

Right: Fifties style midway games designed by our summer staff were much appreciated.



Maple Ridge Historical Society president Erica Williams with our Community Heritage Commission representative Brenda Smith volunteering at Canada Day.







As part of Port Haney Day on Sunday, September 8th, Ian McLeod guided short walks from the river to the highway and back to consider Port Haney's history and to look at relics of the old and not-so-old days.

Back in the 1950s on the south side of Lougheed Highway between 224th and 225th Street. Hubb Motors display cars driving past the Odeon Theatre and their own facility during the 1957 Dominion Day parade.



## PICTURE POSTCARD



Dr. E.H. Funk / Stave Falls / Ruskin / B.C.

Sept 26/11 / Dear Dock

D.V. (Deo volente=God being willing) I will be out on Saturday night. Does the donkey meet the Agassiz local, or will I have to hoof it? Can we organize a trip to the big lake? Yours, C.H. Bastin.

These words from his friend and fellow physician Charles Howden Bastin will have put a smile on the face of Edwin Henry Funk, doctor for the Stave River area including Whonnock. In 1918 Dr. Funk joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces as physician and surgeon and he may still have seen battle in Europe. Both Dr. Funk and Dr. Bastin later joined the staff of Vancouver General Hospital.

The postcard, showing English Bay, is part of the collection of Tim Woodland. Tim generously shares his findings with the museum.

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Photos – all taken in the 1920s – courtesy Maple Ridge Historical Society and Vancouver Public Library

**RICHARD HARTNELL** and his son **DOAN M. HARTNELL**, two lumbermen from Michigan, took over a bankrupt and abandoned sawmill during a financial depression, and made it the largest western red cedar mill in the British Empire. Under their management the Hammond Cedar Mill provided work and prosperity to the community from 1914 to 1946. Today the mill is the world's largest western red cedar manufacturer and still an integral part of the community.



Doan Hartnell's home built in 1923. "A superb example of the best housing of the 1920s. It remains one of the more impressive early homes in Maple Ridge." (Donald Luxton, 1998)

Doan Hartnell with his pride and joy: Hammond Cedar's winning baseball team in 1924.

Doan Hartnell mounting his car.



## Hammond Cedar Mill

"the biggest in the world"



1908 – 1909 Port Hammond Lumber Co. (J.A. Bailey)  
 1911 – 1912 Port Hammond Lumber Co. (George Boulton)  
 1914 – 1916 Hartnell Lumber Co. (Richard and Doan Hartnell)  
 1916 – 1946 Hammond Cedar Co. (Carl J. Culter and Doan Hartnell)  
 1946 – 1988 B.C. Forest Products  
 1988 – 1992 Fletcher Challenge  
 1992 – Interfor



Presented to the Hammond Cedar Division of International Forest Products Ltd.  
 by the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission on August 17, 2013



In the presence of Doug Bing (MLA), Mayor Ernie Daykin and Craig Speirs (Chair of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission) presented the Hammond Cedar division of Interfor with a framed commemorative plaque in recognition of the historical ties between Hammond Cedar, Port Hammond and Maple Ridge that go back to the years before the First World War.

Left to right: Craig Speirs, Mark Bettencourt, Scott Bax, Ernie Daykin, Doug Clitheroe, John Straw, and Doug Bing.

### 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)

