

Newsletter May 2011

MAY 26 PROGRAM

Our last program meeting of the season will be presented on May 26 at 7:30 pm at St. Andrew's Heritage Hall on 116th Ave.

Noted historian **David Giesbrecht** will speak on "Japanese Canadians: the Destruction of a Community in Democratic BC." After the Japanese surprise bombing of Pearl Harbour and the entry of the United States into the Second World War, all Japanese nationals living in Canada were under suspicion.

Despite evidence to the contrary, all Japanese residents were required to move away from the Pacific coast into various work and internment camps. Maple Ridge was very strongly affected by this government edict.

This talk should be a fascinating topic, so encourage your friends to attend. Visitors are always welcome for a \$2 fee. *sn*

PROGRAM IDEAS

What topics would you like to hear about for our program meetings in the fall of 2011 and the rest of 2012? Please forward any suggestions for topics, outings, special events or potential speakers to Sheila Nickols or Val Patenaude. *sn*



HERITAGE TEA 2012

At our evaluation meeting, the Heritage Tea Committee decided to ask antique expert Al Bowen to return as an addition to the event. Because of the rising cost of food, the entrance fee for the tea will rise to \$6. (We squeaked by with a surplus of \$2.70 in 2011.) Because Easter Day falls on April 8 next year, the Heritage Tea will be held on April 14, 2012. Save the date! *sn*



The Maehara children. Their parent farmed on lots on both sides of 100th Avenue at 256th Street, including the lot where the Thornhill School was later built.

NEW BOARD

We have filled out the positions on our board for the coming year:

Faye Isaac, President

Katherine Wagner, Vice President

Mike Davies, Treasurer

Wendy Cook, Secretary

Sheila Nickols, Past President

Directors **Steve Kellas**, **Dick Sutcliffe**, and **Erica Williams**

We also have several active sub-committees including Operations, Programs, and a new committee for Fund-raising and Public Relations. If any member would like to participate with a committee, contact Val at the museum [604-463-5311] or one of the board members.

Thanks to all who volunteer their time to serve on the board and help with its activities!





The Paterson children on their way to school from Port Haney in 1910. From left to right Thomas Jr., Margaret, Ellen and Peter. Their parents were Thomas, a fisherman, and Cecilia. Look at those lunch pails! Their school was where Zellers is today. Peter's name is written on the cenotaph. He died in Belgium in 1917, age 21.



May Day celebrations disappeared after the Second World War and were replaced by the opening of the baseball season. Held usually on the 3rd weekend of May was the Pony League Parade and Tournament that kicked off the year. The youth teams – most sponsored by local businesses or community organizations – marched in parade from the Aggie Grounds in Haney to the ball park in Hammond, where this picture was taken in 1956



Creole Jazz Band – This group played our final concert in 2010. (Photo: Dick Sutcliffe)

15TH ANNUAL MUSIC ON THE WHARF CONCERT SERIES

Over-looking the beautiful Fraser River, the “Music on the Wharf” concert series has something for everyone in the family. It started with a local band offering to play a one-time concert and has become one of the Maple Ridge Historical Society’s most popular annual events. This year the series is in its 15th season, and there were triple the number of applicants to choose from than in previous years, much to the delight of the selection committee! After a long “listening party” the committee has chosen the following bands to perform at this year’s event.

July 11: **Marty Bernard & The Bloo Zebras**

July 25: **Steven Hansen
& The Grove Merchants**

August 8: **Willy Blizzard**

August 22: **Bruce James Orchestra**

All concerts are at the Port Haney Wharf and began at 7:30pm (with exception of August 22nd which starts at 7pm). Don’t forget to bring a lawn chair, as there is no seating at the wharf. In case of rain, the concert will be cancelled, this decision will be made by 4:30pm the day of the concert. Signs will be posted at the venue, and you can contact Allison at 604-463-5311 for more details. *aw*

COMING EVENTS:

May 28, 10am to 2pm:

“History Goes to Market #1”

The Maple Ridge Museum & Archives is working with the Haney Farmer’s Market to bring historic displays to the bandstand during the market. This first event will focus on the history of education in the district and how our schools are using local history information to keep our past relevant to the young.

