



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter June 2010

SUMMER EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

WEBSTER'S CORNERS DAY

COMING UP QUICK on June 26 is Webster's Corners Day, celebrated annually at the school at Dewdney and 256th Street in Webster's Corners. This community-based celebration runs from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm and includes an historic display from our museum and a heritage tea that attracts lots of old-timers, particularly from the Finnish community. Another feature is the Artisan's Draw where you can bid on lovely items by local artists and stock up for yourself or for gift-giving occasions. *vp*

CANADA DAY



JULY 1 will find your historical society celebrating in two places. We will have a booth at Memorial Peace Park manned by board members and volunteers to tell people about the society and its activities. Beginning at 1:00 pm, we will have our

traditional Canada Day at Haney House with tea and cookies, tours of the house, and children's activities on the lawn. The event is free but donations are most welcome!

If you are able to volunteer for either location, please phone the museum at 604-463-5311 and speak to Val or Allison. *vp*

HERITAGE DAY

THE SATURDAY of the BC Day long weekend falls on July 31 so save that date for Heritage Day. We are partnered with the Farmers' Market, the Vintage Car Club, and several other groups to honour and celebrate local history. This year, the historical displays presented by the museum will have a special focus on local organizations



JUNE OUTING REMINDER

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY members are invited to join us this Saturday, June 19, for a trip to Vancouver's Police Museum and their "Sins of the City" walking tour.

Participants will meet at Maple Meadows train station at 10:00 am and catch the 10:22 bus to Waterfront station. The tour will begin at noon. Return bus times are 3:30, 5:30 and 7:50pm from Waterfront station so people can either head straight back after the tour or engage in other Vancouver activities before heading home. *vp*

celebrating big anniversaries. Our Chamber of Commerce and Hammond Cedar Mill are both 100 years old this year. Telus has been delivering services in Maple Ridge for 100 years as well. We will also do a neighbourhood focus on Whonnock this year to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Whonnock Post Office, whose survival has made it unique in the Lower Mainland.

Activities for the day will begin with the Farmers' Market at 9:00 am and end with fireworks (weather permitting) at 10:00 pm so keep an eye on the local papers for the schedule for this action-packed day. *vp*



MUSEUM REPORT

STUDENTS **Elinor Morrissey** and **Darcy Crum** have started work for the summer and we expect two more students to start at the end of June, giving us our full summer complement.

We will begin summer open hours of Wednesday to Sunday, 1:00-4:00 pm for both museums on July 7. Think of us if you have visiting family this summer!

Tea on the Verandah at Haney House will be every Sunday afternoon in July and both Saturday and Sunday in August.

In addition to our busy schedule of summer events, we will also have displays in the Library for July and August. The July display will be all about our equestrian history, while August will be decided by the summer students once all are on board.

We hope to alleviate our storage crisis this summer by moving some of our collection to some recently acquired space at the Maple Ridge Teachers' Association building. It will be great to have some breathing space. *vp*

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 778-242-7261

HERITAGE CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN

THE MAPLE RIDGE MUSEUM is excited to offer a Heritage Craft program over three different sessions on three different Wednesdays this summer.

Through lessons, hands-on activities, educational games and a museum tour children will explore the day's theme. At the end of the session children will have a better understanding of why the past is important today. Come for one, or sign up for all!

All programs 9:00 am to noon. \$6.00 each.

Location: Maple Ridge Museum, 22520 116th Ave
Contact Allison at 604-463-5311 to register.



July 21: Bubble Art (Ages 5-12)

Chores are a part of daily life, but often the tools or ingredients that we use to complete our chores can be used in different ways to produce other things...like art! Learn how to make your own decorative soap bars, and then create art through bubble painting.

August 4: Theatre Workshop (Ages 8-12)

Kids will create a short skit around a given theme using artefacts and costumes from the museum's collection. Skits will be acted out at the end of the morning session.

August 18: Fun with Clay (Ages 5-12)

So many things around us come from clay. Learn about the history of brick making in Maple Ridge, while making art projects from clay or dough!

aw

OUT WITH THE OLD !

EARLY MAPLE RIDGE grew like Topsy. Streets sprouted from others at unpredictable intervals. Other streets, due to geography, started and stopped five or six times across town. There were even roads that changed names several times along their length. Add to that the fact that several streets and roads had the same name, and you have a recipe for chaos.

