

Newsletter October 2011



Alma Hampton in 1914, lounging on the family lawn in her summer frock.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

At this summer's Music on the Wharf series, the **Kinsmen Club** which donates \$400 every year toward the cost of the events also donated the proceeds from their concession sales for two concerts, which added a further \$95.

Webster's Corners Day – despite a bad weather turnout – shared its revenues with us to continue their practice of many years. This year, the contribution was \$155.

Another generous donor is **Don Waite**, who did some photographic restoration work for a client using images he had donated to the museum, so he gave us \$250.

All these acts of kindness add up, and this past year it was the accumulation of this sort of donations that allowed us to get the beautiful new display cases we are now enjoying.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Our own **Sandra Borger** will be presenting the program on October 27th at 7:30 pm in St. Andrew's Heritage Hall. Her topic is "*What Are You Wearing? Fashion and Grooming in the 20th Century*". She has photos covering each of the decades from 1900 to 1990, with comments about social and cultural influences on both men's and women's clothing. You may remember her last program on young Mennonite women in Vancouver after the Second World War, which showcased Sandra's research skills.

Sandra has a BA in History and a minor in women's studies, leading to a Master of Arts degree in history in 2010. She has worked for the Maple Ridge Museum as a researcher for a number of years, and has also worked with the staff of the Pitt Meadows Museum.

Drop-in visitors are welcome to attend for a \$2 fee, with members of the Maple Ridge Historical Society admitted free.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

While our membership has been stable for several years, it is not growing. Our board is embarking on a project to increase our membership and so we are asking our members to help as well.

If each of you could convince just one more person to join, we would double in size. Memberships are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. We also have corporate and group memberships for \$120 per year.

Keep in mind that if we are to convince this community to help us build a new museum facility, we need the strength of numbers.

Membership forms are available on our website at www.mapleridgemuseum.org or at the museum.



PORT HANEY DAY

On Sunday, September 18th, the **Port Haney Neighbourhood Change Initiative** hosted Port Haney Day at the Haney House Museum and Brickwood Park, which featured historical displays, tours of Haney House, games for the children and a historical walking tour.

The celebration drew in over fifty people, mostly residents of the area, and nearly all remarked they had never visited the site before. It was just the right crowd for the first big event hosted by the Neighbourhood Change Initiative, which was launched in the spring on 2010 by the District of Maple Ridge to engage Port Haney residents about the area's issues and changing character.

Many thanks to Neighbourhood Change Initiative Committee for involving the Historical Society in this event, and to the volunteers and staff who helped out on the day of. It is likely to become an annual event, and we hope for better weather for next year.

BANK OF MONTREAL – A CENTURY OF SERVICE

This year two local entities are celebrating centennials based on the same building. In 1911, the Bank of Montreal opened in a newly built building in Mary Charleton Storey's front yard. When the Lougheed Highway was built, the bank moved its operations to a new brick building at the corner of 224th Street and Lougheed Highway. The former bank building was a boarding house and a private residence prior to being restored with tender loving care by Bernice and Don Gehring in the 1970s, to become the Billy Miner Pub. So this year, the Billy Miner building and the Bank of Montreal's Haney branch are both celebrating 100 years.



The Bank of Montreal on Lougheed in the 1940s.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION WANTS YOU!

Do you know someone who has lovingly restored a local historic home or business? How about someone working behind the scenes who has promoted our local history in some way? Please consider making a nomination. Send your idea to Lisa Zosiak in Planning at 604-463-5221 or lzoziak@mapleridge.ca.

The Commission is also seeking new members: volunteer to be a part of this important local group that works closely with Council to help them make wise decisions about heritage buildings and places.

CHRISTMAS CHOICES

This year our society Christmas gathering will be an afternoon affair at Haney House. There will be more about that event in our next newsletter. However, a second option for evening time exists in the form of an outing to the ACT to see "A Christmas Carol" performed by Emerald Pig. Tickets are \$20 each but drop to \$16.25 for a group of four and lower still for larger groups. If you would like to be part of a Historical Society group to go see this musical extravaganza on Thursday, December 15 at 7:30pm, please contact Val at 604-463-5311.



Primary school classroom dressed in costume for Halloween (1950s)

A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN!

Sunday, October 30th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

What could be a more fitting place to visit on Hallowe'en weekend than Haney House Museum? Come see the house decorated for fall, have a guided tour from one of our costumed guides, and children can partake in a Hallowe'en craft and leave with some treats! Feel free to come dressed up in costume, or without. If the weather is chilly we'll have something warm to drink inside as well.



WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

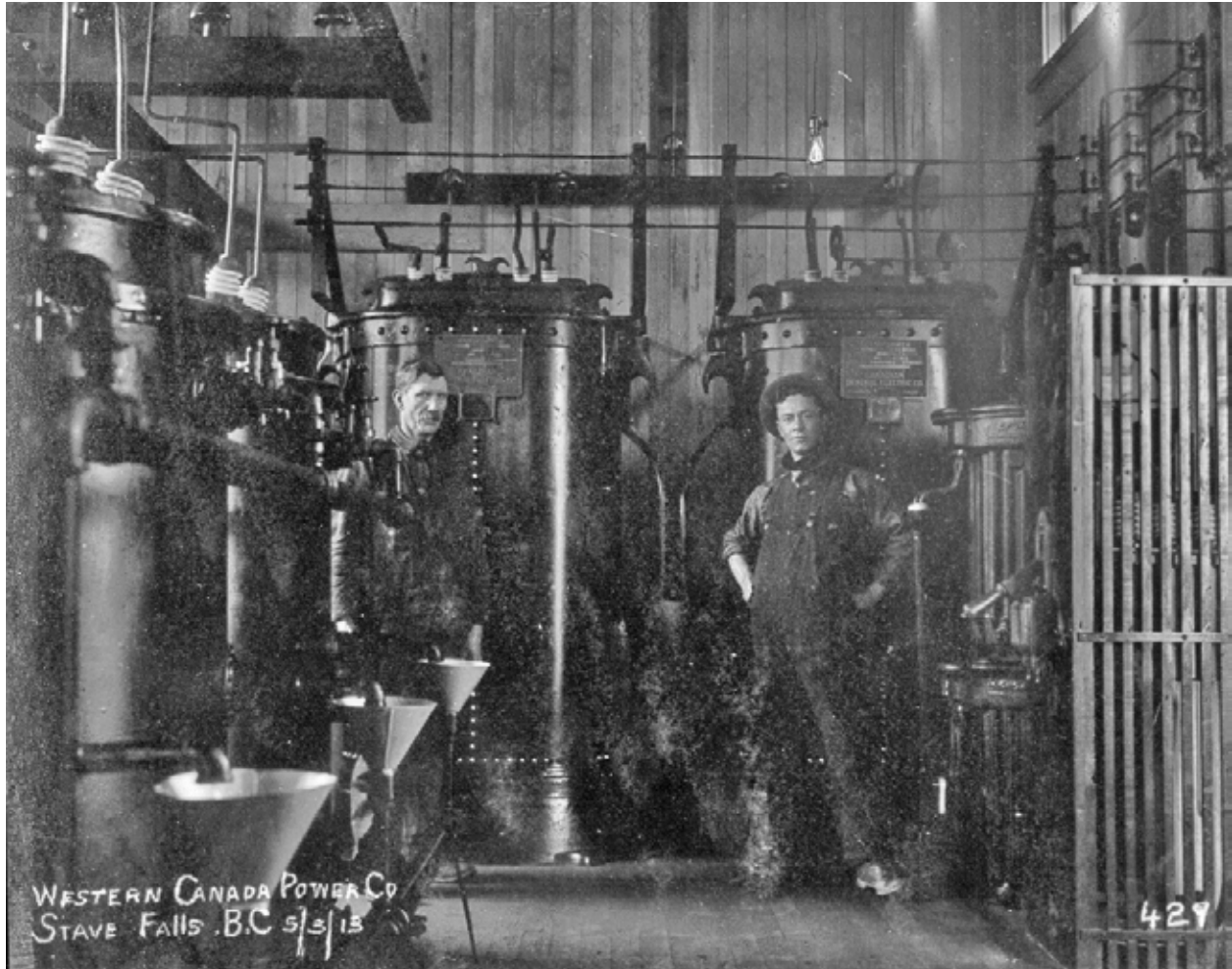
During the past year, attendance at the monthly members meeting has dropped off, and it has us wondering why.

We need some feedback from our members on what is keeping you away. We understand that our members who live out of town cannot be expected to come, but for those of you in town, would you please answer a few questions for us?

1. If you are not attending members meetings, why not?
2. Would a change of location make a difference – for example, to the public library or the senior's centre?
3. Are there topics or activities that would attract you more than what is currently being offered?

You may respond by phone to 604-463-5311 and speak to Val or Allison, by e-mail to mrmuseum@gmail.com or in writing to

Maple Ridge Historical Society, 22520 116th Ave., Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 0S4



Inside the Western Canada Power Company plant at Stave Falls in 1913. BC Electric later took over the facility, and then BC Hydro, who turned it into the Stave Falls Powerhouse Museum.

HERITAGE WEEK 2012

The Heritage Canada theme for 2012 is "The Heritage of Power Generation".

This is a great theme for this part of the world, as we have such a rich history in the production of hydro-electric power. It is a great time to start collecting stories from family or friends who worked for BC Electric or Hydro and share them with us.

We will have a large display in the library and we're looking for objects and memorabilia from local power production. If you're not ready to donate, we'd be happy to borrow.

We have plenty of pictures about the construction and operation of the dams but not many objects.

Contact Allison at 604 463 5311 if you have something for us.

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

