



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter January 2010



GOLD!

ON THURSDAY JANUARY 28 at 7:30 **Brian Antonson** will be presenting an illustrated talk on *Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend*.

Brian and his brother Rick became fascinated with the tales about Slumach and his hoard of gold when they first heard it told around a campfire. They did research, bringing out their first slim volume on the subject in 1972.

The recently released re-issue contains much more research, some of it in collaboration with **Don Waite**. They have also consulted historian **Fred Braches**, who has been able to disprove some of the wilder stories that have surround Slumach.

The wilderness area north of Pitt Lake has seen many eager gold seekers following the clues repeated about Slumach, but most have been very discreet if they found any wealth there. *sn*

LOOKING INTO DEEP TIME



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25 **Rob Shortland** and the **Katzie First Nation** will follow up on their previous talk about the archaeological findings from the Golden Ears Bridge project.

This promises again to be a very interesting talk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 25

AGM OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and pot luck supper will take place at St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall on March 25, 2010. Please plan to join us for food, friends and entertainment.

We are looking to fill a few spots on our board of directors. If you are interested in learning more about the inner workings of the society and its museum operations and special events, please contact Val at the museum and she will pass it on to the nominating committee. It's a great board to work with – very positive and enthusiastic. If you're feeling unsure, talk to any of the current board members to find out what their experience has been. *vp*

MUSIC ON THE WHARF



WE WILL BE sending out a **Call for Musicians** for this year's concerts, which will be on July 12 & 26, and August 9 & 23. Deadline for submissions is March 31. Potential performers should contact <mrmcurator@uniserve.com> *sn*

HERITAGE TEA ON APRIL 10 !!

THIS YEAR'S tea will be on April 10, to avoid the Easter week-end.

Please pass this information along to anyone you know who is in the habit of attending, particularly if they come from out of town. *sn*





WE ARE expecting to start our renovations any day now. We are painting and replacing carpet for the first time since the museum opened so we're very excited about it. There may be some brief disruptions in open hours if the work takes more time than we think but we'll post a notice on the Web site if that is to be the case. Look forward to new displays in a refreshed space.

One big change will be the conversion of the parlour room into a changing display space. **Allison White**, our curator, has lots of plans for it. It will allow us to get more of the collection out of storage more often.

Through savings from last year and with some input from the Society, we have been able to hire former summer student **Steve Clitheroe** as a research assistant and to help with open hours. He is working on our upcoming exhibits and will also be putting together more resources for our various Web sites.

One new element of our online presence is the use of the "Flickr" Web site for historic photographs. For a very reasonable price per year, Flickr allows us to share our photographs with the community and the world. The best ways to find them are to go to: www.flickr.com/people/mrcommunityarchives/ or search Google using "Maple Ridge Community Archives" and look down the list until you see "Flickr" in the URL.

We have put up several neighbourhood sets that we can add to over time and are now starting on thematic sets like "Wartime Memories" and "History of Hammond Mill". Steve is currently working on the latter as they are having a 100th anniversary this year. We're happy to take requests so if you have a theme you're particularly keen on, contact the museum. *vp*

GOING DIGITAL

CANADA POST's recent postage increase is prompting us to do more by e-mail and other digital means. We can e-mail newsletters and put them up on our Web site.

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to Val at mrmuseum@uniserve.com and tell us if you prefer to have the newsletter sent to you by e-mail or by a link to a Web site or if you'd rather keep getting it by mail. For those whose e-mail addresses we already have, this request will be e-mailed to you.

We will make this year's annual report available online or for pickup at the museum or at a member's meeting as the cost to mail that is now up to \$2 per copy.

Members who are not comfortable with computers will continue to get their newsletters by mail as they always have. *vp*

HERITAGE WEEK 15 - 21 FEBRUARY

THE THEME for Canada's Heritage Week this year is "Heritage of Sport and Recreation" in honour of the 2010 Olympics.

