



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 2018





Maple Ridge Historical Society

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

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Executive

President	Erica Williams
Vice President	Sandra Ayres
Treasurer	Mike Davies
Secretary	Julie Koehn
Past President	Faye Isaac

Directors at Large

Dick Sutcliffe
Sheila Nickols

Standing Committees

Operations
Family History
Programs

Museums Staff

Executive Director	Val Patenaude
Curator	Allison White / Shea Henry
Community Engagement Coordinator	Alison Pocock / Ashley Seymour
Building Manager	Tom Little
Webmaster	Andrea Lister
Accountant	Luba King
Curatorial Archival assistants	Kaity Neff Sarah Davies Jessica Hyde Kaiden Gartry
Summer students	Kaity Neff Jessica Hyde Sarah Davies Madelyn Huston
LAC TIMES project grant	Laura Dickson

Cover: People lining the porch and balcony at Haney House for the opening of the Heritage River Walk on September 9, 1992.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

22 March 2018 6:30 PM St Andrew's Church Hall



1. **Adoption of agenda** | Moved by Faye Isaac, sec by Phil MacGregor.
2. **Minutes of 2017 AGM & motion to accept** | Moved by Mike Davies, sec by Julie Koehn
3. **By-law Amendment** – Val Patenaude explained the dissolution clause, and why it needs to be included in the by-laws.

MOTION: that the following be added to the end of our current bylaws in order to comply with BC Societies Act changes;

Part 13 – Dissolution

13.1 The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on in the City of Maple Ridge and the City of Pitt Meadows in the Province of British Columbia.

13.2 On the winding up and dissolution of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, the assets, artifacts and archival materials of the Society, with exclusion of items on loan to the Museums at the time of dissolution, will be transferred to the City of Maple Ridge or its successor, after all debts have been paid or provision for payment has been made.

Moved by Alan Woodland, sec by Faye Isaac

4. **Constitutional Amendment** - Val Patenaude explained why the amendment wasn't filed when originally completed in 2008 and placed the motion forward:

MOTION: That the following version of our Constitution, which was approved by the Board of Directors in 2008 but never submitted to the BC Societies register, be submitted to replace our 1980 Constitution.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION 1980

1. The name of the Society is the "Maple Ridge Historical Society". [as amended Sept 30, 1980]
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (a) to promote study, research and interest in the history of the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Districts and environs, hereinafter called the "Districts",
 - (b) to preserve and protect historical sites and buildings in the District,
 - (c) to erect memorials, tablets, and other objects of like nature to commemorate historical events and personages of the Districts,
 - (d) to award prizes and give rewards for meritorious literature concerning the history of the Districts,
 - (e) to aid in the institution and administration of a Maple Ridge Museum.



3. The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on in the District of Maple Ridge and the District of Pitt Meadows in the Province of British Columbia.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION 2018

1. The name of the Society is the “Maple Ridge Historical Society”.
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (f) to provide current, former and potential residents of our community with the means to make our history their own through the collection, preservation, and sharing of our historic images, documents and artifacts;
 - (g) to create a sense of identity and pride both within and outside our community, preserving the past and the present for the future.

Moved by Faye Isaac, sec by Phil MacGregor

5. Reports

- a. President’s report* – Erica Williams: Erica discussed the historical society’s ongoing storage needs. She mentioned the restoration work being done at Haney House, and how the society needs to have continued engaged presence in the community. She thanked volunteers for their support during the year. She then presented the President’s report as included in the 2017 Annual Report.
- b. Operations Committee Report* – Mike Davies: Mike outlined the FFS with the City and how the Ops Committee works. He thanked Tom Little for his work during the year. Noted that the biggest expense during 2017 was purchasing new tables and chairs for St. Andrew’s Heritage Church. He then presented the Operations Committee report as included in the 2017 Annual Report.
- c. Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House reports* – Val Patenaude: Val thanked museum staff for their support during the year. Val noted the increase in attendance from the Vancouver Attraction Tourism Challenge, and thanked Allison White for her involvement in the project. Val thanked both Karen Straker and Sandra Ayres for their volunteer work throughout the year. Val mentioned the Library and Archives grant for the Maple Ridge Times negative collection,



and how phase one is now complete. Val then presented the MRM and HH reports as presented in the 2017 Annual report.

