

Newsletter June 2014

AUGUST 10!

**SAVE THE DATE TO
CELEBRATE!**



Gary Comeau

40TH ANNIVERSARY FOR MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM

Preparations are coming along nicely for our Museum anniversary celebration on August 10th. We have had to change our plans for musical entertainment, as Tiller's Folly is no longer available for a very good reason – they were asked to represent BC at the Charlottetown PEI Sesquicentennial Celebration which is both a great honour and opportunity for them. We wish them every success!

Bruce Coughlan, lead singer for Tiller's Folly, has found us GARY COMEAU & THE VOODOO ALLSTARS – an energetic Cajun-flavour band who will have our toes tapping in no time.

We have also received some sponsorship from RE/MAX in the form of two 20' x 20' tents which would have been very expensive rentals for us. Thank you RE/MAX!

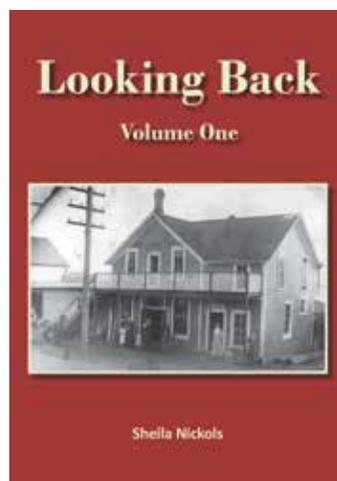
We will need lots of help on-site that day – everything from tour guides to book sellers to helpers with children's activities. If you can help, please contact Allison White at 604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com.

LOOKING BACK – VOLUME ONE

Our first volume of Sheila Nickols' Looking Back columns is just about ready for the printer.

This volume includes columns from 1987 to 1991 with the text and photo of the original column plus another photo or additional material to reflect what has been obtained or discovered since the column was written.

Part of our celebration on August 10 will be the launch of this book – come and get a signed copy!



STREETS OF OLD

We have recently had a request for information from a local resident asking about an old street name that her father had used in reference to his childhood in Webster's Corners. The street was "Skytte Road" which appears to have been in local use but did not appear on any official maps. This was generally the case pre-1938, when the first street signs were installed to mark the change to a numbered grid.

In earlier days, what streets there were corresponded to section lines and were 8 blocks apart. For example, between McKechnie Road [248th Street] and Webster/Martin Road [256th] there were no named streets and maps show just a four block piece of roadway extending south from Dewdney Trunk where 252nd Street is today. This short piece is our most likely candidate for "Skytte Road" as it ran along the western boundary of property owned by Arvo Skytte, a prominent member of the Finnish community in Webster's Corners. Note the split in the early name for 256th Street – it was Webster Road south of Dewdney Trunk and Martin Road north of it. Both names refer to pioneer residents who had lived on those roads.

How official any of these names were can be hard to tell. We have maps that were generated by the municipality regarding the construction of the Abernethy & Lougheed logging railway, which ran diagonally from the Fraser River's edge at the mouth of Kanaka Creek to Allco Camp in Webster's Corners and beyond, and yet none of the roads that the line crossed are shown as having names other than the Dewdney Trunk Road.

In the days prior to any form of mail delivery – when everyone went to a local post office – there was no need for street naming and numbering, so for the most part it was by local convention for local reference. Anyone coming into the area from outside who did not know how to get to their destination would have to ask someone for directions.

As rural route mail delivery became popular in the later 1920's, the names for the roads included



The Skytte family home which still stands SE of the intersection of Dewdney Trunk Road and 252nd Street – or should we say, Skytte Road?

in the mail route became more established but there were still no house numbers. Streets with house numbers came after 1938 and the numbered grid.

Knowing this came in handy recently when we received a photo from a family in Finland showing an ancestor who had eventually moved to Webster's Corners standing on the front porch of a neat house surrounded by forest. There was no reason to doubt this identification as a home in Webster's Corners in 1912, except that there was a four-digit number over the door. At that time, only New Westminster had a street grid with numbered buildings, so we were able to clarify for the family that this picture dated from the time the family spent in New Westminster after leaving Sointula and before coming to Maple Ridge. The picture is of the John Myntti family with their son, who became Bill Minty and a local baseball legend. *vp*

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.

