

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter November-December 2014



CELEBRATING MAIN STREET – HERITAGE WEEK

For the 2015 Heritage theme “Celebrating Main Street”, we will focus on three commercial zones in the old neighbourhoods – Haney, Port Hammond, and Whonnock.

In Haney, we’ll be looking at the generations of businesses that have lined 224th Street and adjacent sections of Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road.

In Hammond, we’ll look at the business section along Maple Crescent. In Whonnock, we’ll look at the cluster of stores and gas stations around the intersection of 272nd and Lougheed.

If you have fond memories of family businesses or photographs of any of these areas, please contact Val at the museum.

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A digital version of this and previous newsletters can be found on the Web site under the tab “Historical Society.”



FACEBOOK, FLICKR, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM

The Maple Ridge Museum and Archives is using social media – Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and Instagram – to extend the audience for our materials and get the community more excited about history! Why do we need more than one social media account? And is it really worth the effort?

Social media are the new community-building tools of the worldwide web. “Social networks” like Facebook and Twitter have become important places for people to meet and interact. The Museum can use its accounts to present information and images, follow up on questions, and solicit community support for our events.

Each social media service has evolved to promote certain communities and functions. While many people are familiar with Facebook, where the Museum [“Maple Ridge Museum & Archives”] has been online since 2010, fewer will know about the museum’s other three social networks:

Flickr is an online photography gallery where the Museum opened its first social media account [“Maple Ridge Community Archives”]. Since April 2009, the Museum has placed over 1300 of our 13000 accessioned images on view on Flickr, and this content has received over 613,000 visits. Flickr allows us to post archival documentation with each photo, ensuring that the images are shared with reference to their context. “Tags”, or keywords associated with each photo, allow our content to be found by anyone, anywhere in the world.

Twitter, like Flickr, allows us to share information in real-time with everyone connected to the internet [“@MRMArchives”]. Using “hashtags”, the Museum can post information related to #mapleridge or #bchistory so that everyone interested can find it. The Museum has been “tweeting” photos, historical news from our Gazette and Columbian archives, links to articles on our web-

site, and invitations to community events since October 2013. We have 206 “followers”, people who automatically receive all of our updates, including several local businesses and politicians.

Instagram is used to share photos-on-the-go, and is designed for use with smartphones [“@mapleridgemuseum”]. The Museum can “push” archival images from Flickr onto Instagram where they might be found by a different set of people. Instagram is often labelled a “young” social network, and its users have a lower average age than more established social networks like Facebook and Twitter. Like Twitter, Instagram is based on hashtags which allow anyone around the world to find our related content. The Museum has been active on Instagram for two weeks, but has been “followed” 15 times and received many times more likes on our photos.

We are on social media so that more people know about the Museum and Archives and begin to think of it as an important community resource that is a part of their day-to-day lives. Social media is about more than getting people to come in the front door: it’s about connecting people with history, wherever they happen to be! *ms*

DARS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Dewdney Alouette Railway Society will hold its December open house on Sunday, December 28 from 1 to 4pm. Bring the assembled children and visiting relatives and enjoy the incredible diorama and the enthusiastic people who have created it.





“OUT OF THE BOX” ARTIFACT PROJECT

Recently museum staff selected the first 25 objects, in an ongoing project to free some of the most interesting artifacts in our collection from their incarceration in storage. Some will be recognizable to those who have visited the museum, such as the Hammond telephone exchange, or Loughheed Wedding Dress, however some of the objects have never been on public display.

The objects chosen in this 25 are those with the most intriguing stories. We have paired object photographs, along with the object's individual history, and in some cases, archival documents. All of this information will be going up on our website in the New Year. Here is one example: the Chinese opium scale

Made of two carved bamboo parts that pivot open at the rounded end, which close together with a leather strap. Inside this violin-shaped case are the original items – a metal scale tray, counterweight and a measuring rod made of a long single piece of bone.

The Chinese opium scale in our collection would be classified as an apothecary scale. Scales of this type were very precise, used by doctors, pharmacists, and chemists and even average households to make their own medicines and concoctions. These recipes could include some dangerous ingredients that are simply not available to the general public today.

We don't know what this particular scale was used for before but, donor Louis Krause told us that he had used these scales for weighing small amounts of gold while placer mining along the Fraser River from 1929 to 1939. *aw*

SEASONAL 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 themes include "Winter Sports" and "Christmas Lights."

We are looking for winter sport artifacts to fill out some holes in the collection. If you have any modern skates, or other hockey accessories, they would be especially useful for our collection and would be used regularly in seasonal displays. Contact Allison at 604-463-5311 or e-mail mrmcurator@gmail.com.

The Haney House Museum is also decorated for the winter holiday season, so drop by Sunday between 10am and 4pm for a visit! The museum(s) close December 17th for the holidays. *aw*

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Maple Ridge Museum & Haney House Museum will be closed for staff holidays from December 18 to January 3, re-opening for Sunday open hours on January 4, 2015. If you have a question during that time, send it through the website or to mrmuseum@gmail.com.

RENEWAL TIME

It's that time again! Time to renew your membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. A form is provided for those who like to renew by mail.

You can also go to our website at http://www.mapleridgemuseum.org/05_society/05_04_membership.html and join or renew using PayPal.

When you join or renew, remember to let us know if we can send you your newsletters electronically. It really helps us to save on postage and you get to see a colour version of the newsletters.





Meadow Ridge Singers in 1990. The choir in its first year. Photo contributed.



25 YEARS OF SONG

2015 will be a special year for the Meadow Ridge Singers, as the choir celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The non-audition choir began as the Ridge Meadows Community Choir, with Horst Gotschara at the helm, and later changed its name to the Meadow Ridge Singers. The choir continues its tradition of performing two major concerts each year and singing out in the community at local events and care facilities.

Its motto, "Good Voices, Good Fun, Good Friends," sums up the experiences of the Singers over the last decades. The choir continues to grow under the professional talents of Director Tim Burns, who has an M.A. in Music Education from UBC and accompanist, Lisa Van Schagen, who has a Piano Performance Degree from the Royal Conservatory of Music. The choir is currently planning its 25th anniversary celebrations; if you are interested in joining the choir, they will be accepting new members in January. See their website for details www.meadowridgesingers.com.

**GOOD VOICES, GOOD FUN,
GOOD FRIENDS**

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