- d. Membership report* – Val Patenaude: Val explained that 2017 brought in a combined total of \$4,610 which is \$567 up from the previous year. Mentioned how the reach on social media has increased our engagement.
- e. Program Committee* – Allison White: Allison thanked the Program Committee for their help in planning for Music on the Wharf, Heritage Tea and Speaking of Art and History. Noted the cancellation of the Heritage Tea due to financial deficits. Allison then presented the report as included in the 2017 Annual Report.
- f. Family History Committee report* – Sandra Ayres: talked about the importance of community and telling stories. She mentioned the group's 'deep-dive' project in 2017 was the Haney family, and thanked MRHS for their support in creating display panels. She then presented the report as included in the 2017 Annual Report.
- g. Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Statements* – Mike Davies: Mike summarized the report and explained how grants fluctuate. He mentioned our new bookkeeper, Luba King. He then presented the Treasurer's Report as included in the 2017 Annual Report. (Moved by Mike Davies, seconded by Faye Isaac.)

All reports: Moved by Faye Isaac, sec by Mike Davies, carried.

- 6. Election of Board members:** Erica Williams presented the current list of MRHS Board for re-election; Faye Isaac, Mike Davies, Sheila Nickols, Dick Sutcliffe, Erica Williams, Julie Koehn and Sandra Ayres. All positions were confirmed. Executive positions to be determined at the first board meeting.

Moved by Faye Isaac, sec by Dick Sutcliffe

- 7. Adjournment of formal meeting** | Moved by Sandra Ayres, sec by Faye Isaac



Attendance

Voting Members

Dick Sutcliffe	Director
Mike Davies	Treasurer
Sandra Ayres	Director
Sheila Nickols	Director
Erica Williams	President
Faye Isaac	Past President
Julie Koehn	Secretary
David Koehn	Member
Tom Little	Member
Patricia Woodland	Member
Alan Woodland	Member
Andrew Woodland	Member
Phil MacGregor	Member
Val Patenaude	Executive Director
Craig Speirs	Member/City Council

Voting member total: 15

Guests

Yvonne Chui	City Liaison
Don Cramb	Sr. Recreation Manager, City of Maple Ridge
Greg Lane	

Staff

Alison Pocock	CEC
Allison White	Curator

President's Report



ON BEHALF of the Maple Ridge Historical Society I would first like to acknowledge the efforts of all the volunteers, our representatives on the Community Heritage Commission and museum staff who work to expand and promote our understanding of this great community of Maple Ridge. Your valuable time spent helping to spread the word about our unique history is greatly appreciated. You have continued to work hard this past year to increase our presence and engagement with other community groups, and thus increase the community's awareness of how important our role is in understanding our complex history.

Early in the year two of our staff left for other opportunities. Alison White, our curator for nine years, took a new position in Ontario. Alison Pocock who worked for us part time on community engagement moved to the GVRD Parks branch, but still comes back to the Museum on Sundays. Shea Henry took over the curator position and is busy learning about Maple Ridge. Ashley Seymour took over the position of Community Engagement Co-ordinator. Both have been working hard to increase the Historical Society's overall community involvement.

Two of our Board members, Fay Isaac and Sandra Ayres, are retiring at the end of this year. On behalf of the Society, I wish to thank them for their contributions to the Society at the board level as well as helping us to engage with the larger community.

On behalf of the Historical Society I want to thank the City of Maple Ridge for completing the process of repairing the outer shell of Haney House with the replacement of the 135 year old chimneys that were breaking down at an increasing rate. Haney House has had a complex history some of which we can only guess at. Since chimneys can only be built from the ground up we know that at some point there were two fireplaces on the ground floor, one in the kitchen, the other in the living/dining room area. At some time the fireplaces were removed and the chimneys taken out on the main floor and left hanging upstairs, just supported by a couple of wooden cupboards. They were connected to some sort of duct system, presumably from a furnace as various remains of the ducting can be seen throughout the house. Over time these unsupported chimneys were causing significant loading of the roof and the bedroom ceilings. The replacement chimneys are the same height but slightly different in design but most important they are significantly lighter in terms of roof loading than the originals.