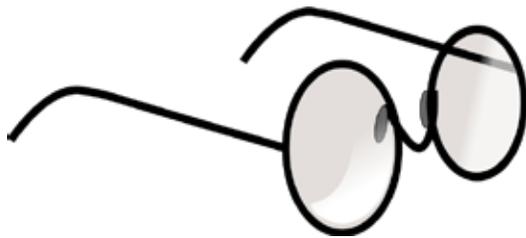
Call Tom Little at Haney House: 604-463-1377.



SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM

The kick-off to our summer season begins with the hiring of our students. This year with assistance from Young Canada Works (Canadian Museums Association) and Service Canada we were able to hire four students; two senior students, and two junior positions.

We are pleased to welcome back ALISON POCOCC, MATTHEW SHIELDS and KAITY NEFF, who have been able to work with us part-time during the year. Our new addition to the team is KRISTINA KAPITZA, a student from McGill University, who is majoring in History and looking to pursue a post-graduate career in Museum Studies.



Summer exhibits in the museum are **Spectacular Spectacles** in our temporary gallery, which focuses on the history of eyewear and protective coverings for your face, such as gas masks and driving goggles. Artifacts on display are from 1880 – 1945. If you have any eyewear (glasses, sunglasses, etc.) that are unique, consider donating them to the museum. Our collection of eyewear, which includes octagonal spectacles from Solomon Mussallem, stops in the 1950s. We would love to add new additions to the collection.

To continue celebrating our 40th Anniversary, starting in August, the temporary gallery will be focused on the **History Makers** of Maple Ridge: those who have been active in the preservation of the community and keeping our history alive. Artifacts showcased in this exhibit will be the first items the museum ever collected.

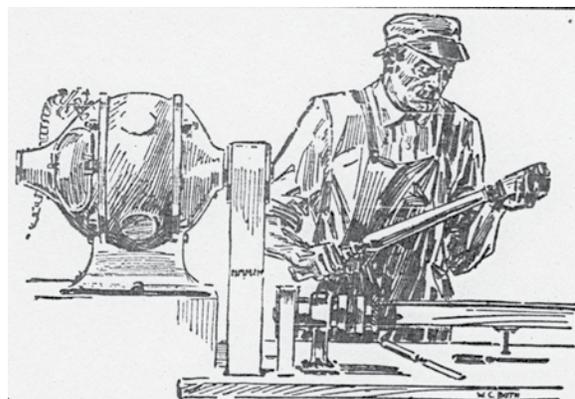


Our photos are now grouped in albums by locations or subjects. There is also a collection of your favourites. Check it out!!
flickr.com/photos/mrcommunityarchives/sets/

We will also have displays in the library during July and August. July's will be focused on the **evolution of technology** in the latter half of the 20th century until present day: specifically mobile technology in the last 20 years. The exhibit will be moved to museum after July for temporary display.



If you have any "unused tech" (mobile phones, media players, etc.) please contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or email: mrmcurator@gmail.com.



The Wastefulness of The Private Power Plant

Few power users have any definite idea of the immense wastefulness of a private plant—whether steam or electrical. Besides entailing a heavy initial investment, at least 15 per cent must be annually charged off to depreciation and interest. The efficiency of the plant diminishes rapidly. Repairs, supplies, cost of coal and ash removal, salaries of engineer and fireman are heavy. There is constant risk of explosion and fire. And always there is the dirt, dust, noise, heat and vibration—common to private plant operation.

Stave Lake Power Is Efficient and Economical.

The harnessing of Stave Lake Falls develops 100,000 H. P. in electrical energy. This energy is ready for use by any manufacturer, office building, hotel or other large consumer at a cost that is surprisingly low. At the turn of a switch power is instantly available in unlimited quantity, night or day. There is no cost for power until it is used—the cost stops instantly when its use ceases. You use only what you require and pay for only what you actually use. Telephone 4770 for particulars.