By the later 1930s it is clear that it was becoming a sufficient problem to be brought to the attention of Council. The first indication that Council was on the case was a notice in the *Gazette* that street posts would be erected at street corners throughout the district – clearly the first such effort – and that all 130 posts would be prepared and installed for \$129. This article, published on August 12, 1938, very carefully notes that:

The new posts will, indeed, be a big asset to residents because many of the roads and streets will be, in future, known by different names than those with which we are familiar now. For instance, the Lougheed Highway may in future be called 1st Street, and Ontario Street known as 22nd Ave."

The next mention in the paper on September 16, 1938 – barely a month later – indicates that the re-naming project is already a fait accompli. It takes the form of a letter to the editor from Henry J. Newton of Hammond complaining that he does not like the new street numbers and mourning the loss of the history represented by the old names. He was particularly resentful that the council of the day had simply made the changes with no public consultation.

That letter sparked an editorial comment on the subject in the next paper on September 23, 1938. While acknowledging the validity of Newton's argument, the editor notes the problems that had arisen from duplicate names and the other inconsistencies noted above and pointed to Richmond as a community that had numbered its streets, which had proved a great benefit to strangers attempting to find their way around. The editor invited further comment but there were no more letters.

The first reference to the new street names in advertising was an ad for the *Gazette* itself on September 9, 1938, which gives the address as "(Ontario) 8th Street, Haney." That was clearly from early days of the change as the street we now know as 224th went from Ontario to 8th Avenue, not 8th Street.

The new numbering system, introduced with so little fanfare or discomfort, only lasted 25 years. During that time, attitudes had changed – people used their addresses more by 1963, particularly since mail delivery had been introduced in the early 1950s. At a public meeting in 1963, Mayor Peter Jenewein commented on the 760 name petition to retain the existing names that had just been presented to him by Mrs. Marjory Dunning—wife of the editor of the *Gazette*—noting how the 1938 council had gotten away with their changes with no outcry at all. *vp*

MUSIC ON THE WHARF

The 2010 Music on the Wharf Concert Series is almost here, and this year we have some fabulous groups set to entertain you down at the Port Haney Wharf; twice in July, and twice in August on Monday nights!

July 12th 7:30pm	Newhouse
July 26th 7:30pm	Sean Ashby
August 9th 7:30pm	The Hot Moonbeams
August 23rd 7:00pm	The Creole Jazz Band

There is no seating provided at this event so make sure you bring a lawn chair with you! The best seating area fills up fast so it is best to be there early. Parking is limited so plan ahead and car-pool if you can. In case of rain the concert will be cancelled. This decision will be made by 4:30pm the day of the concert. Signs will be placed at the venue, you can also contact the museum at 604-463-5311 and speak with Allison for more details.

We are grateful to our many sponsors who help make this a success every year! There is no charge for admission but we do "pass the hat" so please be generous. It helps us to pay the musicians a decent amount for sharing their talent. *aw*



This logging truck is stopped on the planked portion of Martin's Road as it was called north of Dewdney. The same road was called Webster Road to the south of Dewdney. In 1938, it became 25th Road. In 1963, it was changed to 256th Street.

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to the **Maple Ridge Museum** and **Haney House Museum**, your historical society also operates three other buildings.

St. Andrew's Heritage Church Hall – where we hold our meetings – is the best known. Owned by the district, it is leased to us as operators and is the main revenue generator for the society. The funds raised are used for the upkeep of the interior of the hall and its furnishings plus contributions to the museum operations. Watch for new curtains to be installed by the September meeting which should really improve the acoustics. The hall is rented for meetings, after-school care, church groups, and private functions. Tom Little is our buildings manager and if you are interested in renting the hall, contact him at 778-242-7261.

Another building cared for by the society is the **Old Post Office** Pre-School building on Callaghan Street in Port Haney. This former post office was moved from its original location to Callaghan Park in the late 1970s and the building was donated to the Historical Society. The land it sits upon is municipal park, making for a complex but sustainable relationship. The society is completely responsible for that building and it is currently leased to a preschool operation. Watch for it to be sporting a new roof soon!

The last building in our "stable" is the little **Wharfinger's office** on the Port Haney wharf. The wharf itself is owned by the District but the building is the property of the society. It is mostly used during Music on the Wharf concerts though it would be great to find a tenant to use the building and add to the wharf scene. *vp*

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