I continue to give history walks of Downtown Maple Ridge and of the oldest section of our cemetery, one of the oldest continuously operating cemeteries in the



Lower Mainland. Keep your eyes open for when they will be occurring. They are usually on Sunday's as both downtown and the cemetery are not as busy those days

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to our membership and interested non-members. If you want to become more involved in promoting the stories of this great place, either as a board member or as a volunteer, please get in touch with us through the museum.

Erica Williams

President



Ashley Seymour [L], Community Engagement Coordinator and Shea Henry, Curator.



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

Our year began with a Social Media event – Museum Selfie Day – on January 17 when people were invited to visit the museum and take a selfie with their favourite display. MP Dan Ruimy and an associate came to have a picture taken with the old telephone exchange – his favourite artefact.

Through the spring, we had Laura Dickson working with us to complete the Library & Archives Canada Grant to organize and scan the TIMES negative collection, donated by Black Press Media. She was able to do far more scanning than we had thought possible and when her time with us ended, we were very sorry to see her go.

The Spring Break Event at Haney House had to be cancelled for 2018 due to the ongoing renovations at Haney House but it has been a popular program and will be reinstated.

In April - May the Maple Ridge Museum participated in Vancouver Attractions 18th Annual Tourism Challenge. Our intention was to build on the outreach success of last year. Over the 5 weeks of the challenge, we had 675 people through the museum. It was substantially fewer than last year's 950 but we felt it was to be expected as many of the same people participate each year. We definitely plan to do it again for at least one more year.

A big thank-you to the volunteers who helped us cover open hours during those weeks, especially to DARS for coming on Wednesdays and Fridays, too. We found the visitors engaged – well beyond the desire to simply acquire stamps.

In late April, we discovered that we would be losing “the Allisons”. Allison White, our curator for 9 years was heading off to Toronto to be curator for Black Creek Village. At the same time, Alison Pocock got a position with Vancouver Parks to pursue her goal of doing outdoor education in the biological sciences. Both stayed long enough to ensure a smooth transition as we hired their replacements – Shea Henry, recently graduated with a PhD from SFU in Archaeology as our curator and Ashley Seymour with a long history of involvement with the Haney House type of museum and special events as our Community Engagement Coordinator. Alison Pocock did not quite make a clean escape as her love for Haney House has kept her on our part-time crew.

In the summer of 2018 we welcomed back students Kaity Neff, Jessica Hyde, and Sarah Davies to the museum(s), along with new hire, Madelyn Huston. All our summer student positions are made possible through Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs grants.



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

Canada Day in Memorial Peace Park is our annual summer kick-starter where we throw the summer students – especially the new ones – into the frenzy of a big community event. We had an excellent position in the park with a large tent provided by the city. We were able to have displays, crafts for children, and engagement with most of the 2,000 people who visited the park.

Shortly after Canada Day we had the long anticipated grand reopening of Haney House Museum to the public. It had been closed all winter and spring for extensive renovations including a new roof, all new doors and windows and new chimneys. We had a lovely warm day for the event that was attended by local dignitaries, MLAs Lisa Beare and Bob D'Eith, and MP Dan Ruimy.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the city of Maple Ridge, especially the Planning and Parks, Recreation & Culture departments, for pursuing senior government grants and committing city funds to preserve this community gem for the future.

As part of the opening, we had all new exhibits including one on the history of the wallpaper in the house informed by the research done by specialist Simone Vogel-Horridge. We hope to do another phase of renovation in the future involving replacing the existing wallpaper and paint with more authentic materials.

We did two days of Cemetery Clean-up in July which attracted a good crowd of volunteers wanting to learn about how to care for headstones – some came for both days!. We also got more recording done of cemetery 5 for headstone and name checks for our database. Thanks especially to Janet Symonds for her many hours of recording headstones.

For the second time, we ran a summer event called “Painting in the Park” at the museum grounds, aimed as a family drop-in. It involved an outdoor paint craft, along with tours of the museum and diorama. We had some hitches in marketing and it was poorly attended. We will try something different for next summer.

The fall was a lively time for filming as we were “discovered” twice. The first was in early September when there was an invasion of film-makers for an Ocean Spray Cranberry commercial. They took over the Maple Ridge Museum – under the watchful eyes of staff – and provided a very exciting day for all of us. They also paid us a substantial fee that allowed for the hiring of more staff through the fall.

