



QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

Three members of the Maple Ridge Historical Society were honoured recently with the presentation of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee medals. They are (seen from left) Bernice Gehring, Betty Levens, and Valerie Patenaude, all of them rewarded for their community service.

Sixty-thousand of these medals were allotted to Canada, the majority of them presented to military medal holders and members of the Order of Canada. Each community in Canada was also given four medals to honour people for outstanding community service. As with any military medal, there are protocols for the wearing of these medals, for public occasions like Remembrance Day.

Bernice Gehring has been active in promoting the heritage of Maple Ridge, having served as president of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Her efforts to preserve the old Bank of Montreal as the Billy Miner pub, and her leadership of heritage walking tours were only a few of her activities.

The fourth recipient (not shown) is Gregory Schofield, a Metis poet living in Maple Ridge.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We enjoyed a tremendous surge in visitors over the summer and our splendid fall. This was largely due to the efforts of our curator, Allison White, and her student helpers who have been making frequent changes to our displays both at the museum and Haney House.

Having regular access to the local *Maple Ridge News* as we fill our spots on the “Looking Back” column roster also gives us the opportunity to tell the community about the changes and the donations that have prompted them.

The society has moved its board meeting night to the 4th Thursday of the month at St Andrew’s Heritage Church Hall at 7 pm. Any member who is interested in the inner workings of the society is encouraged to attend, perhaps with an eye to joining the board at some point. For more details, just give me a call at the museum [604-463-5311].

We have not planned a Christmas gathering for this year due to the very poor turnout last year. If you find yourself missing our regular gatherings as a society, please let us know of ideas you have about where, when and why we could get together that would draw more than a bare handful. We can discuss our ideas in more detail at our AGM in March, 2013.

Val Patenaude



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 Haney House: 604-463-1377.



SEASONAL CHANGES AT HANEY HOUSE

October came to a close at Haney House with a successful Hallowe’en event which was attended by over 40 people. There were crafts, treats, and a scavenger hunt on the history of the Haney family for children to partake in. And of course, an extra prize awarded to those who came in costume.

November has ushered in our winter tour, and the house is now decorated for the holidays with seasonal artifacts on display, along with a few new permanent pieces. We’ve had a good response to our changing exhibits at the house these past few years, and are always interested in acquiring more objects used specifically during the winter season. If you have something you think fits into this category, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311.



Our summer students came back to help with the Hallowe’en event. Elena Van Buschbach, left, and Kaity Neff.



The newly completed Bank of Montreal at 224th and Lougheed in 1932. The image has been hand-tinted to show the building as red brick with yellow lettered signs.

W.B. PIERS PHOTO DONATION

W. Barry Piers was father to Margery Dunning, wife of Eric Dunning who was editor and producer of the local *Gazette* newspaper.

Piers was a bank manager for the Bank of Montreal, first in their Port Haney location [now the Billy Miner Pub] and later at the new branch at 224th and Lougheed. He was an enthusiastic photographer and over the years, we have accumulated many of his images for our community archives. Imagine our delight when we received by mail a whole package of his original photographs, courtesy of family on Vancouver Island. Adding to the treat was the fact that all but one were new to us and the one duplicate was a far superior original for the copy print we had.

Piers documented the very important period around the building of the Lougheed Highway when the commercial centre of town moved up the hill and expanded. He took wonderful portrait photographs of garages and stores. He also recorded the moving of houses to make room for commercial expansion. We will be showcasing more of these images in the future.



The Bank of Montreal building at a later time. Note the extension to the left.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Starting December 1st the museum will have two cases at the Maple Ridge Library to celebrate the holiday season. One will be on Christmas through Wartime, illustrating the trials and sacrifices made by those on the home front and in battles, as well as immigrant stories to Canada during such a trying time.

The second display will be on the History of the Canadian Pacific Railway and various forms of transportation during winter. A focus of this display will be on the Dewdney Alouette Railway Society and its involvement with the CP Holiday Train and other community events.

Drop by the library during December to view the exhibits!

SCHOOL DAYS

Teacher Ann Morcom has brought us a large collection of class photos from Glenwood Elementary. We have added 466 photos, including class, staff, team and club photos and the “Rainbow Ridge” and “Strong Start” programs. We formerly had only a handful from 1965 to 1969 and for those we only have relatively small scans. The new accession has full class sets from 1969-70 to the present. We also have custody of a rather splendid time capsule that contains memories of the school’s first 50 years and is set to be opened in 25 years – in 2037.

Glenwood is the 9th school for which we have substantial collections of class photos. The others are Haney Central, Hammond, Whonnock, Ruskin, Alexander Robinson, Mount Crescent, Riverside, and Yennadon. Our community archives has taken on the task of collecting and caring for these images as no one else does. We are always looking to fill gaps so if you have school photos from this district, please send year and grade level to mrmuseum@gmail.com or phone 604-463-5311. If we don’t have yours already, we’ll arrange to borrow them.



McIVER TREASURES

Recently brought in to the museum was a box of family history belonging to the late Jean Seppala (nee McIver). Opening the box revealed a treasure trove of family history containing receipts from the family dating back to 1895, engagement notices, and years of correspondence, pictures, and certificates. This section of the McIver family history starts with the original John McIver who helped incorporate and name Maple Ridge, and runs through his son John Alexander McIver, to his granddaughter Mrs. Jean Seppala, daughter to John A. and Gwendolyn McIver. This is the very stuff of family history!

This contribution to our archives provides in depth and useful information pertaining to one of the pioneer families of Maple Ridge and demonstrates the McIver contribution to our community through J.A. McIver's work as Reeve and part of the Hammond Fruit Growers Union, and the provision of land for, and construction of, the Maple Ridge Golf Course.

One newspaper clipping referred to a native stone "statue" that John A McIver had found on his land and that he donated to the Vancouver Museum. This is one of the "seated human figure bowls" that were one of the great artworks of the First Nations of the lower Fraser River. Several have been found in Maple Ridge, in Webster's Corners and in Hammond. There are even some in the Royal Ontario Museum that were found here. Definitely a future research topic.

bg & vp



A well-known sample of a seated human figure bowl is the so-called "Skytte Bowl" (left) found by Arvo Skytte on his land in Webster's Corners in the early 1920s. This bowl is now part of the collection of the Museum of Vancouver. Note the front part that is missing from the McIver bowl.



McIver stone bowl – It was identified as a "statue" because the bowl portion has been broken away. These pecked stone objects were used as small bowls for mixing pigments for ceremonies.

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

