



MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter September 2010

SUMMER EVENTS

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and museum staff participated in a number of community events over the summer. We had our board members meeting the public and telling them about our society in Memorial Peace Park on Canada Day while the staff entertained with tea and tours at Haney House.



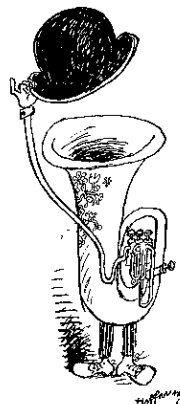
Heritage Day was a big event starting with the Farmer's market and proceeding through the day with entertainment, food, historic displays and children's activities. In the historic displays this year we honoured several groups and organizations celebrating significant anniversaries including 100 years each for Hammond Mill, Chamber of Commerce, and BC Telephone and 125 years for Whonnock Post Office. If you know of a group celebrating a significant anniversary in 2011, please have them contact the museum.

Special thanks for efforts above and beyond the call of duty in the organizing of this year's Heritage Day event go to society members **Wendy Cook** and **Wendy McAlpine**. *vp*

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MUSIC ON THE WHARF

WE HAD a very successful four concerts this summer, with good attendance and generous collections. We heard from **Newhouse** on July 13, **Sean Ashby** on July 27, **The Hot Moonbeams** on August 10, and the **Creole Jazz Band** August 24. The total collection at half time this summer was \$1240 with \$640 as profit. *sn*



Tim Woodland will display original documents from his collection including this original share certificate of E.H. Heaps & Co. Ltd.

TIM WOODLAND | SEPTEMBER 23RD

FOR OUR FIRST PROGRAM meeting of the season **Tim Woodland** will present his collection of logging industry photos and memorabilia. He has worked in BC coastal logging and has since collected stock certificates, business letterheads, vintage photos and related ephemera. He will also play recordings of some logging poetry put to music.

Tim Woodland will tell stories of the forest industry in coastal BC, with an emphasis on Maple Ridge activities. He will emphasize the local Post Offices and their importance to both community and company business.

The Maple Ridge Museum appreciates Tim's generosity in sending us interesting post cards and photos that relate to our area when he locates them on e-Bay. There is still lots of history out there, waiting to be uncovered.

The meeting is at 7:30 pm, Thursday September 23rd in our usual meeting place, St. Andrew's Heritage Hall at 22279 116th Avenue, just west of the Haney bypass. *sn*

EXHIBIT



HISTORY OF UNDERCLOTHES

The temporary gallery at the Maple Ridge Museum will be home to the History of Underclothes until the spring of next year. Drop by and take a look at petticoats dating back to the 1880s as well as a variety of other undergarments. In putting together this exhibition we noticed a few things missing from our clothing collection that would help make an already good collection stand out even more; most notably – corsets! If you have, or if you know of anyone who is looking to donate a corset (or two), please have them contact Allison at 604-463-5311. *aw*

COMPUTER RESCUE



OVER THE SUMMER we had somewhat of a mutiny among our aging fleet of laptops that we use for our summer and volunteer staff. Val put out a call to our e-mail membership looking for “new old” laptops as replacements.

Darren Durupt and **Steve Nicklen** have provided us with three replacement computers for which we are very grateful.

vp

CPR MEMORABILIA



THIS SUMMER the museum was awarded with a very generous donation from the Canadian Pacific Railway, as part of their 125th anniversary of the driving of the last spike.

The Legacy donation included various pieces of silverware and crockery once used on renowned CPR trains as The Trans Canada Limited and The Dominion. Each piece holds a bit of history, and is stamped with the CP logo.

November marks the month of the completion of Canada’s first transcontinental railroad, 125 years ago. Look for pieces of the collection to be on display in late fall at the Maple Ridge Museum. *aw*



Meaghan Durupt, daughter of our webmaster Andrea Lister, displaying the art of the Emerald Pig face painters at Heritage Day.

REMEMBERING

EILA MALE AND DOT DESJARDINS

THE MUSEUM lost two great friends and supporters this summer.

Eila Male was a curious and intelligent person who embodied the ideal of life-long learning and who pursued her cultural heritage with great enthusiasm. For the museum, she was our expert on all things Finnish from the correct spelling and pronunciation of surnames to the translation of documents.

For her Finnish community Eila was a tireless booster, who worked to get the memorial stone for the Sampo Hall on the occasion of its 65th Anniversary and worked on every Finnish reunion including the 100th anniversary of Webster's Corners Elementary in 1996 and the 100th Anniversary of the Finnish Arrival in 2005. She also contributed to displays at the Maple Ridge Library, the Heritage Tea, and at Webster's Corners Day and was always generous with her collection of Finnish artifacts and books.

Because it had no post office the Haney-East/Alexander Robinson area is less "official" than the other historic neighbourhoods. **Dorothy "Dot" Desjardins** was the champion of the area, She always felt protective toward the history of her childhood home. Raised by Jack and Mary Kershaw at "Dingle Dell," the family home at the north end of 240th Street, Dot attended school at Alexander Robinson and later worked in the nearby Berryland Processing Plant. She knew everyone in the neighbourhood and her recall was excellent. She not only gave us photographs of the area, she wrote long letters that turned each photo into a window on the past as she told the stories of all the people and places pictured.

Our best Dot story was when she came to visit the Museum Club at Alexander Robinson School in 2008. Having started at the school in 1929, she was describing a very different world. As the students recorded her voice on their iPods, she told of a school without electricity and indoor plumbing where the teachers were strict and expectations about hearing pins drop were very real.



Eila at the age of 14 in 1948 standing in front of the Rauma family home in Webster's Corners.

The students had a trophy they had found in a store room which we hadn't been able to identify. The museum had a photo of a group of students with that trophy but no indication of the nature of the group represented [multi-age and from Alexander Robinson] nor of the occasion. Not only did Dot recognize the picture, she was in it and she had her own small trophy that was won that day. An aged yellow newspaper clipping from 1936 gave the details of an inter-school sports competition with Alexander Robinson the overall winner. It was an amazing learning experience for the students as they got a very good picture of how fragile history is and how easily and quickly all of the details of events can be lost forever. *vp*



Berryland Cannery fruit packing staff in the summer of 1936. Dorothy "Dot" Desjardins is standing.



Hammond Hotel – This wonderful picture of the Hammond Hotel arrived this summer. It is the first time we have had a close-up image that shows the roof and the sign. It is such a large building that most people took pictures of sections of it.

OLD STREET NAMES ON THE MAP

FINDING OUT how streets were named in the past is not always easy. Therefore anyone wanting to know what a street was called way back will be pleased to know that this summer **David Tieu**, Mapping and Graphics technician at the District of Maple Ridge, encouraged by planner **Lisa Zosiak**, created two maps for the Community Heritage Commission showing historical street names. The first map shows the original street names and their 1938 replacements, and the second one compares the 1938 street numbers with the present system. We all owe a warm "thank you" to David for this contribution to our history and heritage.



The maps can soon be viewed or downloaded from the municipal Web site www.mapleridge.ca. Open the tag "Municipal Hall," select "Committees and Commissions" and then "Community Heritage Commission." For printed copies call Lisa Zosiak at 604.467.7383. *fb*

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

