

# Newsletter January 2015

## GOLDEN EARS WRITERS

This is a local group for enthusiasts of writing of all types. On December 16, 2014, they held “an Evening of Holiday Readings” by local writers and of course, our Sheila Nickols was included, reading from her *Looking Back: Volume 1* about how Christmas was celebrated by our pioneers.

If you have been thinking about writing your family stories or just writing in general, this may be the group for you. While focused more on the writing of fiction, they have good information about structure and publishing and have interesting speakers from a wide variety of genres. They meet in the lobby of the ACT on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

## MAD HATTER TEA PARTY AT HANEY HOUSE MUSEUM



(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.

On Sunday, March 22nd, from 11 am to 3 pm, Haney House 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



### HERITAGE WEEK

**“Main Street: At the Heart of the Community”**

16-22 February 2015

## FEBRUARY IS HERITAGE MONTH

We will be celebrating this year’s theme of “Celebrating Main Street” in displays, articles and presentations throughout the year. Our first installation is a three-case display in the Maple Ridge Public Library foyer, which will highlight the “Main Streets” of Haney and Hammond.

This theme provides the museum staff with a good opportunity to explore what “Main Street” means to a community and how they evolve over time. We hope 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.



## AWARDS NIGHT

The CHC will be presenting its community awards during Heritage Week on February 19th at 7 pm in St. Andrew’s Heritage Church Hall. Join us to celebrate the award winners and their historical projects and initiatives. Refreshments will be served.



Jesse Laity, wife of Algernon, holding daughter Mary in about 1913.

## “DRESSED TO IMPRESS” EXHIBIT

Currently at Maple Ridge Museum are hats from the 1870s to the 1970s; from the Top Hat to the Bowler to the Fascinator, the exhibit also discusses the most popular types of hats throughout history.

Initially headwear offered protection from the elements and from injury from weapons, or falling rocks or masonry. Later head coverings became symbols of status of authority, and soon after hats progressed to become not only a uniform, but also an art form. In fashion terms, hats are a very noticeable accessory because the onlooker's attention is first drawn to the face. A hat is the most noticeable fashion item anyone can wear. The old saying goes 'if you want to get ahead and get noticed, then get a hat'.

Etiquette and formality have played their part in hat wearing. At the turn of the 20th century in

1900, both men and women changed their hats dependent on their activity, but for many ladies of some social standing it would be several times a day. Etiquette articles suggest that it would be a disgraceful act to venture out of the house without a hat or even gloves.

Also discussed within the display is how the World Wars influenced fashion and accessories.

If you have any hats that the museum could add to their collection please contact Allison at [mrm-curator@gmail.com](mailto:mrm-curator@gmail.com) or call 604-463-5311. *aw*

## MUSIC ON THE WHARF 2015 CALL FOR MUSICIANS

The Maple Ridge Historical Society is seeking musical groups to submit applications to perform at the Music on the Wharf Concert Series: July 13, 27 and August 10, 24, 2015.

Interested groups should submit the following:

- Name of group and contact information
- Brief resume of performances
- Brief group biography
- Sound recording with at least three selections on CD

Please visit [mapleridgemuseum.org](http://mapleridgemuseum.org) for more details and a downloadable submission form for the above information to attach with your application.

Other Critical Information:

- A hardcopy CD and biography is required: We will accept burned CDs
- Must be sent by MAIL to Maple Ridge Museum
- You may also drop off your submission package at the Maple Ridge Museum

Please submit the above by Sunday March 1st, 2015 by 4 pm to:

Music on the Wharf Committee,  
Maple Ridge Museum,  
22520-116th Avenue  
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0S4

If you have any questions please call 604-463-5311 or e-mail [mrmeventplanner@gmail.com](mailto:mrmeventplanner@gmail.com)



The first stop light in the district at 224th Street and Lougheed Highway in December of 1953.

## CONCERNING MAIN STREET

What do we think of when we hear “Main Street”? Usually, that is not the actual name of the street but rather a category description. A “Main Street” is a concentration of private and public services based on a single or intersecting transportation routes.

Maple Ridge has had four “Main Streets”. Today, we will explore Haney and in future newsletters, the focus will be on Port Hammond, Whonnock and Port Haney.

In Haney, the clear “Main Street” is 224th Street between Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road with some spillover onto both of those intersecting routes. The roots of 224th Street as our primary “Main Street” are deep, going back to the early days of Thomas Haney’s town site when it was called “Ontario Street”. In the early days of Port Haney, the “Main Street” was River Road for one block west of Ontario plus the southernmost block of Ontario. As the community shifted uphill starting in 1930, the route taken was Ontario Street which changed to 8th Avenue in 1938.

