

## Newsletter February 2015



### AGM ON MARCH 19

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Please plan to join us for the AGM and potluck supper. Good food, good friends and an opportunity to find out more about your society and the people who run it and operate our museums.

We will gather at 6:30pm for our dinner and enjoy conversation with a backdrop of captioned local historic photos. The Annual General Meeting will follow. It is very important to us to have a good turnout - for grants and for our charitable status - so please save the date.

Remember to bring your own plate and cutlery. Drinks will be provided. It is a potluck so please call Erica Williams at 604-466-2636 or by e-mail at [ericawil@telus.net](mailto:ericawil@telus.net) and let her know what you plan to bring.

### MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

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Haney House Museum  
Sunday, March 22nd  
11 AM - 3 PM

Come celebrate spring break at Haney House! On Sunday, the museum will host a "Mad Hatter Tea Party" to accompany a spring tea-themed display at the museum.

Children are encouraged to wear a crazy hat (or choose one from our costume collection), and there will be heritage crafts, trivia and games to play as well.

Beverages and treats will also be served, along with a tour of Haney House.

Cost is \$5 per child.



Photo by Erica Williams



Grade 2-3 students from Kanaka Creek enjoying the hat display in the new cases.

## CHANGES AT THE MUSEUM

Over the past month we have made changes to both our temporary and permanent gallery spaces.

The Maple Ridge Library donated three large display cases to the museum, which are now in our temporary gallery. They were part of the Ridge Meadows Hall of Fame Society library display, and along with the cases came the artifacts and memorabilia, which have filled in some gaps in our sports collection. We are happy to be able to take in these items since the society disbanded, and already have plans to exhibit many of the pieces this summer.

The Township of Langley took our old cases. The whole process seemed almost seamless, with Corporate Mainland Move Management, who worked with us during our 40th Anniversary event as well. They understood our “handle with extreme care” needs.

Our other change comes to the permanent gallery: we have now opened up the double doors, which have been closed for quite some time, which allows for another access point into the main room. We have rearranged our “school corner”, moving out the old school desks. This new set-up has already gone over well with our recent school group tours. It makes the gallery easier to navigate.

Still on display, one of the first items in our collection, the School Bell used in MacLean High School by Mr. Wellan during all the years that the school was in use. He said Iona Dunbar, one of his students, brought the bell to him when the school opened.

MacLean High was located north of Aggie Hall. Built in 1922, the school consisted of two rooms and a lab. Expanded over the years, it served Maple Ridge as its only high school until it was completely outgrown in the later 1930s. At one point, the overcrowded school was leasing space from the funeral parlor across the street, the Aggie Hall, and the 1909 elementary school. After several years of referendums at annual civic election times, a new high school was built immediately south of the MacLean building, about where our new library is located today.



Staff members Kelly MacDonald [L] and Alison Pocock with the new display cases.

## MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL HERITAGE TEA

Seniors Activity Centre (12150-224th Street)  
 Saturday, April 11th  
 1 PM – 4 PM

The Heritage Tea is a chance for people who have lived in Maple Ridge for many years to see old friends and remember how the community has changed.

This year's event features historical display panels focusing on Heritage BC's 2015 theme of "Main Street." Museum panels focus on what "Main Street" means to a community and how they evolve over time, in hopes that by examining the past, we will be able to provide useful insights to the current community to help address its concerns about the struggles of businesses on "Main Street" today.

A slideshow of historic photos from the museum archive will also be showcased, and selections of the Museum's gift shop items will also be available for purchase, including signed copies of Sheils Nickols's "Looking Back" book.

The event includes tea, sandwiches and desserts, and is one of our most popular events. Admission to the tea is \$10. Please contact Allison at (604) 463-5311 for more details or email [mrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mrmuseum@gmail.com)

### 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.



## LOCAL VOICES SERIES

This series celebrates the City of Maple Ridge, past and present, through the voices of our citizens. Presentations will combine talks, readings and performances with community dialogue. Presented by the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission and Historical Society, the Maple Ridge Family History Group, and the Golden Ears Writers. All presentations are at Maple Ridge Library from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

February 25

Sheila Nickols, Darren Durupt and John Simms

March 25

Michael DesMazes, Craig Speirs and Fred Braches

April 22

Elizabeth Hancock, Klaus Von Hardenberg and Candace Gordon.