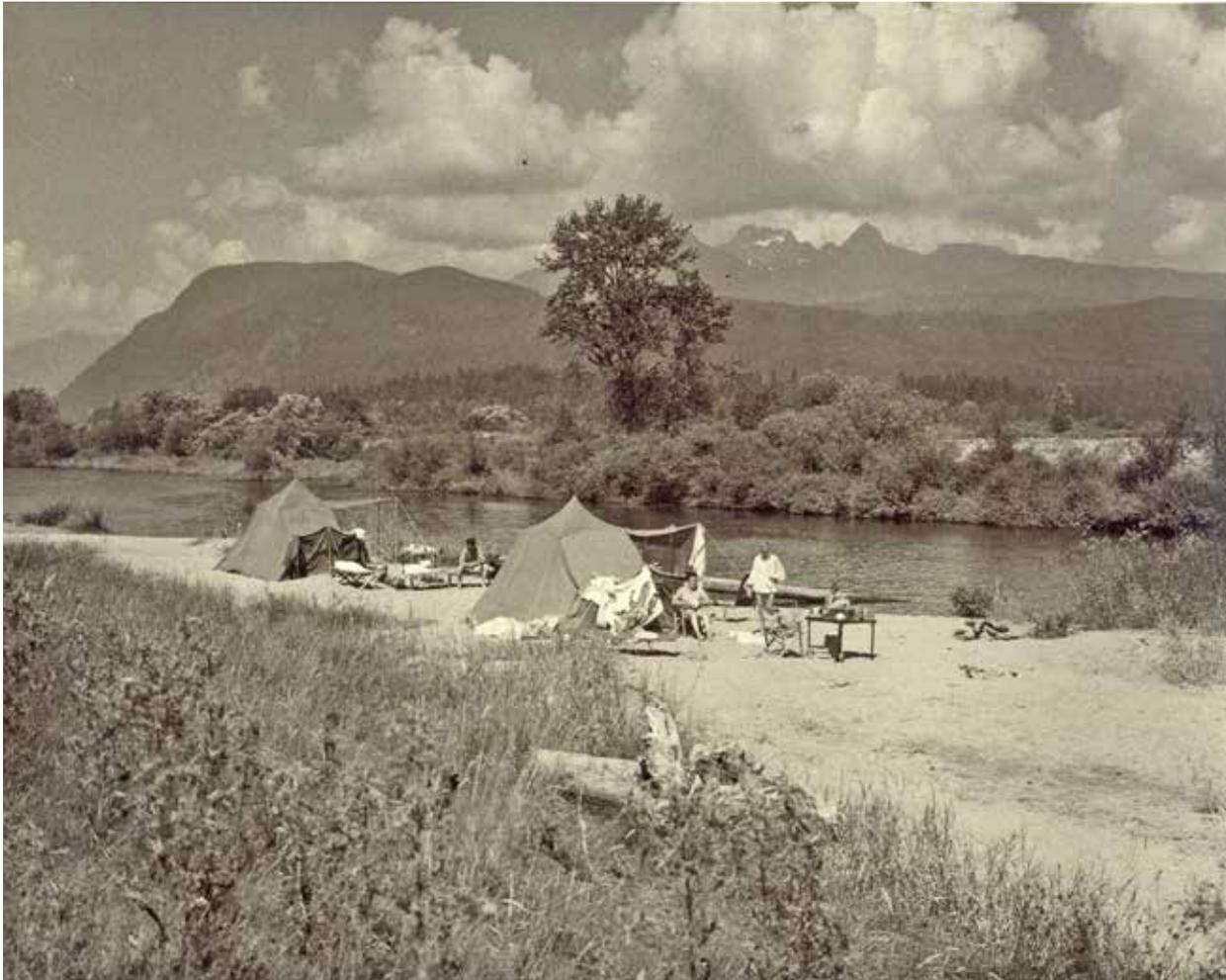
Western Canada Power Co., Ltd.

602-612 Carter-Cotton Building, Vancouver, B.C.

This advertisement, surprising for our days of solar panels and private generators, was published in the *Coquitlam Star* in 1913.

Western Canada Power clearly feared that for instance saw mills and office buildings would start their own power plant.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS AT HANEY HOUSE MUSEUM



Pictured here are two tents set up on the bank of the Alouette River with the Golden Ears in the background (1950).

From portable cook stoves to how to dig the proper trench for your tent, “The Great Outdoors” is the summer exhibition at Haney House Museum, which focuses on camping in the early 1900s using artefacts from the Maple Ridge Museum collection that pair with items that would have been available to order through the Sears Catalogue.

The 1920 edition of the catalogue is used as guidebook to outline essentials needed to ex-

plore the wilderness, but still allowing the campers to be comfortable. The tour also focuses on the history of provincial parks.

“The Great Outdoors” tour is on display currently until the fall at Haney House Museum, and will be showcased with free tours of the house on Tuesday July 1st during an outdoor Canada Day celebration on the museum grounds.

Alongside the tours, there will be children’s games and crafts and food: a free event and open to all ages.

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