Later that same month, the Wharfinger's office had a chance to earn it's keep as a shipping office for a Hallmark movie. It was good to see the building used for something other than graffiti.

In the late fall our accession of the TIMES newspaper was completed when Black



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House

Press Media delivered the original copies of all of the newspapers to our off-site storage. While we cannot make the papers accessible due to shortage of space at the museum, we at least have the one remaining copy which would otherwise have gone to be recycled.

Closing out the year at Haney House, our Hallowe'en Event, Eat, Drink & Be Scary drew another good crowd with 20 children and 42 accompanying adults. The children had scary stories and were able to decorate Halloween themed cookies. This has become an established event that has fans from well beyond our city.

Collection Processing

We had 14 lots of accessions in 2018, down 4 from the previous year.

They were small lots – good for not causing storage issues – but really varied including everything from an early smart phone to lab equipment from MRSS to a rabbit fur coat.

We are still looking to add to our touchable teaching collection for items we can take to schools and seniors residences and allow them to be handled.

Archives Processing

We had only 9 lots of accessions in 2018 but they were very unusual and interesting.

One was a photo album filled with scenes of people and homes in 1917-18 Port Haney. It had been given to the archives in Port Alberni who shipped it on to us in recognition of the fact that most of the photos were taken around Maple Ridge.

Another lot also came from Vancouver Island from a woman who came across some random photo bundles in a Value Village store. One photo in a bundle was from Haney Central School and based on that identification, she bought the bundle and shipped it to us. The other pictures were of children with only first names on the back so it was off to Facebook and the wonderful crowd-source that is "We Call It Haney". The children's pictures were posted with the information we had and within an hour, all were identified. The local Bishop-George family has some missing photos back.

Another gem is a collection of family photos of George Mussallem and his family with their home donated by his sister on the occasion of that former home being moved to the Maple Ridge Cemetery. Thanks to Don Luxton for arranging that donation.



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Ridge Museum & Haney House Statistics

Annual statistics and events – 2018

MONTH	OUTREACH	TOURS	PRESENT- ATIONS	DISPLAYS	COMMUNITY EVENTS
2018.01	Museum Selfie Day, Albion school presentation, Albion tour	1	1		1
2018.02	Heritage Week display at library, Cemetery tour, Downtown walking tour	2		1	
2018.03	Brownies tour, Meadow Ridge Rotary lunch presentation	1	1		
2018.04	Library display, Earth Day event, Metro Vancouver Tourism Challenge			2	2
2018.05	Speaking of Art & History event, Metro Vancouver Tourism Challenge				2
2018.06	Eric Langton tours (2)	2			
2018.07	Canada Day, Music on the Wharf (2), Cemetery Clean-up (2), Painting in the Park event, Reopening HH.			3	6
2018.08	Music on the Wharf (2), Summer Student library display, Presentation to Willow Manor, Painting in the Park		1	5	3
2018.09	Rivers Day, Cranberry commercial, Hallmark movie shoot, Culture Days at HH, Hospital history display	2	1	3	3
2018.10	Halloween at Haney House, Presentation for Willow Manor, Cemetery tour, Distributed Learning School presentation, Speaking of Art & History event	3	2	1	2
2018.11	Thomas Haney tours (2), Christmas Photo Drop-in at HH	2			1
2018.12	Christmas library display, Westview Secondary presentations (2), Willow Manor presentation, Thomas Haney tour, Katzie Archaeology student presentation	1	4	1	
TOTAL		14	10	16	20



Museum Operations

Maple Ridge Ridge Museum & Haney House Statistics

Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House	2016	2017	2018
Adult Admissions	912	1,665	1,479
Child Admissions	564	720	407
Off-site Events Attendance	2,500	2,580	2,800
Volunteer Hours*	932	1,311	1,415

**The decrease in attendance reflects the fact that Haney House Museum was closed for the first half of the year.*

The increase in volunteer hours in 2018 is again largely due to the incredible research efforts of the Family History Group in exploring the Haney family and from several incredible time donors who worked on our cemetery database, producing our publications and keeping our clippings up to date.



Cutting the ribbon at the renovated Haney House Museum on July 15 are Bob D'Eith MLA, Craig Speirs, Lisa Beare MLA and Dan Ruimy MP.



