

# MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter March 2014



### DARS QUEST

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The Dewdney Alouette Railway Society has a request for us regarding the original Catholic Church that was built in Port Haney by the Thomas Haney family on their land. It was south of their home but north of River Road. We're hoping that someone might have a family wedding photo taken at that church. DARS would love to add that building to their diorama but so far, all we have are bits of it in the distance in various photos. Please contact Val at the museum [604.463.5311 or [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)] if you can help.

### AGM & POTLUCK SUPPER

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Thursday, March 20 at 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall

Join us for our AGM and Potluck supper! There will be good food and good friends and displays of interesting artifacts and our revised photo set with dates and captions included.

Remember to bring a dish of sweet or savory plus any needed utensils and a plate with cutlery for yourself. Drinks will be provided.

Even St. Patrick's exact location is not certain. Some think that it was the building with the two high windows on the slope among the trees. Others think that it was the building with the light roof to the right of Haney station.





Before there were Farmer's Markets, individual family farms had their own stands, though it was more successful if you were located on a main route.

The Telosky family, who had suffered having their land sliced diagonally by the Loughheed Highway, were somewhat paid back by it becoming a prime location for a fruit stand.

This photo was taken in 1967.

## EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 26 at Memorial Peace Park

Save the date for Earth day whose theme this year is "Food for Thought". The museum will have a display in the park related to our history of food production. This is the first big event of the festival season in Maple Ridge so do the "NO Rain!" dance and join us.

They will also be celebrating the first Farmer's Market of the year at the opening of their 10th season in the park.

## HERITAGE TEA

Saturday, April 5 at 1 pm

Our Annual Heritage Tea is just around the corner and we need your help volunteering. For either specific on-the-day tasks, or if you would like to donate baked goods for the event, please contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or e-mail [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)

This year's tea will feature displays for the 40th Anniversary of the museum, the Heritage Canada theme of "History Afloat" and others looking back to times 50 and 60 years ago.

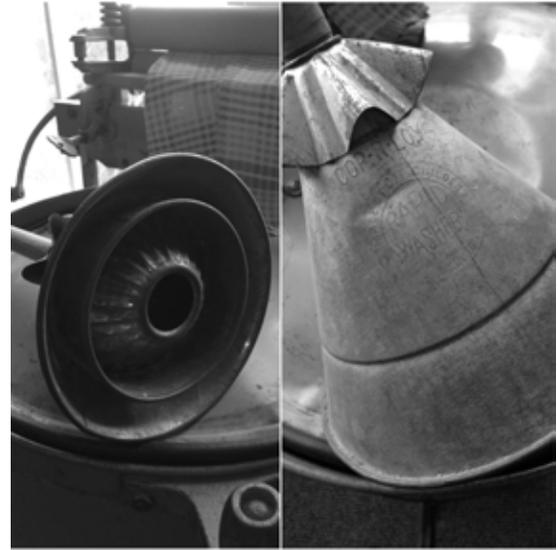


## ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

Found in the attic of the previous Edge family home, by the Zimmerman family, this agitator has been called many different names, but is often referred to as either a “rapid washer” or “washing dolly”. The metal agitator is attached to a long wooden stick, similar in appearance to what today we would call a plunger. The laundry agitators can take on different shapes, but essentially perform the same function: used to both pound wet clothes in a laundry basin or tub, and to stir the water.

It was not until the mid-1940s that the first fully automatic machines appeared, and even then, the machines were primarily developed for commercial rather than home use.

In fact, Autumn Stanley in her book *Mothers and Daughters of Invention: Notes for a Revised History of Technology*, writes that commercial soap powder may actually have saved women more time than these early electric machines, since one no longer needed to make soap at home, or tediously shave or boil bars of store-bought laundry soap once a soap-grater was patented in 1899.



Early washing machines were little better than washboard and tub. The women still had to heat, carry and empty all the necessary water to machines for both washing and rinsing. The invention of the “rapid washer” made this a little easier, as it meant that women did not have to use their hands to scrub the clothes.

Still, perhaps one of the most difficult jobs with early washer/wringers was to thread the clothes through the wringer without breaking any buttons, mashing fingers, or worse. *aw*



Port Hammond Valentines, February 1938. The woman tucked behind at very far left was Mrs. Gwen McIver, wife of John A McIver. Kneeling at the front is Mrs. Lillian Hartnell, wife of Doan Hartnell, manager of Hammond Mill. To learn more about “who is who” in this picture contact the Museum.



Here is a wonderful photo of Hammond station from 1908. At far right is the only image we have of a Hammond Fruit Growers Union warehouse. John Hammond was an early organizer of that consortium and had "Port Hammond Fruit Grower" as part of his personal address stamp. While the post office was always "Port Hammond", the railway station was always "Hammond," which has added to the confusion over the years as to which name is the right one. There appears to be a garden between the station and the freight shed. There are a lot of people waiting but it is not known whether this was a special event and they were meeting the train or waiting to board.

## HAMMOND AREA PLAN

Work is about to begin on a Hammond Area Plan which will inform the process of development by making explicit the wishes of the community and the context in which they live. Many of us in the heritage community have been concerned for some time about the future prospects for this quaint, family-oriented mill town. How could it keep its neighbourhood character with the pressures of development?

A group called Hammond Neighbours has been busy promoting the idea and they are very excited to be making this headway. They have an active FaceBook group called "Hammond Neighbours," so check it out if you are a current or former Hammond-ite.

The CHC has also been busy in Hammond, or more properly Port Hammond, setting in place new welcome signs that show the original neighbourhood name. Port Hammond had been born

to a grand destiny as future terminus of the CPR and a major port. The terminus was moved to New Westminster so Port Hammond had to settle for being home to the largest cedar mill in the world.

The postal address of "Port Hammond" was used throughout the years of the post office's existence, though people dropped the "Port" in everyday reference early on. The new signs will remind us of the original and still official name of the neighbourhood: Port Hammond. *vp*



Photo by Cyndy Johnson-McCormic

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](mailto:ras1@uniserve.com)

