



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter June 2009

SUMMER HERITAGE EVENTS

JUNE 27 (SATURDAY)

Webster's Corners Day, 11 to 3:00 PM at Webster's Corners Elementary at 256th and Dewdney Trunk Road.

JULY 1 (WEDNESDAY)

Canada Day party at Haney House – Tea & Tour and children's activities.

JULY 13 (MONDAY)

Music on the Wharf, Golden Ears Jazz Band, 7:30 PM.

JULY 25-26 (SATURDAY/SUNDAY)

Country Fest, Heritage display of hooked rugs with the Fibre Arts Show.

JULY 27 (MONDAY)

Music on the Wharf, the Lavalights, 7:30 PM.

AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY)

Heritage Day in Memorial Peace Park, all day.

AUGUST 10 (MONDAY)

Music on the Wharf, Newhouse, 7:30 PM.

AUGUST 24 (MONDAY)

Music on the Wharf, John Hough & Jim Woodyard, 7:00 PM.

Also, SUMMER TEAS on the Haney House veranda every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

FUNDRAISING PLANNING

WE HAVE FORMED a new committee to plan for up-coming fundraising campaigns and are looking for participants with an interest or history in this area of endeavour. You do not need to be a board member to take part.

Please contact Val at the museum if you want to check it out.
604-463-5311



Pitt Meadow's arms (top right): Did you know that the crenellated outer edge of the shield represent gearwheels and refer to the historic Hoffman garage?



JUNE OUTING

OUR LAST MEETING of the season will be an outing to visit the Pitt Meadows Museum on June 25th at 7:00 PM. Curator **Leslie Norman** has generously agreed to show us both the old General Store building on Harris Road next to the CPR tracks, and the restored Hoffman Garage across the road. She will also supply coffee and cookies. There is parking behind the museum, next to the West Coast Express station.

Some members will meet at 5:30 for supper at the Jolly Coachman, 19167 Ford Road. If you wish to join them please contact Jordana at the Maple Ridge Museum so we can make a reservation. We would also like to know how many people to expect at the 7:00 PM Pitt Meadows Museum tour. *sn*





MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM AND HANEY HOUSE MUSEUM

Val and Jordana are pleased to welcome four summer interns. **Ethan Krindle** and **Steve Clitheroe** will be working from Haney House. They have a slate of summer events and teas as well as several curatorial and archival projects. I am sure you will be hearing from them about volunteer activities for the teas, Canada Day and the Cemetery Preservation days.

Liz Smith and returning student **Brian Grootendorst** will be stationed at the Maple Ridge Museum and will be working on the coordination of Heritage Day, a complete museum inventory and several other projects.

Look for their end of season displays at the Maple Ridge Library in August and come down to the two museums and visit or lend them a hand with their busy event schedule. *jf*



WHARF CLEAN-UP DAY

Join the Museum and Haney House summer students, the Music on the Wharf committee and other volunteers to get the wharf ship-shape for the upcoming summer concert series. The clean-up will include light washing, garbage removal, and pruning.

Start at 10:00 AM on June 22.

Contact Jordana at the museum for more information. *jf*



THE PAZARENA DAHLIAS

In **Chris Campbell's** editorial in the Maple Ridge Times of Friday, June 5, he mentioned having received a letter from **Margaret Kury** about the theft of dahlia plants from her property while she was away. I can't imagine what sort of low-life cheapskate would enter a person's property to steal tubers so I'll leave them aside and address the rest of the story – the Pazarena family and their history with dahlias.

Margaret was not overstating the case when she said that these plants represented a legacy. Back in the 1940s, her family had the small reddish stucco house just west of the intersection of 232nd and Dewdney on the south side. If you look at the house now, you will see it sandwiched between two modern houses but a garage in the same style as the old house is now attached to the house to the west. If you re-imagine the scene, remove the two new houses, and you will see the Pazarena house with its garage and large corner property.

On this property were dahlias of all sizes, types and description. The front and side yard were not wasted on lawn, it was dahlias all the way. In the summer, with the yard ablaze with blooms, a sign over the door advised passers-by to place their orders for the following spring. Margaret's plants were descended from these and represent decades of care. *vp*

THE DALE STORE TORN DOWN

Seriously damaged by the past winter's snow, the old store was torn down this past week. It represents the last of James Dale's Hammond empire that began in 1890.

James Dale was born in Wisconsin in 1857 and moved to Washington State with his family in 1877. It was here that James met and married Fanny Smith, and in 1890, after a falling out with his family, the couple moved to Hammond where James opened a hotel and then added a grocery store in 1892.

During the first two years while they operated the hotel, James Dale took on roadwork contracts for the district and that was his primary day to day occupation. He seems to have given that up when he opened the grocery store.

As a merchant, James was a highly respected man. His store carried a large and varied inventory, which was a necessity for his widespread customer base. James was said to have been quite popular in the community. He also served many years on town council, having been elected six times.

As he prospered, he also built the Dale Hall next to the store with the Bank of Hamilton on the lower floor along with a real estate office. The hall was used for dances and theatrical performances which were very popular in the community.

In 1916, it is believed that a fire originated in the kitchen of the Dale's Hotel that destroyed much of the town's business centre including the Dale store and Dale Hall. The Dale family rebuilt their grocery store, but decided not to rebuild Dale Hall, which had also housed the Bank of Hamilton and Powell's Real Estate.

It is that rebuilt grocery store that has just been demolished. We don't have a firm date for its construction but it appears to have been between 1918 and 1920. *vp*

>>> Maple Crescent in Hammond sometime between 1918 and 1926 showing the Dale Store behind the newly built Bank of Hamilton.



Claus Andrup

Some of you may have noticed in passing that St. Andrew's Heritage Hall is getting a new roof. This picture gives an idea of just how steep it is. The municipality contracted for the job and the museum staff did a grant proposal for the Heritage Legacy Fund to help cover the cost.



Alistair Fraser

The British Columbia Historical Federation presented their 2008 Web Site Award to Fred Braches for his Slumach site. Brenda Smith received the award on Fred's behalf from the hands of Greg Nesterof. URL of the winning Web site: <<http://www.slumach.ca/>>



POSTAL TREASURES

TIM WOODLAND keeps finding gems. Here are two of his latest discoveries.

The envelope to the right is addressed to Mr. George Hinch in Port Haney. It contains a letter written by a Mr. J. D. Nicholson from a logging camp in Rock Bay on 27 March of 1917.

He writes about life in the camp and the work he and some other men are doing. Very interesting information, but not related to Maple Ridge.

What catches the attention is that the postage stamp with the image of King George V is placed upside down and, judging by its precise angle, that was done on purpose.

Obviously Mr. Nicholson was not a royalist. Was he perhaps one of those despised socialists! That is possible, but there is more here than meets the eye. The placing of the stamp could also be a sign of anti-German sentiment directed at the King.



This letter was written at the end of March 1917, the month the anti-German sentiment amongst the people of the British Empire during the First World War reached a peak when an aircraft capable of crossing the English Channel began bombing London directly.

This was when King George V, in response to the anti-German sentiments, changed the name of the royal family from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor.



“The cake was very nice and much enjoyed by others as well as myself.” So starts the note on a picture postcard mailed to Mrs. C. Cattell at the “Yennadon Post Office near Port Haney.”

The stamp was cancelled in Toronto on 11 July 1912, and hardly visible in the middle of the card is the receiving cancel “Yennadon.”

The Yennadon post office was opened in September 1911 and closed for good in 1923, so mail with the cancellation stamp of Yennadon is rather rare. Tim Woodland reported that the final bid for this piece of mail was close to \$100.

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