Cutting the cake at last year's Heritage Tea. Photo by Linda Raskiewicz

## WHONNOCK'S "MAIN STREET"

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Whonnock's "main street" is that short stretch of River Road that curves up from Lougheed Highway to 96th Avenue, where it turns north into 272nd Street. It was referred to generally as "the front."

At the upper end are two church buildings: the United Church, built in 1914 (now inactive) and the Anglican Church from 1921. Here was also for many decades the Whonnock Memorial Hall, built in 1912, that was torn down half a century ago.

The lower end of River Road, towards Lougheed Highway, is the business end of Whonnock's "main street."

Shopping in Whonnock started with one general store, the supermarket for the entire Stave area. The store was built and opened in anticipation of an influx of new settlers after the completion of the transcontinental railway.

For all but the First Nations Whonnock was a nameless place, but that changed when it was given a train station just because it happened to be at 10 miles distance from the previous station: Port Hammond. Mission is 10 miles to the east of Whonnock.

And so it happened that, when the trains started running from back east to Port Moody, Whonnock had not only been given a station and a store but also a name, a post office and a school.

The storeowner was also the postmaster and he knew everything that was going on. The store was not only a place where you did your purchases or picked up your mail but it was also the place to catch up with neighbourly news (and gossip), to do business, and talk politics. A surviving diary of a shopkeeper's father in law from 1897 tells us all about that.

Alas, one frosty morning in February of 1916 the store burned down because of an overheated stovepipe. It was never rebuilt and its ashes lie where it once stood; mainly now under Lougheed Highway.

The burning down of the old general store did not cause hardship to anyone in the settlement. As it happened Andrew Graham had just started a feed store on River Road and he quickly expanded that into a general store.

The settlers did not lose their cherished letters from the home country in the fire because, just a few years earlier, the post office had been moved from the store to a little shack at its present location across from the Graham store.

The River Road where the post office and Graham's store stood was a dirt road well into the 1930s and old-timer Brian Byrnes remembered that it had "tremendous potholes" and that occasional through-traffic chased up swirling clouds of dust.

For a few years Graham's was the only store in town but that ended when Fred Showler opened a shop opposite from Graham's in 1920. Showler's store later became part of the Red and White food store chain. In the 1950s both stores succumbed to the supermarkets as most of these local stores did once everyone had a car.

The Graham building was torn down but Showler's building survives to today as a feed store, miraculously saved from destruction by postmaster Sue Schulze.

In the 1920s, a bit further up River Road, Marshall Luno opened a "confectionary, gas and service station" to serve the cruising automobilists and other vehicle owners. The construction of Lougheed Highway around 1930 put an end to River Road as a main artery, and Luno moved his buildings and his business to the new highway where it struggled on under different owners until its final incarnation as the home of the Hoofbeat Corral.

After 130 years of continuous service to the community the Whonnock post office is still in operation and that is something we all should be very proud of. *fb*

## **ABERNETHY & LOUGHEED: THE REST OF THE STORY**

The Woodland family has come through for us again on the history of the Abernethy & Lougheed Logging Company. It was Alan's relationship with Lougheed family descendants that brought us our wonderful photographic collection for that company. However, we have always been hampered in our understanding of this local industrial powerhouse by a lack of any documentary records.

Abernethy & Lougheed's own record set was clearly lost in the days following the demise of the company. Whether the owners clearing space threw them out or they went to the new owner of the Vancouver warehouse, the outcome is the same – there are no business records known for the company. Until now ...

Tim Woodland is a collector of BC logging history and memorabilia and is well known for it in the collecting community. So it was natural that he be contacted when a person who is normally

