

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter September 2012

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012: WORKSHOP FOR THE FUTURE

We are very pleased to invite members and friends to join us at 7pm on Tuesday, September 25 at St Andrew's Heritage Church Hall to reimagine our future with a nice new museum facility in it. To help us, we have two world-class experts — Ian McLellan and Brent Cooke — who will be leading the workshop. Ian has an incredible resume spanning 50 years in the museum world and he has been involved in museum development projects at every level from community museums to the massive Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC. Brent spent more than 30 years at the Royal BC Museum, specializing in their natural history and First Nations displays, including the fabulous "Out of the Mist" display on the Nu-chal-nuth peoples of Vancouver Island's west coast. Brent has since done a lot of work with KARO design which is the firm we worked with when the initial concept design for our new museum was developed.

This will be an excellent opportunity to find out how the museum world works and how we can re-vitalize our stalled project. Please join us — admission is free and refreshments will be served.



Above: Quesnel & District Museum

Below: Brent Cooke is also an artist in cast bronze



Proposed new STEM Centre in the old Houston Astrodome. Ian McLennan, Houston.

CHANGES TO MEETING SCHEDULE

It seems that every generation must experience a revolution of some kind in our social behavior. In the 1950's, television changed everything. Today, we are experiencing as great a change due to our increasing reliance on home computers for information, entertainment and socialization. What this has meant is that attendance at monthly meetings and lectures is so far down that most groups are cancelling them. We find ourselves in the same position.



This year we will not be scheduling our regular monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month. Instead, we will host events whenever we become aware of a great speaker and will

schedule according to their availability. We will be having our museum expansion session with Ian McLennan on September 25, no meeting in October, and then we hope to host a military history themed evening at the public library on November 13. Save the date and there will be more information in the next newsletter. We will also have our annual social events like our pot-luck AGM in March. Stay tuned!

WRITERS WANTED!

We are looking for more people to contribute to our newsletter with the possibility of expanding it if we get sufficient material. In this newsletter, you'll find a piece by David J Trudel who was invited to contribute based on his writings on the "We Call It Haney!!" Facebook group. Museum staff and volunteers will continue to cover the nuts and bolts of society business but we'd like to include more of this memoir type of writing. We're looking for pieces between 250 and 500 words and we can supply photographs. We have no particular era in mind and you can write about people, places or events. Share your stories!

SUMMER EVENTS

Our summer started with all new students! In June we welcomed co-op students from the University of Victoria, Mallory Palliyaguru and Megan Gerrys. Mallory worked at Maple Ridge Museum, spending the majority of her time working with the research files, in order to digitize them, while Megan was at Haney House planning events, working on transcription as well as display work. Both girls showed a wonderful work ethic and were great role models to the younger students. We were sad to see them go at the end of the summer. Yet, our two junior students, Elena Van Buschbach and Kaity Neff, high school students from Thomas Haney, we're hoping to hold onto for next summer!



Co-op student Mallory sorting and renaming digital files

We kick-started our event season with the annual **Canada Day** celebrations at Haney House. This year we decided to have a Diamond Jubilee theme celebrating the Queen's 60th anniversary on the throne.

Our summer students at Haney House, Megan and Elena, coordinated activities such as croquet, bean bag toss, face painting, dress-up clothes, arts and crafts and prizes given out for the various Jubilee-themed games. Megan also secured a food donation from Save-On Foods (\$100 gift card), which helped not only with refreshment on the day, but lasted us throughout the summer for our Teas on the Veranda. Overall, on Canada Day, Haney House saw over 100 people through the doors. Not as many as last year, but we did receive \$80 in donations, and we only spent \$90 on expenses.



Canada Day at Haney House.

Our **Tea on the Veranda** program had poor attendance this year. The teas only made \$70 and if we did not have the Save-On gift card left over from Canada Day, this number would have been substantially lower. Therefore, after discussing options with the staff and board, we have decided to cancel this program for next year. We will still have our Mother's Day tea, which has always been well attended, and we will also put on a tea in mid-late August as a "back-to-school" type event.

We had a successful season this summer with **Music on the Wharf**, despite some scheduling snafus. Good for Grapes, Bruce James Orchestra and Wendy Biscuit Blues entertained the crowds

this year, while the Penelope Above concert was unfortunately cancelled due to rain. We gained \$1900 in sponsorship this year, and made \$295 through collections.

We'll be seeking new performers for next season starting in March of 2013. Performers must send audio tracks and band information *to the museum in hard copy*. More details to come in the new year!



Music on the Wharf.

On Sunday, September 9th the Port Haney Neighbourhood Change Initiative hosted **Port Haney Day** at the Haney House Museum for the second year in a row. The event featured historical displays, tours of Haney House, games for the children, local musical entertainment, refreshments from Tim Hortons and the Salvation Army Potato Truck, as well as door prizes donated from local businesses, and leisure centres passes. There were over 125 people that came through Haney House for a tour, despite the sprinkling of rain!

HERITAGE CONTROL BOXES

We've all seen the bright, floral covers on the traffic control boxes in Maple Ridge. Now the boxes at 12 intersections along Lougheed Highway are to be covered but this time, they're using historic images from the immediate vicinity of the control boxes. This has worked well in other municipalities so we're excited about this project which will bring more of our archival collection to community awareness.

TECHNICAL UPGRADE

Over the summer, volunteer IT Guru Darren Durupt has guided us through a process of upgrading our computer systems to a true network. The work will continue through the fall. Along with this upgrade, we are increasing our stock of digital resources including photographs and documents and putting in place safeguards for those vulnerable digital files. We've come a long way since we got our first computer in 1993.



