

## Newsletter September & October 2020



### A WORD FROM VAL

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I retire at the end of October so this is my last newsletter. It's been more than 20 years since I did the first one. When I started, the distribution of the newsletter was entirely by mail and now, it is almost entirely digital.

There were times when I was really excited about content for the newsletter and a lot of "Oh my God!" moments when I realized it was due and I had nothing written. I am confident leaving the newsletter and the museum in the capable hands of Shea Henry and Melissa Rollit and their ever-changing team.

Also stepping back is Fred Braches who for the last ten years or more, took care of the design of the newsletter, placing text and images on the pages. To Fred go our most heartfelt thanks for a job consistently well done and so quickly, even when we were running very late.

It's time for new people. We're in a different world so help your new team with suggestions and let them know what you'd like to see in your newsletter, because it is, after all, \*your\* newsletter.

### WE'RE OPEN!

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The Maple Ridge Museum is excited to welcome back visitors! We have reopened with limited hours, numbers of guests, and with enhanced cleaning and safety procedures.

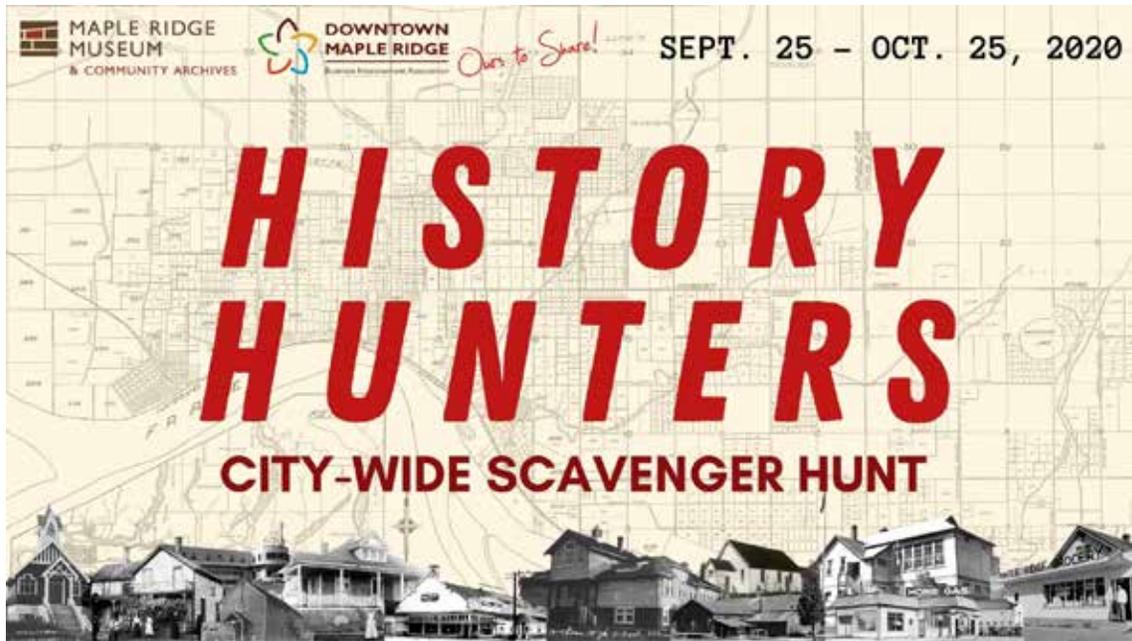
Before visiting the museum please read through our safety procedures on our website to help minimize potential risks and ensure a safe environment for yourself, other visitors, and staff. <[mapleridgemuseum.org/covid-19-safety-procedures/](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/covid-19-safety-procedures/)>

The museum will be open Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00pm – 4:00 pm.

Train day Sundays with The Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society (DARS) are still cancelled for the foreseeable future. And due to the small space and limited capacity Haney House Museum will remain closed.



Don't forget to create and submit your Quaren-Tale. Reflect on and share your experiences through the Covid-19 pandemic and become part of your local history in the process! Check out the prompts and information about the project here <[mapleridgemuseum.org/quaren-theses-stories-from-the-pandemic/](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/quaren-theses-stories-from-the-pandemic/)>



## CULTURE DAYS SCAVENGER HUNT

Ready to see Maple Ridge in a new light? This year we're partnering with the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association to celebrate Culture Days for a whole month with a city wide scavenger hunt all about our local history! Follow the clues and solve the questions to discover our city's history and see for yourself what Maple Ridge looked like in the past with the help of our online historical photos. Enjoy a day out on the town and support our local businesses who we've teamed up with to create this event!