Museum Operations

Laura Dickson was hired on a six month contract to organize all of the TIMES newspaper negatives into those blue boxes in front of her and then to make selections for scanning. There are more than 20 boxes.



Right: Thanks to the “wallpaper archaeology” of Simone Vogel-Horridge, we were able to identify the evolution of interior decoration at Haney House.



The Haney Horsemen requested access to Bill Archibald’s map collection that had been donated several years ago. To fulfill that request, we had to move all the maps to the heritage church hall and set up lights to be able to see and photograph them. This is a great example of why we so desperately need a proper archives facility.



Museum Operations



As part of our pose for the Ocean Spray cranberry commercial process, we became the Museum & Archive [!] of Cranberryburgh. We didn't have the heart to tell them that "archives" is always plural.

A young participant at Painting in the Park tries her hand at sponge painting.



On the day of the cranberry commercial shoot, the museum lot quickly filled with large trucks and cars and there was a full catering service in the adjacent park area.



Museum Operations

The Wharfinger's office on Port Haney Wharf saw new life as the Wallace Falls Shipping Office for a Hallmark Christmas movie.



Museum Operations



On Museum Selfie Day, Dan Ruimy MP was keen to have a selfie with the old telephone exchange, always a popular artifact.



Operations Committee Report

THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE is responsible for overseeing, on behalf of the Society, the execution of the Operating Grant from the City of Maple Ridge and the upkeep, maintenance and operation of St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall, the Old Post office, and the Wharfinger's office.

St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available for rent and is regularly used as a meeting place by a number of community groups while the Old Post Office has a single renter and is in full-time use as a pre-school. A full rate schedule for St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall is available from the Maple Ridge Museum or online at <mapleridgemuseum.org> select facility-rentals.

This year's improvements at the heritage church hall included a new stove and refrigerator which can be used by renters. Also, owing to an agreement with St John Ambulance for regular rentals, a large storage box was constructed by Dick Sutcliffe for use by their instructors.

The Wharfinger's Office, located on the Port Haney Wharf, is used during the society's Music on the Wharf summer concert series. It was also rented out in the fall for a Hallmark Movie shoot and earned \$500.

Buildings Manager, Tom Little, looks after the renting and day to day maintenance of the facilities. The majority of the year's works related to the ongoing maintenance for the buildings with Tom Little completing the work along with City of Maple Ridge staff and contractors. The remaining 2018 infrastructure dollars will be carried forward to accumulate for future projects.

In 2018, we also saw the departure of two long-time museum employees – Allison White and Alison Pocock. We will miss their contributions but both have moved on to bigger and better things so we wish them well.

The Historical Society works closely with the City of Maple Ridge to assist in maintaining the buildings we occupy and operate. The Historical Society continued to rent the two storage units that were secured in 2012 though a sharp increase in rent over the past year necessitated a special increment from the city. The incremental package also covered increases in Hydro rates.

I would like to thank the Operations Committee members, Val Patenaude, our Buildings Manager, Tom Little, museum staff, and the City of Maple Ridge staff for their hard work and support through 2018.

Mike Davies

Membership Report



AT THE END of December 2018, the Society had a membership of:

- 42 Individual Members
- 16 Family Memberships (eligible for up to two votes)
- 6 Life members, most of whom make a donation each year.
- 3 Organizational/Business Memberships [\$120]

The total is equivalent to 83 individual members which is a drop over previous years. Our membership is aging and we all need to try to find ways to attract younger people. In this day of ready internet access, it is harder to get people to pay towards the costs of an organization when they can find newsletters and other information online for free.

In addition to membership fees, members donated a total of \$1,600. We also received \$350 donated in the name of Thomas Haney, grandson of the original, who passed away early in the year at the age of 100. That money was used in the refurbishing of Haney House to put new lace curtains on all the newly replaced windows.

While we have vastly increased the number of people we reach through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, it is not translating to paid subscriptions but perhaps that day is done. We have nearly 1300 people who receive every bit of information we post to Facebook and huge numbers regularly visit our photos on Flickr and our website. That is the new reality.





Program Committee Report



Music on the Wharf

There were 40 applicants for the music on the wharf 2018 series, down from 50 the year before. Despite this, a varied and popular lineup was assembled.