Darth Server — the black box that rules us all!

NEW MEMBERS

We've added several new members over the summer including Aila Fleming, Jan McLennan, Mary Blackstock, Chris Hay, Marilyn Kienas, Dave & Julie Koehn, and Susan & Daryl McNeill. We will also be giving gift memberships to the following people for their contributions to the society over the past year:

Mike Buckingham — for scanning the Wilma Menzies Robinson naturalist slide collection.

Robert Richardson — for transferring our ¾" Rogers Cable videotapes to digital files.

Andrew Dondo — for raiding the homes of family and friends for photographs for our community archival collection.

Wayne Robinson — for extraordinary effort in uncovering the history of Abernethy & Loughheed Logging Company.

If I've forgotten anyone, please remind me. Remember that memberships are half price from now until the end of the year so please encourage your friends to join. Membership forms can be found on our website at www.mapleridgemuseum.org or call the museum at 604-463-5311 and one will be sent to you.

MUSEUM CORNER

Summer always brings a great burst of activity in our behind-the-scenes work as four bright and energetic summer students join our team. This summer, Val concentrated on the huge box of negatives from the William Saunders collection and added over 400 images to our collection. Bill was a gifted photographer and his images will be much enjoyed.

The students worked on digitizing and indexing projects as well as completing some transcriptions from previous years. We are digitizing our research files which are a huge body of work but is now well under way and can be worked away at over the winter. We indexed local histories by Charles Miller as they have suffered the lack of a surname index. Typing of the minutes of the Port Haney Progressive Association and its counterpart in Hammond give us far better access to the early development stories of those areas.

This has definitely been one of the more fruitful years for donations. Allison will be spending most of the fall catching up on objects brought in over the summer. We are nearing 30 lots, and each lot has come with numerous items, so it's no small task. Thankfully, having off-site storage has allowed us to re-arrange and shift things around inside the museum storage, while transferring larger objects off-site.

Besides numerous dolls and doll related objects, which even includes recycled doll furniture, we've also received gear frames used at the Hammond Mill, baskets from Katzie, and various kitchen utensils, which can be used in our teaching collection.

ALL DOLLED UP

Our summer exhibition at Maple Ridge Museum, *All Dolled Up*, which featured ceramic dolls, paper dolls and various toy furniture from the 1920s and 1930s has been met with such great success that we are extending it through to the end of the year. Not only has the museum received positive feedback from the community, we have also garnered numerous accessions of new dolls, books, and toy furniture. These accessions will be incorporated into the display. They included a doll house diorama from the 1930s, Happy Family Dolls from the 1970s and a black Pedigree doll from the 1940s.



Our task this fall is to find what some of these dolls would have been originally dressed in. If you have any resources that may be helpful, or any other dolls to donate, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311.

COMING EVENTS

Maple Ridge Rivers Day

Allco Park — Sunday, Sept 30, 11am to 3pm

The museum staff will be there with an historical display on our community's history with the Alouette River.

Burnaby in Motion — Going Electric

Burnaby Village Museum — September 29 & 30, 11am to 4:30pm

There will be a series of presentations on the history of the BC Electric Railway. For a brochure, go to www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca and click on September 29 on the pop-up calendar. To register [there is no fee], call (604) 297-4565.

Golden Harvest

The ACT — Friday, October 12, 6 to 8pm

Museum staff will have a display on our agricultural history, particularly in fruit production.

Hallowe'en at Haney House"

Sunday, October 28th — During open hours (10-4pm) — there will be crafts and treats at the house. Costumes welcome!

Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society

Visit the 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

MEMORIES OF A HANEY CHILDHOOD

By David John Trudel, guest contributor

One of the things about growing up in Haney in the Sixties, and one that strikes me as amazingly different when looking at contemporary child-rearing practices, was the amount of freedom that we had as children. Kids used to walk or ride their bikes around town from a very early age and managed to get around on their own. Nobody seemed all that concerned about keeping tabs on their kids' every waking moments; often we would leave home after breakfast, spend the day "jacking around" and return in time for supper having travelled miles, perhaps fallen out of trees or into the river, gotten into fights or played monumental games of "kick the can". But we didn't mind, in fact we relished the control we had over our young lives.

I would have been about seven years old when we temporarily relocated to a rental house near the post office while the family house was being renovated. On Saturdays I would walk, often by myself, over to the Haney Theatre for the matinee. For under a dollar you'd get a ticket, a coke, popcorn and even some licorice. Movies always included all sorts of extras, like a cartoon or two, an NFB short, coming attractions

and then the feature. You'd find your friends and hang out together and nobody lived in fear of being abducted or molested. Everybody knew everyone else it seemed, and everyone took care of each other.

Before the Port Mann Bridge and the freeway were built, we could take the passenger train into Vancouver. I remember that as a real adventure, as there's nothing like a train ride for a young kid for stirring the imagination. In Vancouver you might go shopping at one or all of the big department stores: Eaton's, Woodward's, and the Hudson Bay store. There were even elevator operators, with white gloves, who would open the doors and make sure the car was lined up with the floor and then call out the merchandise on the floor you had arrived at. If it was Christmas time, the undisputed best of the bunch was Woodward's with its incredible window displays



and of course the Toy Department, which got transformed at that time of year into a winter wonderland with its own train ride. Returning home everyone would have something to carry, sometimes it was almost like a line of refugees after we'd disembark with all the parcels and bags and boxes we'd struggle home with.

Above, the last Haney CPR passenger station in the early 1960's. [P02097]

Left, the tree house on the Merklely farm in the later 1950's. [P05199]