

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2023 #23-04

For further information, contact:
Valoree Richmond at 604-467-7381
vrichmond@mapleridge.ca

Margaret (Mollie) Elsie Fairey Estate Donates Property to City for Future Park

Maple Ridge, BC: The City is honouring the donation by Margaret (Mollie) Elsie Fairey and her late husband Jim of their property at 21416 Dewdney Trunk Road by designating it as a future park site for the community.

The couple, both pillars of the community, decided to make this donation to the City in 2008 as they wanted to give back to their neighbourhood and envisioned their land as the ideal place for a park. The one-acre property is valued at approximately \$3 million.

“The City is incredibly grateful and we would like to thank the family for this very generous donation to our community,” said Mayor Dan Ruimy. “We will honour Mollie’s legacy and create a neighbourhood park for the community to enjoy and spend time together. In her 100 years of life Mollie spent 75 of them in Maple Ridge and witnessed many changes as we grew from a small town of 7,000 residents to nearly 100,000 when she passed on July 30 of last year.”

Remembering Mollie

Mollie was born November 25, 1921 in Essex, England and passed away in July last year. Soon after her marriage, to her late husband Jim in 1946, the newlywed Mollie made her way to Canada and arrived at the Port Haney train station in August of 1947 to be with her beloved husband. They built a home on their one-acre property at 21416 Dewdney Trunk Road.

Mollie became an integral part of her neighbourhood working first at the ‘Old Box Factory, near Dewdney Trunk Road and 240 Street and later at the ‘White Store’ for 21 years, a fixture in Haney located at Laity Street and Lougheed Highway. Her family also moved nearby after falling in love with the area.

Mollie is remembered as a smart, hardworking, independent and enduring woman who survived childhood diphtheria, World War II and the War Bride train ride across Canada.

What's Next

The City's Parks Recreation and Culture Department is developing the business plan and capital funding for the future park. Public engagement for its design is anticipated for the 2026 work plan with detailed design and construction to follow.

"As is our practice, we will conduct community engagement on the park amenities with the neighbourhood in a few years' time and we will honour Mollie and Jim's legacy and generosity when we open this new park site," said Valoree Richmond, Director of Parks and Facilities.

More information on Mollie's life and her full obituary, can be viewed [here](#).