

Chapter 1

Introduction

Welcome to Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge offers a wealth of diversity to all who live or visit here.

Located 45km east of Vancouver, one of Canada's major commercial centres, our community benefits from the many advantages a sophisticated city has to offer while enjoying a quieter lifestyle, away from the urban pace.

With the majestic Golden Ears Mountains to the north and the mighty Fraser River, to the south, Maple Ridge consists of 260 square kilometres of land, that is a reflection of both its rural heritage and an optimistic future.

The new six-lane Golden Ears Bridge and Pitt River Bridge will provide a vital new link between Maple Ridge and Langley/Surrey, Highway 1, the U.S.A and to the tri-cities into Vancouver respectively. These new links will dramatically improve traffic flows for people and goods to the rest of the GVRD and economic development to this area. Planned twinning of the Port Mann Bridge will also improve travel times and connections with key destinations.

Currently 65% of the residents commute to work in other communities. Once the bridges are completed by mid 2009, further residential, commercial and industrial developments will occur leading to job creation and new investment that will benefit the needs of the increasing population.

Maple Ridge's industrial roots lie in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Today our primary industries still reflect this history. The largest manufacturing industry is wood processing accounting for more than one third of the manufacturing work force. Agricultural roots are maintained in rural farming, nursery, and green house operations. Other industries include boat building, metal fabrication, battery manufacturing, plastics, sand and gravel. Maple Ridge has over 500 acres of designated commercial lands and the community currently has four active business and industrial park locations: Maple Meadows Business Park with "Class A" land and facilities located directly beside the new Golden Ears Bridge, Albion Industrial Area with mixed use industrial land and highway, rail and river access, Whonnock/Ruskin Industrial Area where the focus of activities is on manufacturing wood products, and Maple Ridge Business and Industrial Park north of the community, available for developments.

Our slower pace and still tranquil surroundings also make Maple Ridge an attractive location for home business owners, artists and writers. Maple Ridge is a place for families,

A friendly, small town atmosphere is maintained with the many festivals and celebrations, from agricultural fairs to jazz festivals held throughout the year. The new Arts Centre & Theatre is a gathering place for artists and the community, with a 500-seat proscenium style theatre. It is rare to attend events and not run into friends and neighbours.

Sports and recreation facilities, including a leisure centre, winter club, three skating ice rinks, and abundant parklands and sports fields, urban walking routes and wilderness trails provide many alternatives for healthy living and balanced lifestyle.

Clean, modern schools offer quality education for children of all ages and abilities. Proximity to Vancouver also offers students a wide range of choices in post secondary education.

A network of health, social and emergency facilities and services are locally available, including a full service hospital, extended care facilities, social service agencies, police, fire and ambulance services.

Maple Ridge and the Fraser Valley experience the longest frost-free period and growing season in Canada, approximately 230 days. With a Marine West Coast climate and mild moist winters, vegetation is lush and rich year round. The District receives from 164 to 195 cm of precipitation per year, 95% of which falls as rain. In summer, winds are light, usually off



the Pacific from the south west.

Surrounded by beckoning beauty, the outdoor recreation possibilities are limitless. The many forests, lakes and estuaries, parks, trails and dike systems, offer boundless opportunities for residents and visitors alike to walk, hike, bike, canoe, kayak, camp and fish. Maple Ridge boasts one of the largest horse populations per capita in Western Canada, again reflecting its rural past. A network of over 20 miles of equestrian trails offer ample space to ride. Abundant bird and wildlife populations thrive in the nearby rivers, marshes, lakes, estuaries and in the nearby Reibolt Bird Sanctuary. Avid golfers will find several challenging courses located in these stunning surroundings.

