

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter September 2011



P03475 – One of the beehive kilns at Port Haney Brick & Tile, 1914.

SEPTEMBER 22 PROGRAM

Our September 22nd program to begin the Maple Ridge Historical Society year will be presented by Erica Williams on the industrial heritage of British Columbia. She has studied museum sites in other areas which feature the important industrial buildings that created jobs and prosperity. What reminders do we have of the mills and other early industries that built our community?

We will meet at St. Andrew's Heritage Hall at 22798 116th Avenue, just west of the Haney bypass at 7:30 pm. As usual, MRHS members are free to attend, with a \$2 drop-in fee for non members. Refreshments will be served.. *sn*

'LOOKING BACK'

There are now six people contributing to the long running "Looking Back" column that has been printed in the *Maple Ridge News* since 1987. Sheila Nickols, Fred Braches and Leslie Norman, Curator of the Pitt Meadows Museum, will share duties for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Val Patenaude, Allison White and Sandra Borger will send in articles on the other weeks of the month. Both the Editor of the *News* and the contributors are happy to keep the history of our district before the public on a regular basis.

FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK

It seems a bit surreal that the calendar is reading September already – we had quite a busy summer here at the museum and at Haney House.

We kick-started our summer season with a renovation at the Maple Ridge Museum, which had us closed for two weeks, however, the final product exceeded our expectations and we're still marvelling at the space and new display cases. We were able to purchase 4 new display cases, now which hold all new exhibits, and also provide extra storage. On display currently is A History of Logging, Farming, Blacksmithing and an interactive What's It Used For?, Domestic Life in the 20th Century and A History of Finnish Settlers. Every visitor (new and returning) has remarked on the cases, and we look forward to changing up the exhibits in the future.

Below are pictures of the renovations, which wouldn't have been possible without a \$3,000 grant from the Haney Rotary Wine Zest program and another \$3,000 from the District of Maple Ridge plus an excellent summer staff! Thankfully, with the assistance of Gaming Funds, we are able to keep Sandra Borger and Alison Pocock on as part-time staff throughout the year. *aw*



Above: Before the reno.

Below: After the reno



MUSIC ON THE WHARF



This season of Music on the Wharf started off on all the right notes. We had nearly 20 applicants, and although it was hard to choose only 4, we managed to put together a great roster.

The first 2 concerts averaged 175 people, with the last one bringing in 230, but a sullen downpour forced the cancellation of the August 22nd presentation by the Bruce James Orchestra. Too bad for all their fans, and for us. This summer the Kiwanis Club that supplies drinks and snacks at all the events very generously decided to donate all their profits to the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Sadly, due to the poor weather, reduced sponsorship, and our contractual obligations to the artists, we still finished the season in the red. Next year, the Committee will have to boost sponsorship, to offset more costs. *sn/aw*

WHAT'S ON AT HANEY HOUSE?

While the Maple Ridge Museum was under a renovation this summer, we were able to focus more attention towards Haney House, and we had a successful summer of events. The Canada Day Carnival drew in over 250 people, it was a real treat to see crowds of people lined up awaiting a tour. Our spring/summer tour, highlighting summer sports and hot spots, was a hit.

Our Tea on the Veranda was the only program that was a bit lacklustre this summer. We went down to only having the teas on Sunday while the weather kept many away. We are hoping this late summer weather will be a plus for Port Haney Day, which is taking place on Sunday, September 18th at Haney House from 1-4pm. The museum is working alongside the Port Haney Change Initiative to provide a space for the events. There will be tours of the house, food, door prizes, heritage displays and games for children in Brickyard Park. Please visit mapleridgemuseum.org for more details on the event. *aw*

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Commission is seeking nominations for its Heritage Awards. The nomination form with its outline of award categories is available at the museum or from the municipal website under "committees and commissions" and then "Community Heritage Commission". The Commission is also seeking new members who want to help guide the municipality in its handling of heritage matters. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Zosiak at 604-463-5221 for details.

COMING EVENTS

PORT HANEY DAY – Sunday, September 18 – Join us at Haney House from 1-4pm for a celebration of Port Haney.

RIVERS DAY – Sunday, September 25 – Come to Allco Park from 11am to 3pm to celebrate our Alouette River and the Allco Hatchery. Lots to do and learn on-site including a very well stocked fish pond for the young ones.

ACCESSIONS GALORE!

We had a wonderful summer for new archival collections. Some were due to our connections with the ever-growing "We Call It Haney!" facebook group but others just came through the door due to word of mouth and our campaign for vulnerable group records.

- Hammond Community Association – Eric Phillips donated the whole collection that goes back to the earliest days when the association had a room in Hammond Elementary. There are lots of pictures of Hammond Days and other events as well.
- The 1998 BC Summer Games – Jim Clements was responsible for over-seeing all the photography for that major event and has donated the entire collection to our community archives. There are thousands and thousands of well-organized photographs of opening ceremonies, parades, competing teams, and closing events.

- Meadowridge Rotary – aided by Rotarian and our board member Mike Davies, this is our second Rotary collection. Accessions from still-functioning service groups are left open-ended so that we can continue to accumulate the records over time.
- Yennadon Elementary – our researcher Erin Woelders is a part-time teacher at Yennadon Elementary. In late June, she did a rescue of accumulated boxes of school photos and memorabilia that go back to the 1950's and 60's.
- Maple Ridge Archery Club – Laura Curwen brought us the historic records of this group that dates back to the early postwar period.
- The Hart Family – Judi Hart provided us with historic information on her “logger's sports” family accomplishments which span three generations.
- The Haney facebook group members brought us photos of the interior of the Auction Barn [rare!], a Shetland pony club mini Musical Ride, pictures of activities of the Maple Ridge Archery Club, and many class photos from different schools, filling in gaps in our collection. *vp*



Eager participants for the 1982 Hammond Hillbilly Dance.



Above: The Games banner in the opening parade in the summer of 1998.

Below: Archery club members take a coffee break in Hammond Hall in 1957 – that's Marjory Saunders down in front.





A wonderful interior shot of the Aggie Hall from the camera of Bill Saunders. We continue to work through the massive accession of negatives from the Saunders estate.