

Newsletter November & December 2013



Haney House in the snow in January of 1972. Note that the upper balcony was closed in. The original open upper balcony was restored during the renovations done after the house was donated to the municipality.

WINTER DISPLAYS

Hard to believe that the winter holiday season is already just around the corner. To help get everyone into the holiday spirit the Historical Society will be showcasing various pieces from the museum's collection at the Maple Ridge Library starting December 1st. This year's theme is "Winter Entertainment in Maple Ridge", with emphasis on movie theatres.

The Haney House Museum is also decorated for the winter holiday season, and our Winter Tour is now on full display, so drop by Sunday from 10 am – 4 pm for a visit!

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Maple Ridge Museum and Haney House Museum will be closed from December 19 to January 5 for staff vacations.



We will respond to phone messages and e-mail within reason during that time. The closure is somewhat longer than usual this year due to January 1 falling on a Wednesday.



BCMA CONFERENCE

This year the annual British Columbia Museum Association conference was held in Parksville from October 23 -26th, and hosted by the Parksville Museum & Archives at the Tigh-Na-Mara Resort.

The theme was "Museums as Agents of Change" and I attended the last half of the conference and was able to take in a few rather informative sessions, one of which, on 3D printing I wrote about for the Looking Back column in the Maple Ridge News. See attached picture of some of the models on display.

One of the sessions, which stayed with me over the past month, came from a question posed during a keynote speech. The question was about the relevancy of historic sites – can they still be agents of change if they are only sharing about the past?

It's not enough to say: this is how it was; we must also be able to transfer the challenges of the present/future.

I thought of this in relation to Haney House, specifically our tour and display and asked myself if we could be doing more to challenge our visitors through how we interact with them. Although the past few years, with the changing displays we have definitely tried to accomplish more to widen our scope of topics, I think we can do more to tie into present day topics, alongside historical themes. I believe this will be best illustrated through our sessional displays, and so it will be my goal for the coming year to incorporate exhibits that not only have us reflect on the past, but that are relevant to issues and topics we face in the present/and or future. *aw*



One of the BCMA Conference sessions was about 3D printing and its potential to provide us with touchable copies of precious artefacts.

Once incredibly expensive, these printers are already reasonable enough in price that several smaller institutions could go together on one.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

You will find your renewal form in with this newsletter. Please suggest to friends that they join up as well and support the cause of local history.

They just need to send their name, address or email address with a cheque to the museum address.

Members receive two newsletters per month – our regular Maple Ridge Historical Society newsletter plus a Family History newsletter that ranges well beyond the confines of our community with tips and tricks on tracking down your elusive ancestors.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

In January we will start planning for the annual Heritage Tea and Music on the Wharf concert series, and we could use your help!

If you would like to be on any of the committees please contact Allison at mrmcurator@uniserve.com or call 604-463-5311.



TWEET, TWEET

The museum has taken the next step in social media and joined the “twitter-verse”.

Historical tidbits, images of newspaper clippings and ephemera, and “This Day in History” offerings are to be found.

Thanks to staffer Matthew Shields for getting this started and keeping it up. You can find us @MRMArchives.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION REDUX ON NOVEMBER 28

Our original October date for this session had to be cancelled due to the illness of our presenter so it has been re-booked for November. Next year, 2014, will be the 40th anniversary of the creation of our first museum in a corner of the public library and the 30th anniversary of our move to the Brickyard House in 1984.



We want to celebrate our accomplishments in our existing spaces and more effectively lobby for a new facility.

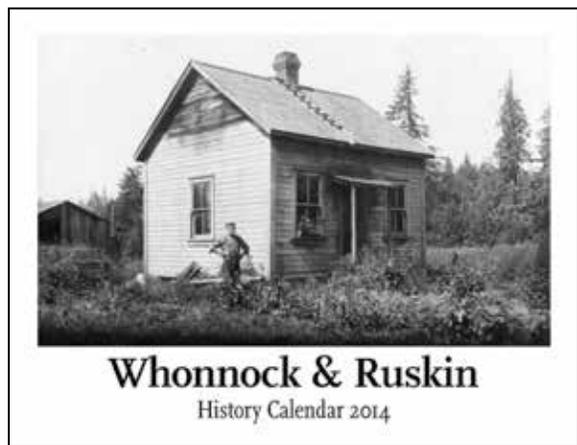
Please join us for a strategic planning session for our anniversary year led by Vicki McLeod of Main Street Communications. It will be held on November 28th at 6:30pm in the Heritage Church and will last about 3 hours. We invite all members to join the board in the discussion and planning for some big events and themes for next year.

Please let Val know if you plan to attend. Refreshments will be served.



Gordon Byrnell and Thelma Mutas dusting the BC Telephone display in the museum corner of the library in 1974.

WHONNOCK & RUSKIN CALENDAR 2014



For the tenth year Fred Braches has produced a calendar for the historical communities of Ruskin and Whonnock using old photographs from our collection and other sources.

Call Fred at 604-462-8942 to find out how to get a copy.



The Merry Makers in 1967. This talented troop was a mainstay of local Christmas celebrations through the 1960s and '70s. From left: Dorothy Cornish, Reva Cockerill, Mary MacPherson, and Belle Morse.

The staff of Allco Infirmary in the early 1960s was a combination of food service and medical personnel.

The photo was taken by William Saunders who worked there as an orderly after serving in the Medical Corps during the Second World War.

The only person identified is Johnny Allan, one of the cooks, who is third from left in the front row. Please contact the museum if you can identify anyone else.



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

