

Newsletter March & April 2020



ALICE'S TEA PARTY

The Maple Ridge Museum is hosting their annual Spring Break event on Sunday, March 22nd. at the Victorian-era Haney House Museum.

This year's theme is Alice in Wonderland. Pop by this family-oriented drop-in event for a day full of fun activities! Become the mad hatter for the day and create your own personalized hat; play our Wonderland themed games; hunt for the mischievous Cheshire cat with our scavenger hunt; take photos with our Wonderland inspired décor; and of course take a break with a nice cup of tea and snacks.

Don't forget to come in your best tea party or Alice in Wonderland costumes.

This is a community event and as such we will not be charging an admission fee. We will be accepting donations on the day of, if you would like to support our future community events and programs.

AGM

Our annual general membership meeting is quickly approaching.

On March 26th at 6:30 we will be meeting, sharing a meal together, and updating our membership on the business of the historical society for 2019.

We really need as many members as possible to come out and show your support for your society. It is vitally important to retaining our society status and our standing in the community. For the pot luck, bring one dish of sweet or savory to contribute to the meal. Also bring your own plate and cutlery and a serving spoon if needed. Coffee, tea and cold drinks will be provided.

Feel free to bring friends who might be interested in finding out more about the society.

We're a friendly bunch with lots of interesting stories!



ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

During Heritage Week, the CHC had its annual awards night at St. Andrews Heritage Church Hall.

Those awarded were:

FRED BRACHES
Heritage Commendation

BERNICE GEHRING
(posthumous)
Heritage Teaching and Preservation

RIDGE MEADOWS SENIORS SOCIETY
Heritage Teaching and Preservation

SANDRA AYRES
History Hero

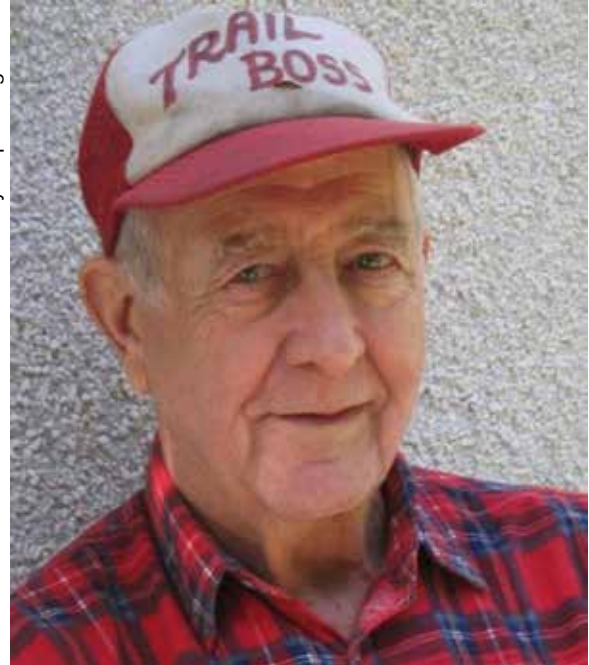
JOHN AMBROSIO
History Hero

This lovely evening was emceed by Craig Speirs and we were treated to a wonderful musical performance by Pam Burns and Caden Knudson.

There was a great turnout and it was encouraging to see so much interest from the community for the cause of heritage preservation. We were also pleased to be joined by councillors Judy Dueck, Keirsten Duncan, Chelsa Meadus, Ryan Svendsen, and Ahmed Yousef.

Thank you everyone who came out to support Maple Ridge heritage in all of its forms!

Courtesy Maple Ridge News



FAREWELL TO THE TRAIL BOSS

Bill Archibald passed away on February 3rd and horses, trails, the environment and heritage all lost a polite but persistent champion. His family held a memorial celebration for him where speaker after speaker told of being inspired by his dedication. Happy trails, Bill!

As he and his family were 'downsizing', Bill made sure that important objects and documents made their way into our collections. Bill had the heart of an archivist in that he never threw away any piece of paper if he could help it. We started with his extraordinary local map collection which added roughly five hundred maps to our community collection – most dealing with the planning of horse trails and many of those unique documents. It was such a large collection that the Haney Horsemen made a donation to help cover the cost of protecting the maps for the future.

This donation was followed by materials from the Haney Horseman organization, his involvement with local government, the early days of the recycling society and the Fraser River Raft Race. This material includes programs, meeting notes, rules and regulations and a most amazing hat constructed of panels of beer can crocheted together. It is truly a thing of beauty.

NEW EXHIBIT – SPORTS TREASURES

The temporary exhibit room at the museum has a new exhibit all about local sports history. “Sports Treasures of Maple Ridge Past and Present” showcases items from local sports icons.

ESPN presenters talking about the success of Larry Walker and Cam Neely once noted that they were both from some place in British Columbia called Maple Ridge, noting that there “must be something in the water” to produce such incredible athletes, well maybe there is!

Maple Ridge has produced a number of regional, provincial, national, and internationally award winning athletes. Come check out the new exhibit to delve into the athletes that have made our sporting history so spectacular.

DISPLAY HIGHLIGHT – BASEBALL UNIFORM

In the 1950s and 60s there were regional and local tournaments, usually fielded by locally funded teams. There were teams all across Maple Ridge who were funded by local businesses, with employees representing the team.

In the early days of baseball in Maple Ridge, the late 1910s and 20s there were just a few teams like Haney and the Hammond Cedar team. The Haney team won a number of different championship matches, including the 1920 Dewdney League Championship.

The Hammond Cedar Team won the B.C. provincial championship in 1924, going on to the Canadian national finals, only to have the Calgary game snowed out.

By the 1950s the leagues had expanded and there were many more local teams. Local businesses would not only sponsor an employee team, but little league teams as well. Baseball was, and continues to be a strong community sport in Maple Ridge.



This uniform was worn by Don Davis during baseball season in the 1950s and 60s.

The uniform was worn by Don Davis while he played for the Maple Ridge Hotel team, on the crest you can see the “MRH.”

Davis played as number 28, and based on the wear on the pants, he liked to slide. The uniform is much thicker than those you will see today. Baseball uniforms today are made out of polyester. This 1950s uniform is a very thick heavy cotton, with the socks and hat made of wool. While they would be more breathable, this uniform would be very heavy and hot, but would be good protection while sliding into home.



NEW PERMANENT DISPLAYS

The museum is also excited to have three new exhibit cases in our permanent display areas, all about life in the early settler era. You can see every day items from hats, gloves, shoes to personal care accessories and work and trade tools.

If you think your morning routine is complex today, wait until you see what it took just to curl your hair in 1900! We also have a new display about early medicines and “medicines” used by early settlers in Maple Ridge. Learn what people did before Dr. Morse came in 1912. Did you know mercury cyanide was once prescribed as an antiseptic?

On display now, next to our new medicines case, is the nurses uniform worn by Helen Mussallem while serving overseas in France in the Second World.

We are very excited to be able to display this uniform by a pioneering woman in nursing in B.C. and Canada.

Come check out this amazingly well preserved eighty-year old uniform and learn about the lifetime of accomplishments of the remarkable woman who wore it.

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 Shea Henry was prepared by Fred Braches.