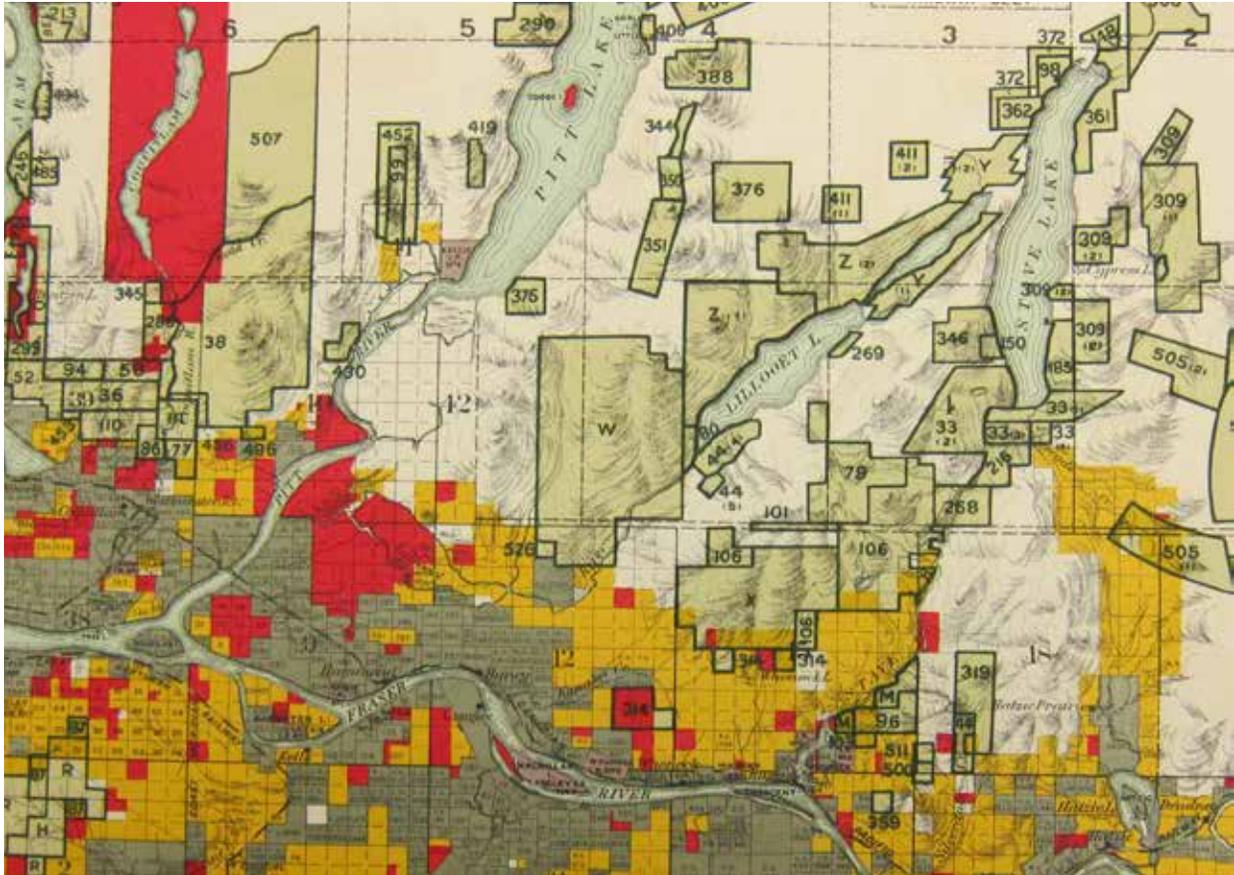
a dealer of stamps and postcards was sold a large collection of records from a company that was originally located in Ontario but that followed the big timber money to BC. They bought into a couple of the CPR's Timber Berths – specifically Y and Z – and hired Abernethy & Lougheed as their on-the-ground operators to log the perimeter of Alouette Lake both before and after its flooding.

Tim has given us copies of the correspondence, which spans 1907 to 1933 between the partners in Timber Berths Y and Z and Abernethy & Lougheed. This includes the 'why' and 'how' of the company's demise after the economic collapse of 1929.

It is a wonderful collection and Tim tells us there is more to come, so we'd like to express our gratitude that we have Tim and people like him willing to pluck these orphaned records out of the stream inevitably headed to the dump or the recycling depot because they recognize the worth of them. *vp*



Abernethy & Lougheed main line to Gold Creek in about 1930. Train consisting of two locomotives (one is #66) and a couple of cars parked on track in middle of clear-cut. On back: "Taking on water to fight a fire... H.R.H. Edward Prince of Wales visited this camp in 1925.



Maps showing timber berths (TBs) W, Z and Y where Abernethy and Lougheed operated.



River Road at Whonnock looking east. On the left post office and Showler's store. Right Graham's store and at some distance Luno's. Note the dirt road! Picture was probably taken in the later 1920s.

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)