How does it work? Clues and instructions will be posted on our website on September 25th at 9:00AM, and you will have until October 25th at midnight to submit your completed scavenger hunt to be entered into a raffle to win 1 of 3 prizes including goods from local favourites.

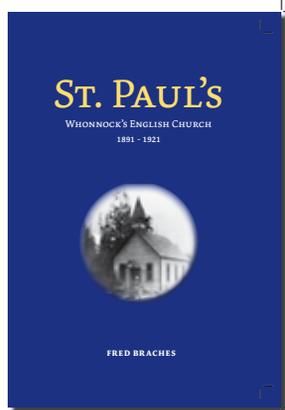
For instructions visit: <[mapleridgemuseum.org/history-hunters](http://mapleridgemuseum.org/history-hunters)>. Remember to participate in the scavenger hunt responsibly and maintain proper social distancing protocols such as keeping 6ft apart and staying home if you feel sick. While we encourage you to engage and support our local partners, remember to be respectful of their COVID protocols.

## ONLINE LEARNING

We are always adding to our selection of online learning activities. With schools back in session make sure to check out these activities that teach kids about the local environment and history.

Looking for a fun at home activity for kids working at home? Try working through "On the Trail of Billy Buckaroo" where you track down a train thief through the neighborhoods of Maple Ridge in the early 1900s.

Enjoy your at home learning.



This book is a fund-raiser for the centennial celebrations of the building of the Holy Spirit Anglican Church on River Road in Whonnock in 1921. St. Paul's on 272nd Street was the precursor of the present church on River Road in Whonnock.

*Black Bond Books, ValleyFair Mall*



Eila Mella née Rauma in her traditional Finnish dress.



## FINNISH DRESS

We recently had a very generous and exciting donation to the museum of a traditional Finnish Family dress. This dress was in the donor's family for generations, and has quite a long history. The dress was purchased in 1920 by Ada Piikki in the marketplace of Kuopio, Finland. Ada was one of 10 children working hard at the family farm for their stern father. By 1930 when she was a young woman she decided to immigrate to Canada. She left for Toronto, dress in hand, and found work as a maid. In 1932 she met and married Walter Rauma and after having their first child, a daughter Eila, and suffering through the great depression they moved to Websters Corners with its thriving Finnish community. Eila and her siblings grew up on a 5 acre plot Walter cleared by hand to build their family home. Eventually as a young woman, Ada passed her traditional Finnish dress on to Eila, who wore it to functions at the Finnish community's Sampo Hall. Eila would go on to marry Derek Male and have daughters she would pass the dress on to. After generations in the family, those daughters have now donated the dress to the museum, 100 years after it was purchased in a small market town in Finland.

The Finnish community and culture are a large and important part of the heritage story of Maple Ridge, and this dress now adds to our museum's ability to tell that story. It joins other historic and heritage clothing in our collection from the elaborate Victorian and Edwardian clothes worn by the European settlers to the beautifully crafted silk Kimono's worn by the Japanese settlers. Each tells an important story of their origins and the families who wore them, and they all collectively tell the story of Maple Ridge.

To add still further to the significance of the gift, Eila Male was a steadfast volunteer for our museum doing tours, working at the Heritage Tea and doing Finnish translations for us. She made sure we spelled all of those difficult names correctly. This dress was important to her and she was important to us. This gift will help us keep her memory alive.



## STUDENTS WORK OVER SUMMER:

We were very lucky once again this year to be joined by three great student workers over the summer! In this strange summer of social distancing and worker cohorts our students did a great job adapting to a new way of working.

It might have been a quiet and sometimes lonely summer of everyone working in different areas of the museum, but we were able to accomplish several necessary projects.

Students actively worked on and completed, artifact photos, a digital online tour of the museum, archival digitizing, and each put together museum exhibits.

Pictured is the permanent display put together by Madelyn Huston (UBC) all about the early clubs and organizations of Maple Ridge. Come check it out next time you are in the museum!

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

**NOTE: Train day Sundays with The Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society (DARS) are still cancelled for the foreseeable future.**

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