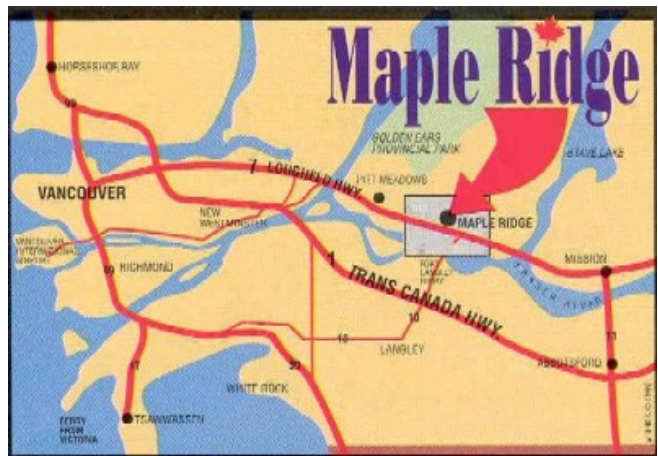
Maple Ridge offers the best of both worlds to its residents. With Vancouver only an hour away, we have access to universities and colleges, libraries, museums, galleries, theatres, world class sporting events and venues, health care facilities, and international travel opportunities, all while living in, and enjoying, our rural surroundings, right here at home.

Location

The District of Maple Ridge lies on the north shore of the Fraser River, 45 km east of the city of Vancouver. With the magnificent Coastal Mountains to the north, the Stave and Pitt Rivers forming our east and western boundaries, and the busy Fraser River to the south, Maple Ridge is a community that offers the positive advantages that proximity to a major urban trade centre can provide, combined with a tranquil setting and small town atmosphere.

Driving Distances From Maple Ridge

Vancouver, BC	45km
Portland, OR	483 km
Victoria, BC	120 km
Calgary, AB	924 km
Edmonton, AB	1,101km
Seattle, WA	240 km



Climate

Maple Ridge experiences a moderate coastal climate characterized by small seasonal variations in temperature. The mean annual air temperature in the District is approximately 10° C and the mean daily temperatures for January and July are 1.8° C and 17.5° C respectively. The District receives from 164 to 195 cm of precipitation annually, mainly in the form of rain. The mean monthly precipitation figures for the periods of January and July are 229 mm and 57 mm respectively. Monthly rainfalls generally reach a maximum in December while minimums occur primarily in July.

The lower Fraser Valley enjoys the longest frost-free period and growing season in Canada. The length of the District's growing season is approximately 230 days. The District experiences an estimated 1,400 to 1,800 sunshine hours annually with 73% of the



total occurring during April through September. Most of the winds over the District occur during the winter months and these are predominantly from the east and northeast. During summer, winds are light and usually from the west and southwest (off the Pacific Ocean).

Climate -- Lower Mainland

Average Daily Temperature (degrees Centigrade)	High	Low	Average
July	22	13	17
January	6	0	3
Annual Average Rainfall	1,117 mm; 43 inches		
Snowfall	57 mm; 22 inches		
Wind Speed in Miles per Hour (Annual Average)	12 kph; 7.5 mph		
Hours of sunshine	Jan. 55 hrs		
	July 296 hrs		
Elevation (Mean Feet Above Sea Level)	15 metres; 49 feet		

Our Neighbours

The community of Pitt Meadows is our immediate neighbour to the west. This energetic young community is presently home to approximately 16,645 people (2006 estimate). Pitt Meadows is 85.6 square kilometres in size, 60% of which is occupied by its predominant industry, agriculture. Berry fields and dairy farms, dikes, trails, lakes, and rivers surround its residential and downtown core.

With a landscape similar to Maple Ridge, it too is conducive to a variety of recreational pursuits and activities. Maple Ridge provides assistance with many of its services such as parks and leisure, police services and health care.

Amenities in Pitt Meadows have grown accordingly. Excellent schools, library, churches, health care facilities, financial institutions, shopping centres and affordable housing add to its appeal. A new town centre recreation complex was completed in the Fall of 2000 and a new Meadowvale shopping mall completed in 2005.

A busy local airport is one of the main contributors both in revenue and employment in the area, offering a variety of services from charter flights and seaplane access to helicopter rides and skydiving lessons. Pitt Meadows Airport is in a strong position to compete for commercial aviation traffic.

Growth in the Fraser Valley on the north side of the river now extends to Mission, our neighbour to the east. An increase in amenities has accompanied the population growth in this community as well. Much of the landscape here is forested by the tree farms that cover 75% of the land, giving Mission the appearance of being a single, expansive park. Many shake and shingle mills operate in the area. Mission is another community that supports the arts, hosting a Folk Music Festival each summer. A new performing arts theatre was completed here in 1997.

Combined, Maple Ridge, Mission and Pitt Meadows make up the immediate trade area with a population of 115,950, and a labour force of 57,135. Estimates for 2021 put the regional population at 158,000.