Each band is paid \$500 for their performance. Donations from the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, The ACT Member Grant, and City of Maple Ridge Festival grant went to pay the cost of performers, insurance, outdoor washrooms and advertising. Also, donations from people attending the concerts brought in \$1865.15, which was up over \$400 from last year. We are thankful for a very generous year, which helps to offset years with inclement weather, where we still have to pay artists fees and forgo donations.

The concerts were well attended and donations came in steadily from each, these numbers are as follows.

- July 16th Olson Bros Band – 230 in attendance, \$323.35 collected in donations
- July 30th Knudson and Connaughton - 190 in attendance, \$313.75 collected in donations

Program Committee Report



- August 13th Flint & Feather - 160 in attendance, \$343.00 collected in donations
- August 27th The Argyle Embargo - 225 in attendance, \$250.95 collected in donations

Total: 805 in attendance, \$1231.05 in donations

These totals are up from last year, with 2017 averaging \$275 per concert, to 2018 averaging \$310 per concert.

Speaking of Art and History

This was our third year doing a speakers series at The ACT Arts Centre, and it highlights the intersections between art and history.

Our first speaker on May 30th was Carrielynn Victor, she is a vibrant artist working as a musician, designer, writer, practitioner of traditional foods and medicines, and public speaker. Based in her traditional Sto:lo territory, she also works for an environmental consulting group. Carrielynn shared insights on her art and the other creative disciplines that define her personal life and career.

Our second event on October 18th featured Melanie Talkington, owner and proprietor of a boutique corset shop in Vancouver. She is a modern day corsetiere and designer and also an avid collector of antique corsets and women's undergarments through time. Melanie shared her work as a corset designer and maker as well as showing some of her collection of antique Victorian corsets.

Canada Day

This year we were involved in the planning committee for the city's Canada Day event that is meant to accommodate the entire community in the downtown core. Our participation on the planning committee was invaluable to securing us a top tent in the park and getting a prime spot during the proceedings.

The event took place at Memorial Peace Park in which we had a city tent set up for us where we could place our display boards and flyers as well as games and crafts for kids and families. We made thaumatropes [early moving pictures] with the kids and set up a photo board so people could take their picture as the Haney family. The event was a great success with an estimated 2,000 people to the park and past our booth.

Cemetery Cleanup



Program Committee Report

Canada Day

From left, Kaitlyn Neff, Sarah Davies, Madelyn Huston, Jessica Hyde and Ashley Seymour.



Kaitlyn Neff [L] and Madelyn Huston greeting young crafters in the museum tent at Canada Day in Memorial Peace Park.



Program Committee Report

Cemetery cleanup



Summer staff and volunteers at work in the Maple Ridge Cemetery in July. This year the cleaning and grass removal focussed on the area nearest the entrance. In the foreground is the Japanese memorial showing potentially damaging moss growth. In the background is the newly moved Mussallem house which is destined to be an office and small service space.



Program Committee Report

The bewitching Alison Pocock with young costumed participants at the Haney House Halloween event – “Eat, Drink and Be Scary!”.

As part of “Eat, Drink and Be Scary!”, children were invited to decorate Halloween cookies at Haney House.



This year, we had two cemetery clean up events, July 27th and 28th from 9am-12pm. These were well received events with staff and volunteers in attendance. Summer student staff as well as CEC Ashley and Curator Shea were involved. On July 27th there were 10 volunteers in attendance, and the next day there were 12.

The second day had some returning volunteers indicating that they had enjoyed the first day so much that they decided to return. We were able to make a positive impression on the oldest part of the cemetery, revitalizing it until next year when we will continue this important service.

Halloween at Haney House

Our Haney House Halloween event was on Sunday October 28th from 11am - 3pm and included house tours, a scavenger hunt, and cookie decorating for the little ones. The event cost \$5 per child and adults came for free. There were 22 children in attendance, with the adults that came there were 45 people in attendance taking tours and doing crafts. The event is well attended for a drop in event and has become something of a fixture in the community that is known and expected each year.



Maple Ridge Family History Group Report

THE MAPLE RIDGE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Maple Ridge Library. The Group has an average regular attendance at meetings of between 15 and 20 members.

