

# Maple Ridge This Month

## MID-MONTH APRIL 2015

### SPOTLIGHT ON: Earth Day 2015

#### This Saturday the Festival Season Begins!

This Saturday, April 18, is Earth Day in Maple Ridge and there's a full schedule of events for every member of the family. The event runs from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at Memorial Peace Park which is located on 224 Street between Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road. The theme for 2015 is 'Water Water Everywhere' and there are a number of special presentations around the importance of water to all life on the planet.

The event will start with a welcoming parade around the park leading people to the bandstand for a special presentation called 'WaterWorks' featuring the talents of many local citizens. This is in addition to annual favourites like the Family Freecycle, HUB's Cycle Recycle and VEVA's Electric Vehicle Display (including an electric boat this year)! Finally, the winners of the Earth Day Poetry and Photography contests will be announced.

Bring an appetite, because this year the organizers have



arranged for the first ever 'Food Truck Festival' featuring a half dozen of the finest food trucks operating in the area. This will be a delicious bonus for the day.

Saturday is also the first appearance of the Haney Farmers Market for 2015. They are an important part of the Earth Day celebration not only because supporting local farmers is great for the environment, it just tastes great. The fresh fruits and vegetables, local baking and preserves are an amazing addition to your family's dinner table. We all love to get reacquainted with the vendors who will serve us from May through to October.

Come on out with the whole family and celebrate Earth Day in Maple Ridge. Get involved, get engaged and get educated on some of the amazing initiatives in our community to help us live a

more sustainable life. More information is also available on the Celebrate Earth Day in Maple Ridge Facebook page at [facebook.com/mapleridgeearthday](https://facebook.com/mapleridgeearthday) and at [www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org).

### INFORMED: Are You Prepared for an Earthquake?

#### Experience an Earthquake at the Home Show

The City of Maple Ridge will be at the 2015 Ridge Meadows Home Show that runs from Friday, May 1 through to Sunday, May 3. This is when we will unveil the 2014 Citizens Report, filled with information on the programs, projects and services delivered in the last year. This year we have a special photo feature packed with photos taken by you, our friends and neighbours here in Maple Ridge. There are four pages of winning photos from the 'Your Maple Ridge Photo Contest' plus a few surprises that we know you'll love.

It's also a great time to pop by and visit with members of Council who will be spending time at the City booth throughout the weekend. Come by and say hello and talk with them about the issues that are important to you.

In addition to the City booth, our Emergency Services team will be on hand with information on how you can take some simple steps to be prepared for a natural disaster. They are even holding a draw for a grab and go earthquake disaster backpack. But, without a doubt, the highlight of their presentation is the Quake Cottage that will be brought in on Sunday, May 3 and will be located between the barns and the 'food court' area of the Outdoor Show. This special trailer

allows citizens to step inside and experience a level 7 magnitude earthquake and see the effects on a typical living room. This is the first time the Quake Cottage has journeyed to Canada, so this is a pretty exclusive event.

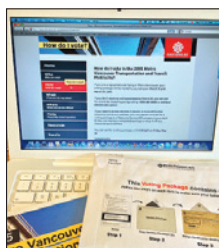
Thanks to the generous support of Fortis BC, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and ShakeOutBC, our community is one of a select few who will have access to this amazing educational aid. We invite you down for this special outside demonstration on Sunday, May 3 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The sponsor organizations will be there with some great information on how you can make your home safer in the event of an earthquake.

We look forward to seeing you at the Ridge Meadows Home Show at Planet Ice and the Albion Fairgrounds in just two weeks.



### ENGAGED: Have You Voted Yet?

#### Make Your Voice Heard in the Transit Plebiscite



In mid-March the ballot packages started arriving in the mailboxes of area residents who are on the voters list. If you still have not received your ballot package you can go to [election.bc.ca/ovr](http://election.bc.ca/ovr) and follow the instructions to sign up, or arrange for a new ballot. If you do not have access to the internet you

can call their toll free number at 1-800-661-8683.

There is a great Frequently Asked Questions section on the Elections BC website, and for those of you who are visual learners, there's a great video on the ElectionsBCOnline YouTube Channel that shows you, step by step, how to use the ballot package to record your vote.

It's very simple to vote. Make your voice heard. The deadline for voting is Friday, May 29, 2015.

#### Contact us at [enquiries@mapleridge.ca](mailto:enquiries@mapleridge.ca)

If you have a question about any of the content in this ad, or questions about any programs or services offered by the City of Maple Ridge, please send an email to [enquiries@mapleridge.ca](mailto:enquiries@mapleridge.ca) and one of our team members will respond to you.

### INFORMED: April 2015

#### Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor and Council encourage everyone to attend these important public meetings. It's your chance to see how public policy is debated and enacted.

##### Monday, April 20

10:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room

1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - Council Chambers

##### Tuesday, April 21

7:00 pm, Public Hearing - Council Chambers

##### Tuesday, April 28

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Council Chambers

##### Agendas & Minutes

Agendas for these meetings are posted online the Friday before the meeting date. Go to [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca), click the link under Your Council on the home page.

##### Council This Week

Subscribe to the 'Council This Week' eNewsletter that provides a summary of issues discussed at Council Workshop meetings. Go to [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca), click the link to 'Notify Me' and sign up today.

##### Council Meeting Videos

If you are unable to attend a Council Meeting, Public Hearing, Workshop, or Committee of the Whole meeting you can now watch these meetings on your computer 24/7. The entire unedited meetings are posted two to three days after the meeting. The video is indexed to the agenda package so that you can watch them in their entirety or click through by agenda item. Go to [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca) and click on the video link at the centre of the home page. In addition, Council Meetings, Workshops, and Committee of the Whole are now broadcast on the internet via live streaming using the same technology used for our live budget Q&A sessions. For more information about the live stream go to the 'Council Meetings' page at [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca).

### INFORMED:

#### Spring Brush Chipping Program

#### It's Chipping Time for Residents in East Maple Ridge

It looks like it's going to be a nice weekend, so if you live in East Maple Ridge (east of 224 Street) you need to get your yard work done so you can take advantage of the Brush Chipping program. In partnership with the City of Maple Ridge, the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society coordinates the Spring and Fall Brush Chipping Program for Maple Ridge residents. The Brush Chipping Program is a great alternative to burning brush and the Maple Ridge Fire Department strongly encourages citizens to take advantage of this program to keep our air clean and community safe.



No pre-booking is necessary, simply place branches at the roadside adjacent to your property by the set-out deadline for your area.

**The set-out deadline is Monday, April 20, for Maple Ridge residents who live EAST of 224 Street.**

The program includes pick up and disposal of tree & shrub branches up to a total volume of 3 cubic metres (3 feet x 3 feet x 9 feet). Branches may be up to 150 mm (6 inches) in diameter. No construction waste, building materials, stumps, leaves, branches with thorns (eg. rose bushes, blackberries), vines (including willow branches), bamboo, root balls, or household waste will be permitted.

Please note: items placed at the curb not covered by the program or excess volume of material will not be picked up. The purpose of this program is to provide an alternative to burning this material. No late set-outs or oversized piles will be accepted. For more information, phone Ridge Meadows Recycling at 604-463-5545, or visit the Brush Chipping page on the City of Maple Ridge's website.



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