The second “History Goes to Market” will be on July 30 and that one will focus on the history of local food production, particularly the orchards we were so famous for.

June 18, 7:30 pm:

Denise Hagan presents a program of inspirational Irish music at St. Andrew’s Heritage Church Hall.

LOCAL FUN WITH FACEBOOK



If you are a Facebooker, check out these groups that are focused on local history:

“We Call It Haney” – a lively group of people who grew up here and try to recall where things were and what they were called. We help them out with pictures and tidbits from the archives.

“Haney Central Elementary” – people who attended this long-time local elementary school reminiscing about school days.

Just enter the group name in the Facebook search bar to find them. *vp*

ST. ANDREW’S | RENTAL



The St. Andrew’s Heritage Church (1888) now functions as a community hall and is available to rent for weddings, social events, and meetings. The hall accommodates up to 75 people. Call Tom Little at 778-242-7261

NEW PROPOSAL FOR EXPANSION

The District of Maple Ridge has declared its intent to find a new purpose for the piece of land in Memorial Peace Park, which is immediately west of the Leisure Centre. Originally it was thought that land would be used for a hotel but that has not happened.

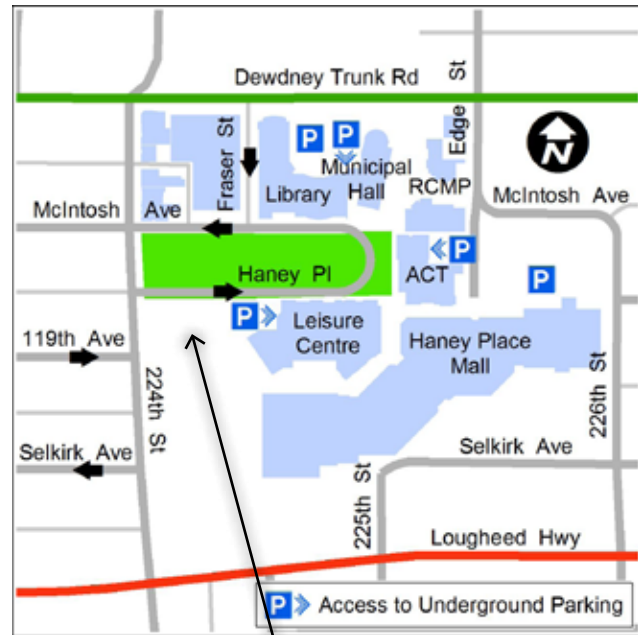
The board of the Historical Society has proposed that our new museum and archives facility be constructed on that land.

The downtown site offers many distinct advantages. Primary among them is the location of a community museum and archives facility within the precinct of related arts and cultural facilities like the library, leisure centre, war memorials, and arts centre. The new bus loop is nearby and underground parking is adjacent and could be expanded.

The location within the community cultural precinct would allow for "Moveable Feast" type celebrations involving the library, theatre, museum and archives. There would also be enough meeting and multi-purpose spaces in adjacent buildings to support conferences.

A proper archives facility with public access and a presentation space will provide a venue for thoughtful consideration of our past, present and future. The higher visibility of the site will better showcase the community's commitment to its "Deeper Roots".

The museum and archives is a natural fit for a multi-purpose structure. For example, the ground floor of a multi-story building could house community groups like the BIA, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Information services. A café and community gathering place could round out the space with the museum and archives occupying the floors above.



Land west of Leisure Centre in Memorial Peace Park waiting for new development.

While the board feels this more visible site will work best for the new facility, this in no way diminishes our commitment to our existing facilities in the brickyard buildings and at Haney House. The idea is to expand our capacity with the new facility – not to replace existing capacity.

The Historical Society is calling on the community and Maple Ridge Council to give serious consideration of this option for a new museum and archive facility next to Spirit Square in our downtown core. We ask our membership, in particular, to support this proposal by writing to Mayor and Council, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9 or by email to edaykin@mapleridge.ca. *vp*

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