Meetings are informal and include: upcoming programs and events of interest, updates on individual research, discussion about breaking down brick walls and research brainstorming, celebration of research “finds”, and a short program.

Our popular monthly short program varies from having guest speakers and presentations to topics which challenge members to delve into their family histories and research to answer questions posed. Topics have included: several presentations on aspects of the First World War — 2018 being a significant anniversary year — researching family lineage through military history, impact of the Spanish Flu, and how to get better results from online searches.

Interpreting DNA results continues to be a topic of interest as more and more people submit their samples to one or more of the DNA testing labs. We are fortunate that one of our members has become fluent in the topic and ably explains findings as well as compiling DNA-matched family trees.

Members attended family history conferences: Abbotsford Stake Family History Day in May and Surrey Stake Finding Your Roots 2018 in October, as well as the biennial Kelowna Genealogical Society’s Harvest Your Roots Seminar which draws international speakers, and the New York Genealogical Conference. The Maple Ridge Family History Group displayed at the three conferences held in BC. Several members have been guest speakers at conferences and educational programs within BC and other provinces, presenting on a variety of topics.

As the Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, the group is also a member of the British Columbia Historical Federation, an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies, and participate at various levels in the organization.

Maple Ridge Family History Group is a Local Voices: Neighbours Talking With Neighbours partner, sharing the production of this popular program with Maple Ridge Library, MRHS, Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission, and Golden Ears Writers.

Members of the Family History Group submitted a brief on December 12, 2018 to the Canada Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology and our Member of Parliament, Dan Ruimy for the Statutory Review of the Copyright Act to promote awareness in the Committee regarding the needs and concerns of family historians about the copyright constraints that govern our work in tell-



Maple Ridge Family History Group Report

ing Canada's story. This submission addresses the confusion that surrounds the use of previously published materials and unpublished original and copied documents and images, with particular concern for the changes proposed by the US Mexico Canada Agreement. As family historians we are directly affected by copyright. As researchers we want access to records. As family historians we are also often self-publishers and educators.

The Group maintains three cabinets in Maple Ridge Library with changing displays. We participated in Family Literacy Day in January and provided consultations to both new to family history researchers and those looking for help with a roadblock. Simple family pedigree charts were given out.

Queries for research help concerning former residents of Maple Ridge were received from California, Wisconsin and Ontario. Collaboration resulted in the re-connecting of a family that had once lived in our community.

Maple Ridge Family History Newsletter is accessed online through the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives website. Members contribute articles they write on topics of interest. The newsletter also contains upcoming programs and conferences, and research sources. As a result of increases in the length and number of articles, as well as resource listings, the newsletter has grown from a two-page layout and is published bimonthly. In response to anti-spam legislation, the newsletter and other communications to 61 subscribers are distributed via MailChimp. The newsletter is shared on a reciprocal arrangement with a number of genealogical societies in the province.

In 2017/18 the Group undertook research into the Thomas Haney family. A great deal was already known about this pioneer family. We were able to add to the local knowledge by tracing their lives in Canada from Cape Breton to Ontario and finally to Maple Ridge. We delved into records to discover how truly instrumental they were to the growth and community-building of Maple Ridge.

The project was presented at the Maple Ridge Heritage Awards in February, and the research materials and displays have been deposited in the community archives. The project team proudly accepted a Maple Ridge Heritage Commendation Award in 2018 for excellence in enhancing the understanding of community history. Parts of the presentation were on display at the re-opening of Haney House.

The Group undertook a new community history project in 2018, expanding on and verifying existing information known about John and William Hammond. The findings of this research will be presented in 2019.

Maple Ridge Family History Group Report



2018 – A Special Anniversary Year

Annette Fulford, who has for many years compiled the histories of war brides of the First World War, and whose research can be found on the Library and Archives Canada website, has undertaken research for the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives into Maple Ridge war veterans. This is an ongoing project.

Research by Gina Leigh identified thirteen First World War veterans, residents of Allco Infirmary in Maple Ridge, who lay in unmarked graves in Maple Ridge Cemetery. Application was made to The Last Post Fund and markers have been placed on these graves.



Family Literacy Day: MRHS president Erica Williams interacting with a family at the Family Literacy Day event at the library with Family History Group members Sandra Ayres and Andrea Lister at left rear.





