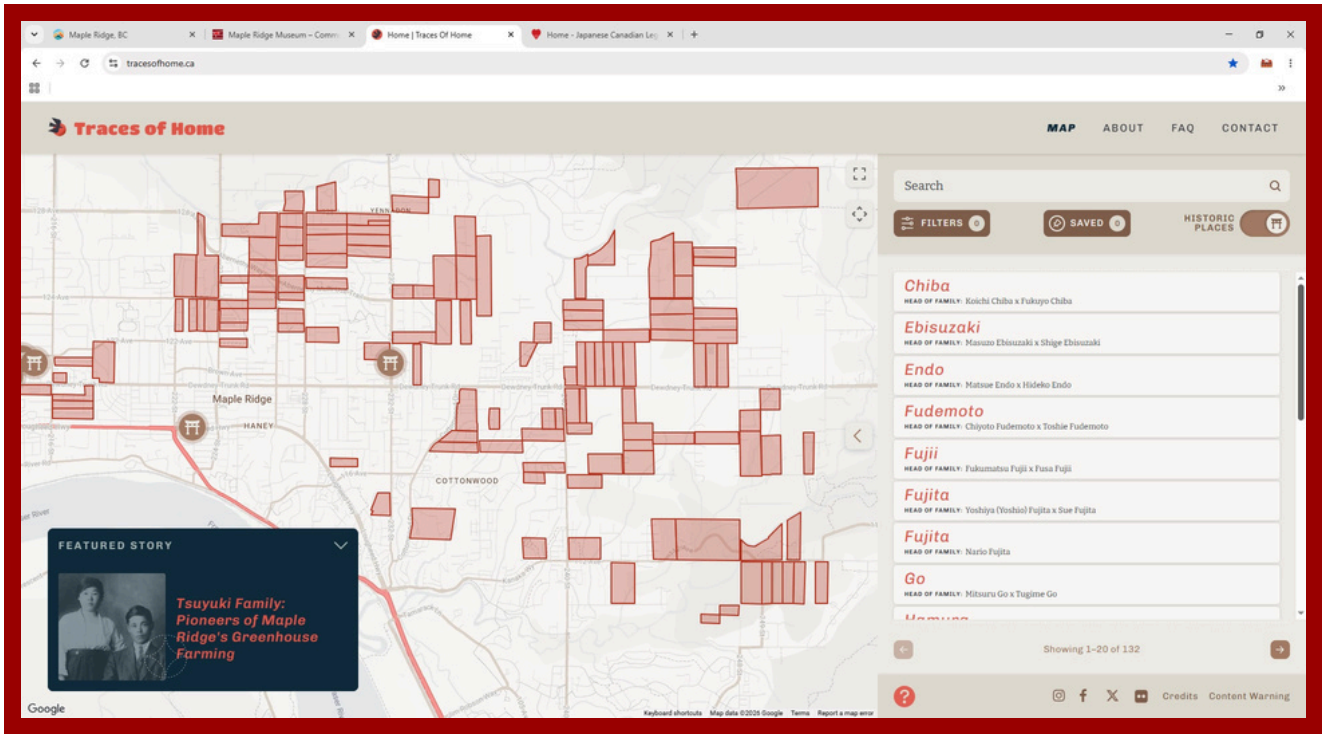
MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# TRACES OF HOME ANNOUNCEMENT




*Traces of Home* is officially ready to launch!

I am incredibly honoured to have worked on this project over the last year. I began working at the Maple Ridge Museum in 2022, right before *What Was Taken* opened to the public as a temporary exhibit and saw its move into our permanent gallery. I have seen the impact it has made to the Japanese Canadian community, both here in Maple Ridge and across Canada. To expand this exhibit online was a clear next step.

*Traces of Home* takes the Japanese Canadian land ownership map created by our now Director, Gordana Dimovska, and turns it into an interactive website. Visitors to the site can search different properties and learn about the families who lived there. These family profiles also include archival materials from the museum's collection, such as photos, newspaper articles, and yearbooks.

What is available on the site is not at all a complete history. Historical records show many more Japanese Canadian families who called Maple Ridge home before they were uprooted during World War II. While not currently included in our map, it is our hope that descendants of these families will reach out and share their histories. The site will be updated as we get more submissions.

I am so grateful to have been a part of this project, and I look forward to seeing it grow.

Tisha Acuña, Special Projects Curator

# Introducing our Newest Staff Member



## Gurnoor Powar

*Archivist*

Gurnoor Powar is eager to return to the archives as the Archivist for the Maple Ridge Museum. She is currently pursuing a master's in Archival Studies at UBC. Gurnoor has gained archival experience through her work here on the exhibit and research project Legacies of Labour and through her time at the City of Surrey Archives. With a strong background working with community arts and cultural organizations, she is looking forward to applying her expertise to the position and increasing accessibility to the archives.

# Open Call for Stories!




Tisha, our Special Projects Curator, has been busy finalizing the 'Traces of Home' project. The website, funded by JCLS and developed with SplitMango, is now completed after almost two years of hard work combing through the archives. We are looking for descendants of the Maple Ridge Japanese Canadian community who would be interested in sharing their family history on our website. This could either be in the form of stories about the family or digital copies of images and documents connected to your family history.

The 'Traces of Home' website is a combination of an interactive online map and a digital archival database, debuting in Fall 2026. Aside from providing public access to resources and archival materials in the collection, we also hope that the project will provide a space for reconnecting to family roots and sharing community memory.

Please reach out to us at info@mapleridgemuseum.org if you would like us to share your stories!

## Events Re-Cap!

September and October were busy and exciting months at the Maple Ridge Museum! We celebrated the season with our annual Apple Harvest Fest, explored the spooky side of Haney House during The Dead of Night (our annual Paranormal Investigation event), and connected with the community through the annual ARMS Ridge Meadows Rivers Day celebrations. We also had the opportunity to meet and engage with new faces at the volunteer fair at Thomas Haney Secondary, sharing ways to get involved and support the museum.

A big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, staff, visitors, and event attendees for making this season so special! Your hard work, support, enthusiasm, and participation help bring the Maple Ridge Museum to life, and we couldn't do it without you. We are so grateful to everyone who joined us, supported our events, and helped make lasting memories. We look forward to welcoming you all back for more exciting events and opportunities in the new year!









## Become a Member!

The Maple Ridge Historical Society operates the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives and manages Haney House Museum, St Andrews Heritage Church, and the Old Post Office building on Callaghan St. We are committed to preserving and honouring our local history, as well as the heritage and stories of the people who live in Maple Ridge today.

Our mission is to share our enthusiasm to protect, honour, and celebrate the history of Maple Ridge through the stories of our communities. Your membership helps us in our mission to preserve our collection of artifacts, archives and to educate the community in our shared heritage through programs and events.

### Membership Information

*Individual*
*$20 / Year*

*Family*
*$25 / Year*

## Midwinter Closure




*The Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum will be closed from December 21ST to January 4tH for our mid-winter break.*

On behalf of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, we want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season. We can't wait to see what the New Year will bring and we are excited to welcome everyone back for a new year in 2026!

DEWDNEY-ALOUETTE RAILWAY SOCIETY

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.

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