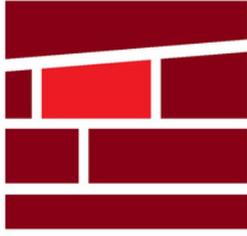


MARCH - APRIL 2021

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# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## ***Unearthing History***

*A small broken teacup  
with a big story to tell*

*We sometimes think of history as people, places, and things that have past and are no longer here. At best, we see history in the shadows of the buildings and landscapes changed through the years. There are those moments though when we are reminded that we are surrounded by history. It lives in the 100 year old fruit trees that litter parks across the city. History lives the heritage buildings we pass every day. And whether we know it or not, history lives right under our feet. We were fortunate enough to have this little broken teacup donated to us last month, found in the back yard of a Maple Ridge resident while putting in new flower beds. So what makes a little broken teacup so special you ask? Turns out this little broken piece of ceramic is evidence of a larger, and less known part of our local history. Unbeknownst to most Maple Ridge home owners, by 1928 55% of the fruit farm land in Maple Ridge belonged to Japanese farmers who made up 30% of the Maple Ridge population. With internment, the 300 Japanese families who lived in Maple Ridge for generations were interned, their land forcibly sold with no option to buy it back. After the war, only 7 families returned. This part of our history is important to remember as a society we continue to face and fight present day discrimination. At the museum, we do what we can to preserve this history, with a few scattered objects and archival collections belonging to these local Japanese families. When evidence like a Japanese teacup comes through our doors, it adds to a story we long to keep alive in our community. The little teacup you see above was found in the backyard in a modern subdivision, that was once, like most of Maple Ridge, a farm. We can see from historical property maps that the area around it belonged to a Japanese Farmer and member of the Haney Nokai. It is a half cylinder shaped cup made out of low fired white ceramic, meaning it was inexpensive and likely used as tea cup for those working in the field. It likely broke while in use in the field and discarded, becoming easily buried with plowing. Like most archaeological finds, what was once trash to someone in the past has become a treasured find to us. It may only be a little broken teacup, but finds like this are a physical reminder of our long and sometimes troubled history. It reminds us that while history is past, it is still everywhere and must not be forgotten. And whenever possible, it should come to the museum so it can be preserved and shared with the community for years to come.*



## ***MRHS president wins award***

*Erica Williams recognized with Sheila Nichols Award*

*Erica Williams has been honoured by the Community Heritage Commission with the 2021 Sheila Nichols Award. This award is given each year to a member of our community who has helped maintain the heritage of Maple Ridge in the same spirit of Sheila Nichols herself.*

*While Erica's background is in science and engineering, she has also turned her talent to the preservation and education of history. She has been a stalwart and outspoken member of our society and executive board and continues to fight for our heritage. We are excited that the Community Heritage Commission has recognized her efforts in local heritage and look forward to Erica's continued efforts for our city.*

## ***Meet Shannon Macelli***

*The newest addition to the MRM team*

*Shannon Macelli is thrilled to be joining the small but mighty team at the Maple Ridge Museum as our new Community Engagement Coordinator. After spending 20 years in arts & project management, she recently specialized in museum programming with a master's degree in museum education from UBC. She has worked dozens of contracts with cultural organizations across Canada; including three other museums in the Lower Mainland. Her greatest joy is to engage community members in arts, culture, and heritage learning.*



## ***Out of the box***

*A sneak peak at our upcoming temporary exhibit*

*One of many cameras held in our collection, this artifact is a Kodak Brownie No. 2 Model E. Kodak Brownies were first placed on the market in 1900. Their ease of use and inexpensiveness (costing about a \$1) made photography accessible to the public for the first time. This particular model was made from 1919 to 1924, and was the first to use 120mm film. This little camera will be one of many to be displayed in our upcoming temporary exhibit on amateur photography, which will explore the evolution of the camera and how photography has become an integral component of our everyday lives.*

## Upcoming Events and Programs

Community Forum - March 9, 2021, 5pm

Join us and spread the word! The Maple Ridge Historical Society is hosting a virtual community forum about the future and direction of the society. We want to hear directly from community members on what they would like to see from the museum with events, programs, exhibits and our future. Join us to have your voice heard! A zoom link and details can be found on our website <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/survey-and-community-outreach/>

### Virtual Presentations

The museum now offers virtual presentations for community groups, schools, organizations and anyone interested in learning about local history! Check out our website for details and a full list of presentation topics mostly on but not limited to local Maple Ridge history! <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/virtual-presentations/>

Annual General Meeting - March 28 2021, 4pm

Join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday March 28th at 4pm over Zoom. Hear from us on the business of the society and what we accomplished in 2020. Get a picture of how the society is surviving and even thriving through the pandemic. See our website for details and a zoom link to join us. The Zoom link can also be found in March-April newsletter email. <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/annual-general-meeting/>

### Community Survey

In addition to our upcoming community forum, we are asking community members to fill out our survey on community engagement. Have your voice heard in the future of the museum and historical society. Your answers will help us shape our strategic plan. Fill out the survey and tell your friends, you can find it on our website here <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/survey-and-community-outreach/>



## We Want To Hear From You!

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM MARCH 9, 2021**  
**FILL OUT THE SURVEY AT MAPLERIDGEMUSEUM.ORG**



## *Introducing the latest in fashion*

*A new addition to the museum's display*

With Helen Mussallem's uniform being taken down over winter break, it was time to put up a new display from our historical clothing collection. The latest selection is a lovely sage green Victorian day dress. Made of silk taffeta, this dress belonged to a Mrs. Grace Conningsby who resided in Wales until her death in 1891. Her daughter would bring the dress with her when she moved to Canada in 1920.

For a 150 year old dress, it is in remarkable condition and provides an excellent example of Victorian era fashion. Most notably highlighting the ever popular and highly structured hourglass shape of the time.



## *Expanding our potential*

Visitors to the museum can expect to see a great deal more of our incredible textile collections in the upcoming months. The museum has recently acquired seven mannequins and dress forms which will greatly improve our ability to share our historical clothing collection with the public. These mannequins were generously donated by the Douglas J. Husband Discovery Centre and Delta Archives, and arrived in late February.

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)

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