



# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Sergeant-Pilot

EDWARD JAMES HARRIS

Youngest Son of

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. N. Harris, of Haney, B.C.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 9th, 1942

Aged 20 Years, 11 Months

*He shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary, nor the years decay,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember him.*



## Maple Ridge Remembers

Lest we forget.



With the usual remembrance day events and activities cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic, we all look for other ways remember those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. While 34 of Maple Ridge men were killed in action in WW1 and 32 in WW2, you will only find five soldiers from the World Wars buried in the cemetery. For the most part, those who died in active service during war time were buried far from home. But in the case of these five soldiers, individual circumstances led to them being buried in their hometown. From the first world war there is Wilferd MacKreth of Port Hammond. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 and sailed with his unit to England, then France in April 1916. In October 1916 he was wounded in battle and over the next year fought resulting infections in hospital.

After being sent back to Canada for treatment, he ended up catching meningitis and dying in the New Westminster Hospital. Being home receiving treatment, he is the only soldier to die during the First World War to be buried in the Maple Ridge cemetery, where he still lays today. The other four soldiers buried in the Maple Ridge Cemetery served or were killed as a result of the Second World War. Sergeant Pilot Edward James Harris "Jim", joined the RCAF to do his effort for the war. Jim was killed during training exercises in Vulcan, Alberta in December of 1942 when he was only 20 years old. He was buried in the Maple Ridge cemetery with full military honours. William George Bend graduated high school in June of 1944 and immediately enlisted to join the war effort. Later that year, before he shipped out he fell ill with appendicitis, it got infected and then gangrenous and he died at the hospital in New Westminster, he was only 19 years old. Both Albert George Eden, and Maurice Leonard Sims died after the war ended but were still active military members and were buried with military honours. Despite the war being over, the lingering effects on the body and secondary infections continued to take their toll on returned soldiers. Albert Eden died in August 1946 at the age of 29 having received several distinguished service awards gained during his time in the RCAF. Maurice Sims was a local cabinet maker and joined the RCAF at the age of 45, like all of those younger than him, to do their part. He died in the Vancouver military hospital three years later in December 1946 from heart failure.

This Remembrance Day, with the ongoing pandemic, the local Legion 88 has asked residents to "remember in place" and not gather at the Cenotaph. They will have an online commemoration where people can join in and remember those who have served.



***Sheila Nickols seated at typewriter in the old Library museum display in 1972. Back when the museum was a display at the library.***

## ***The Passing of Sheila Nickols***

*We are beyond saddened to report the death of Sheila Nickols who for so long has been synonymous with the Maple Ridge Historical Society. She quite literally wrote the book on our community history – “Maple Ridge: A History of Settlement” was published in 1972. She was President of the society and chief spokesperson as well as being instrumental in the founding of the Maple Ridge Museum. Her writing didn’t end with the “Green Book”. Beginning in 1987, she wrote a weekly column on local history that she continued to contribute to until 2010 when she began to share writing duties with museum staff and Pitt Meadows Museum. Her “Looking Back” column remains a fixture at the local NEWS.*

*She was volunteer museum curator when the curator position was first funded as a salaried position. When Val Patenaude was hired to take that position, Sheila acted as mentor during the transition and through all the ups and downs since. She remained on the society board first as President, then Past President, and finally Director until 2019. Sheila was diagnosed with cancer little more than a week before she passed away on October 31. Her family is planning a memorial once the COVID restrictions end but we will be putting memories of Sheila on our website soon. If you have a favourite Sheila story, please send it to the museum along with a picture if possible and we will add your words to the story.*



***Sheila Nickols standing out in front of the Maple Ridge Museum after its opening in 1984. Sheila was instrumental in the founding of the museum.***



---

## ***Winner of Scavenger Hunt and doll contest prizes. Thanks to all for participating!***



This year for Culture Days, the museum partnered with local businesses to put on a city-wide scavenger hunt where participants used a 1930s map to discover locations of Maple Ridge history. Special congratulations to Cheryl Bailey, Emily Foster and the Myers family on their well-earned prizes full of local goods!



In lieu of our annual Halloween event, this year dolls took over the museum's social media accounts for a Most Bone-Chilling Doll Competition. Our followers voted, and Contestant #4 won the inaugural pageant. Congratulations to Laura Butler, Lauren Hearty, and Kimber Pavicic who were the lucky recipients of our giveaway with Haunted History BC. This event has increased engagement and brought in new followers to all of our social media accounts.

## ***Upcoming Events and Programs***

### *Open Air Theatre November 20 - 21*

Join the Emerald Pig Theatrical Company and the Maple Ridge Historical Society for an evening of the macabre. The local theatre troupe will be hosting short vignettes on the porches of the Maple Ridge Museum, Haney House, and St Andrews Heritage Church from 6:30pm - 9:30pm each night. There are multiple performances throughout the night, so grab your jacket, and possibly an umbrella, and enjoy some outside socially distant theatre!

### *Christmas at the Museum November 22 - December 20*

Need some help getting into the holiday spirit? Stop by the Museum during our regular open hours to see the museum all dressed up for Christmas. The historic house will be decked out in homemade decorations with new displays featuring our most seasonally appropriate artifacts.

### *Virtual Museum Tour*

Do you miss coming to the museum and wish you could explore in the safety of home? Well we have just the activity for you, check out our new virtual tour of the museum on our website.... See the displays, read the labels and get the whole virtual experience of the museum from home!

### *Online Education*

We have new online educational activities on the "Online Learning" page of our website. We have new activities aimed at helping secondary school students learn and interact with primary historical documents. Check out these new activities and learn how to history like an historian!





Members of the Haney Family "Social Distancing" in front of Haney House.

## Membership Renewal

### *Tis' the Season*

*It is that time of year where we once again ask for your continued support of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. It has been an unusual year that is for sure! We have had lots of changes, new beginnings, and adapting to a new and changing world. The*

*Historical Society and Museums have faced these challenges head on by adapting our growing programming to an online platform. By turning to online sharing of our events and programs, we have managed to hold on to the community outreach momentum of recent years. Through these virtual programs like social media trivia, online learning tools, virtual tours, online events, and socially distanced events like photo challenges and scavenger hunts we have reached a whole new audience of potential members and history enthusiasts. Along with these new online programs, we continue researching, preserving, and producing local history as much as ever. Pandemic or no, we are dedicated to our mandate to teach about local history and educate the community through new and innovative ways. We look forward to your renewed support in years to come!*

## Mid-Winter Closures

*The museum will be closed from December 21st - January 2nd for mid-winter break. We will be excited to welcome everyone back for a new year in 2021! Haney House remains closed due to the pandemic, check in regularly for updates on open hours for Haney House. We hope everyone has a safe and cozy holiday season!*



### 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. Note that the DARS train days are cancelled due to Covid-19 for the foreseeable future.

Info: Dick Sutcliffe at 604-467-4301 or

E-Mail: [ras1@uniserve.com](mailto:ras1@uniserve.com)

**Published and printed by the Maple Ridge Historical Society**

**22520 116th Ave. Maple Ridge BC V2X 0S4 | Phone: 604 463 5311**

**E-mail: [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com) | <http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org>**

**A digital version of this and previous newsletters can be found on our website under the tab "About Us"**