

Newsletter January 2013

HERITAGE TEA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS!

The 21st annual Heritage Tea will take place on Saturday, April 6th at the Seniors Centre. The committee is looking for a few volunteers to replace those who are unable to assist in planning this year. If you'd like to be a part of the committee, or help out on the day of please contact Research Assistant, Alison Pocock, at mrmuseum@gmail.com. We welcome new ideas – it's *your* Tea, what do you want to see there?



The "Tea" also has behind-the-scenes volunteers. Here is our sandwich-making crew in 2003 with Bernice Gehring at right.

THORN HILL TREASURE

There is a new *Whonnock Notes* by Fred Braches available. It contains class-group photos from an album of Margaret Norman who taught at Thorn Hill Elementary from 1959 to 1969. The booklet – Number 20 in the series – includes Margaret's neatly hand-printed name lists. This is a very welcome collection as we have nearly nothing about the Thorn Hill school in the archives. Copies are available at the Whonnock post office for \$5.00 and the booklet will also be available soon free on the Web as a pdf. Just Google "whonnock notes" and open the site.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Save the date for our Annual General Meeting at 6:30pm on Thursday, March 21. That is the third Thursday of the month since the usual fourth Thursday falls at the beginning of the Easter weekend. We will have our pot luck supper before the meeting and Val is devising a trivia contest for after the meeting. If you would like to get more involved with the Historical Society and serve on our board or one of its committees, please contact Val at 604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com. It's a very good and harmonious group and many hands make light work. Please join us!

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

The Maple Ridge Historical Society is seeking musical groups to submit applications to perform at the Music on the Wharf Concert Series: July 8, 22 and August 12 and 26, 2013. Music on the Wharf Concert Series is a unique performance opportunity held on the Port Haney Wharf.

In its 17th year, the concert series is well established and well attended. The Maple Ridge Historical Society is looking for musical groups to fill out this year's roster.

Visit mapleridgemuseum.org for full details on submission guidelines.

Submissions are due March 15, 2013.





STAMP EXPERT NEEDED

In a turn of events worthy of a mystery novel, someone who had gotten hold of some materials from the Marge Saunders family home left them in a neat bundle at a bus stop in Maple Ridge. They were found by a good citizen and turned over to the RCMP who proceeded to look for an owner or their descendants. The police contacted the municipal hall to see if the family was known and they, in turn, called the museum. As we hold the Saunders family archives in our community collection, the found materials have been turned over to us.

The package consists mostly of a stamp collection that belonged to Kathleen Saunders and that she began when she was a girl. We would like to evaluate the collection but to do that, we need some help from someone with some knowledge of British and Canadian stamps from the 1930s and 1940s. If you are that person or if you know someone keen on stamps of that vintage, we'd appreciate hearing from them at 604-463-5311.



Downtown Hammond in the 1920s. We have more aerial shots of Hammond than any other neighbourhood due to the vantage offered by the mill's water tower.

HERITAGE WEEK GOOD NEIGHBOURS

To celebrate Heritage Week, which runs from February 18 to 24, the Maple Ridge Museum will have three displays at the local library around this year's theme, *Good Neighbours: Heritage Homes and Neighbourhoods*. "The theme explores the character and warmth of historic homes, and the timeless appeal of established, older neighbourhoods with vintage house styles, gardens, landscaping, trees and boulevards."

Our displays will explore the original neighbourhoods in Maple Ridge, with pictures and highlights of family activities in early settlement. Various artifacts from the collection will also be on display. For more information on Heritage Week you can visit www.heritagebc.ca/heritage-week-2013. And don't forget to drop by the library during the month of February to see our displays!

We are also going to take the opportunity to spend the year highlighting our neighbourhoods at community events, in print and in this newsletter. Wherever possible, we will include modern groups representing those neighbourhoods as their modern vitality is every bit as important as their history.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS



After a quiet fall, our new year at the museum is already in full swing! In addition to our displays for Heritage Week at the library next month, there will be two new exhibits displayed at Maple Ridge Museum.

