



## District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The City of Maple Ridge: 140 Years in the Making**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Premier Christy Clark made a formal announcement today that the designation for the District of Maple Ridge will be officially changed to the 'City of Maple Ridge', effective September 12, 2014, the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the community.

"The men and women who founded Maple Ridge 140 years ago had a vision of a strong, beautiful community," said Premier Christy Clark. "They'd be proud to see their legacy live on in the city they founded – one of the best places in British Columbia to live, work and raise a family."

"On behalf of the citizens of Maple Ridge and the members of Council, I would like to thank the Premier for this special announcement on the eve of our two-day community birthday celebration," said Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin. "On September 12, 1874 members of this community saw new opportunities and gathered together to form Maple Ridge just a few kilometers west of here at the McIver Farm. Those early pioneers would hardly recognize the Maple Ridge that exists 140 years later. Like many communities in the Fraser Valley, Maple Ridge is a community in transition as greater density and urban development emerge in the historic centre of the community. The City of Maple Ridge is 140 years in the making, *with a whole new set of exciting opportunities that will ensure the future is bright.*"

"One hundred and forty years ago, one of British Columbia's first municipalities was born," said Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. "From the pioneer days until now, thousands upon thousands of citizens have made Maple Ridge into the thriving community that it is today. The City of Maple Ridge faces an exciting future of growth and prosperity. Thanks to all those who have contributed in one form or another to the vibrancy and welfare of our city."

"The early pioneers saw Maple Ridge as a pastoral setting to set down roots and raise their families. Maple Ridge has grown into a dynamic community, with unique industries that contribute to our local economy," said Doug Bing, MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows. "Changing Maple Ridge's designation from a district to a city is a significant milestone. We are privileged to have so many people who are dedicated to growing our community. We look ahead to a promising future."

Maple Ridge is the sixth oldest community in BC and was established just seven years after Canadian Confederation. The coast-to-coast railway and the abundance of natural resources were the catalyst for the community to form in the 1800s. Over time, the intense logging activity transitioned to agriculture and the community became famous for a wide variety of fruits and vegetables that were shipped around the world. Today, with a billion dollars' worth of new bridges and traffic infrastructure, the community is transitioning once again with a focus on attracting manufacturing, high tech and post-secondary education to the community to support a growing, well educated population.

Maple Ridge will celebrate its 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a two-day celebration beginning Friday, September 12 and continuing through Saturday, September 13. The events include a free community concert, historic drama presentation by the Emerald Pig Theatrical Society, Police, Fire and Engineering vehicle display on Friday Night and a very special Haney Farmers Market enhanced with special historical displays coordinated by the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives.

For full details on the Maple Ridge 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash go to the City of Maple Ridge website at [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca).

For further information about the City of Maple Ridge designation please contact Mayor Ernie Daykin at [edaykin@mapleridge.ca](mailto:edaykin@mapleridge.ca) or by calling 604-463-5221.