The museum will be installing an exhibit in the library on our history of winter sports, the development of local recreation facilities, and the wonderful story of **Pete Telosky's** "Field of Dreams."

vp

YOU ARE INVITED & IT'S FREE

THE 2010 Maple Ridge Heritage Awards will be presented on Thursday, 18 February 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Andrew's Heritage Hall, 22279 - 116th Avenue..

Aside from the awards presentation there will be a raffle and of course there will be coffee, tea and juice and the usual spread of good things to snack on.

The Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission would like to welcome you there.

Helmi Braches continues her profile series with Janet Amsden, Vice President of the Maple Ridge Historical Society.



PROFILE: JANET AMSDEN

FOR MANY it may come as a surprise, but according to Janet Amsden for someone with an interest in special education, in 1990 Maple Ridge was the “most exciting place to work in Canada.” Janet had just completed her MA in special education at UBC and was excited about the Maple Ridge School Board’s leadership in initiating inclusion of students with special needs in regular class rooms. That’s why she moved here.

Janet was born and brought up in Vancouver, and after obtaining her teacher’s certificate she moved to Silverton near New Denver, where she taught for a number of years, while raising her two daughters. It was in those small-town school rooms, with no facilities for special needs available, that Janet experienced first hand what later was to become mainstream theory in education, and it has remained the main focus of her teaching career.

While in the Kootenays, Janet spent her summers hiking, backpacking, and camping, and she developed a love for the alpine flowers everywhere. She also was a charter member of the Silverton Historical Society and helped to publish a history of Silverton. The area around New Denver is rich in mining history, and Janet based a children’s book she wrote in 2002, *Grizzly Pete and the Ghosts*, on the ghost town of Sandon. But her greatest interest in history—her “passion,” as she calls it—is the Fur Trade, and David Thompson is her “favourite explorer.”

Janet retired from teaching in 2008, but her days are full. She still hikes and does cross-country skiing (“not enough!” she says), is active in the NDP, is the vice president of the Maple Ridge Historical Society, and is the president of the CEED Centre. These community gardens, 16 plots, focus on more nutritious, locally grown food and healthier choices. This is where Janet’s experience as a teacher—“30 years of watching children”—comes in: it has taught her that there are links between a child’s diet and learning. With the CEED Centre project she feels she can contribute to making a difference.

Currently Janet is brushing up her German in preparation for a trip to Europe she and her husband, the painter Steve Amsden, want to take this coming summer. There are also two grandchildren to keep her busy. In short, there’s never a dull moment in Janet Amsden’s life!

—Helmi Braches

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009 — 2010

Janet Amsden — Vice-President
 Claus Andrup — President
 Mike Davies — Treasurer
 Faye Isaac — Director
 Jennifer Kirchner — Director
 Sheila Nickols — Past-President
 Carla Reed — Director
 Pat Rorick — Director
 Dick Sutcliffe — Director
 Katherine Wagner — Director

The Nelson Carter clan gathered on the steps of the house he built for his son on River Road. Patriarch Nelson and his wife are in the centre of the group holding the smallest grandchildren.



CATALOGUING OUR BUILT HERITAGE

IN 2007 the CHC presented Mike and Sue Cizik with an award for their efforts restoring the Carter house. The photo of the family in front of the house from 1913 was sent to the archives by e-mail by a distant relative who thought we would be interested in the picture but who had no idea that the house was still standing, never mind being restored.

As reported in our last newsletter, the museum staff and the CHC met on January 5 and agreed on a project to list all the standing buildings in Maple Ridge that are more than 50 years old. Once that is achieved, we will be associating names with those addresses so that we can link our family stories to the modern addresses of the houses they lived in. This will be a tremendous asset for the community as well as for the people who buy older houses and want to know their stories. *vp*



DO YOU KNOW?

This snap shop of a skating party was taken in 1961. The high fencing suggests a baseball field or a tennis court. Do you recognize the location? Were you there by any chance? Was flooding for skating a common practice in Maple Ridge?

If you have any information, please call Val at the museum at 604.463.5311.

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