After the success of the *Dolled Up* exhibit, and all the new acquisitions, we've transferred some of the artifacts into a larger permanent display on toys, which will be showcased in the main gallery starting in February.

In our temporary gallery the new exhibit *All About Footwear*, will be displayed. Shoes and other footwear and accessories used and donated by Maple Ridge residents will be showcased. If you have a pair of shoes, or shoe accessory you would be willing to donate to our collection, in good condition, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311.

HANEY TO HAVE LENDING LIBRARY

It will be with real pleasure that the citizens of Haney and its environs learn of the opening today (Sept. 1st) of a lending library in the store of Mr. C. L. Warner, corner of Ontario St. and the Dewdney Trunk Road.

The 110 books, as a starter, represent the most popular works of the day as Zane Grey, Rex Beech, etc.

A deposit of \$1.50 will be required of all patrons, which upon their ceasing to use the library shall be refunded them. The only virtual cost will be a 10 cent charge as each book is taken out.

The inexpensiveness of the plan may be appreciated when it is known that one of these books alone costs \$2.00 Mr. Warner certainly has conferred a boon on his fellow citizens to which they will not be tardy in responding.

Port Coquitlam News, September 1, 1925.
Rex Beech's adventure novels, influenced by Jack London were immensely popular throughout the early 1900s.
Zane Grey was best known for his popular adventure novels and stories that presented an idealized image of the American frontier.



Five World War I soldiers from The Ridge.
 Back: Justin Anderson, Harry Cutler, Cliff Powers.
 Front: John Oxnam and Jimmy Hampton.
 Hampton, Powers and Oxnam were killed during the war.

GREAT WAR COMMEMORATION

Next year, in 2014, the Centenary of the Great War begins. The Maple Ridge Museum & Archives will be participating with interested partners in the community to commemorate that war with four annual themes from 2014 to 2018.

How do we commemorate what has now completely gone from living memory? If you are a First World War history buff or if you know one, please contact Val at the museum as we put together a group to brainstorm ideas. (604-463-5311)



First World War collar tabs



The Baillie children in 1904. On their farm land the Maple Ridge General Hospital was built in the mid-1950s.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS: THE RIDGE

“The Ridge” is a shortened form of “Maple Ridge”, the first historic neighbourhood to have gotten a post office. Located around what is now the south foot of Laity Street, it included John McIver’s farm which was the origin of that name. In later years, McIver’s farm and still later the Maple Ridge Golf Course are considered part of Hammond, but when The Ridge got its post office in 1876, Hammond didn’t exist yet.

From the foot of Laity, the Ridge extended east to the edge of the future Haney landslide – essentially the land adjacent to River Road between Laity and Carshill.

Access to the Fraser River from the Ridge was through William Nelson’s property. “Nelson’s Landing” included a dock where the paddle-wheelers could stop for passengers and freight. It was located at the water’s edge below where Fir Street ends.

The Ridge was home to a lot of Maple Ridge firsts in addition to the post office – first school built down by the river so more distant students could come by boat; first church (Methodist); and first store belonging to Mr. Isaac. Mr. W. J. Howison also opened a store and that is where the post office was located.

The coming of the railway in 1885 brought an end to the development of the Ridge as a commercial centre in favour of the newer neighbourhoods of Port Haney and Port Hammond which had the advantage of being located right on the rail line. As their post offices opened, the original Maple Ridge post office closed after only 10 years of operation. Interesting to note that when “Maple Ridge” was re-established as the district postal address, most people thought it was an imposition of a new name by Canada Post rather than as the restoration of the original name.

As time has passed, much of what was once considered part of “The Ridge” is now part of its adjacent neighbours. The lands to the west, including the golf course, are part of Hammond while the land to the east along River Road towards the 1880 slide scar are usually included with Port Haney. This doesn’t leave much beyond lower Laity Street and the Hospital grounds, so as a result, there isn’t a modern community association for this first among our historic neighbourhoods.



Maple Ridge Primary at the foot of Laity Street in the 1890s. This was the second school building.

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