Lougheed Highway, constructed in the early 1930s, was a great boon to Maple Ridge, giving us the long desired east-west through road. Business developed rapidly along Lougheed for the two blocks either side of the intersection with 8th

Avenue, though 8th remained the “main Street” of the time.

In the 1950s, the role of 8th Avenue as our “Main Street” was cemented by the building of the new municipal hall, the federal Post Office building, and the installation of the district’s first stop light at the intersection of 8th and Lougheed. The “Aggie Grounds” and the park around the Cenotaph also made the 8th Avenue stretch a prime location for community gatherings from the Agricultural Fair to Remembrance Day and was a natural choice for a parade route.

During the 1960s and in a mood to modernize our relationships with surrounding communities, Mayor Jenewein oversaw a conversion of our street naming system to comply with the greater Vancouver region and so 8th Avenue became 224th Street. While some still mourn that change, the sixties also brought us the much beloved Christmas decorations, purchased by a far-sighted business association, that also serve to reinforce the location and identity of our “Main Street”.

It is interesting to look at how the role of “Main Street” changes over time. The oldest surviving retail business is Fuller-Watson. This means that furniture and appliances are still available on “Main Street”. Another long time business is Haney Sewing and Sound, which also sells fur-



Ian Brown (L) and Donald Matheson in front of Matheson's Model Store on 8th Ave, one block south of Dewdney Trunk Road. Ian's father Dugald Brown built many of the early stores on 224th Street on the family property which was five acres on the SE corner of the intersection of 224th and Dewdney Trunk.

niture and appliances along with electronics. It is perhaps more instructive to look at what has disappeared.

At one time, the major grocery stores in the community were located on "Main Street" – Foodland on Lougheed Highway and Emmerson's on 224th. Later Super Valu and Shop Easy built stores that were bigger than the earlier stores but still fit within the available footprints on the main streets. That changed with the advent of the malls, which allowed for much larger stores to house the bewildering array of goods that were now available year-round. The Safeway in Haney Plaza, which opened in 1959, was the start of that trend.

Pharmacies were also located on Main Street, beginning with George Campbell's drug store on 224th and later with Roy Kleaman's Rexall Drugs on Lougheed. In later years, the pharmacies have gone the way of the grocery stores, selling a wider variety of goods requiring more floor space than the small "Main Street" lots can offer.

In the 1980s, the creation of Haney Place Mall where the "Aggie Grounds" had been was in part meant to address the modern needs of grocery

and pharmacy, and while the malls did bring those services back to the core area, they did not do as much as had been hoped for "Main Street," which didn't necessarily see the benefit of the increased traffic. Malls exploited the desire for "one stop" shopping by providing easy parking, which they also jealously guard to keep people in the mall rather than wandering off down the street.

Haney's "Main Street" struggles to regain its commercial strength but it still has no rival for the role. The active community presence in Memorial Peace Park, like the Haney Farmer's Market and a year-round string of festivals and parades, keeps the area busy along with all the municipal functions surrounding the park but they have moved the centre of activity off of the street itself and to the east.

It is hard to see at this point what the next stage of evolution will bring to smaller street-side retail and other commercial enterprises. There seems to be no going back from the "big boxes," so it is a matter of moving on to a new vision. Any takers?

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MAPLE RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS



# Local Voices

Wednesday,  
January 28,  
7:00 - 8:30 pm



Speakers: **Janice Brown**, Astrologer, author, MR Writers Group  
**Christian Cowley**, CEED Centre Executive Director  
**Gerry Pinel**, Golden Ears Transition Initiative Director

In 2014 Maple Ridge celebrated **140 years** as a community and started a new era by achieving official city status. 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**.

Maple Ridge Public Library | 130-22470 Dewdney Trunk Road | 604-467-7417  
Monday-Friday 10 - 9 Saturday 10 - 5 Sunday 1 - 5  
Read. Learn. Play. [www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca)



# Your Porch Light

A six candle power lamp burning 5 hours per night (say 6:30 to 11:30) would cost less than 50 cents per month, or less than 12-3 cents per night.

Is not the convenience afforded yourselves and your friends worth this additional expense?

**B. C. Electric Railway Co., Limited**



We came across this advertisement in B.C. Saturday Sunset of 29 February 1908. Not only the convenience, we thought, but also the luxury. What an impression it would have made on friends and neighbours and how good it would have felt for the owner of the house to have a light shining outside in the darkness for everyone to see!

What, we wondered is the wattage of a six-candle power lamp? Fred Armstrong came up with the answer: it is equivalent to one 5-watt bulb or one light on a strand of Christmas lights or a night light. Some porch light!

Burning a light like that today for five hours every day for a month costs approximately 7 cents. Compare that with the 50 cents it cost in 1908 or, factoring in the inflation, approximately \$12.50 per month. And you are complaining about your Hydro bill?

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)

