

Chapter 9

Leisure

Something for Everyone

No matter what your age, interest or leisure time pursuits, there is something for everyone in Maple Ridge.

Scenic surroundings, miles of dikes, rivers, estuaries, marshland, and 213 hectares of municipal park land offer outdoor enthusiasts vast choices for walking, cycling, hiking forest trails, canoeing, kayaking, bird-watching or any number of other pursuits.

Maple Ridge boasts one of the largest horse populations per capita in Western Canada. A unique network of over 100 kilometers of equestrian trails are protected under the Official Community Plan. Several riding centres and clubs cater to the occasional weekend rider as well as top-level international competitors.

Avid golfers will find a number of stunning courses offering a range of challenges in Maple Ridge.

Recreation facilities include an award winning leisure center; family recreation centre; an active senior's recreational centre; youth centre, lawn bowling, golf course, sports fields, ice rinks and curling area.

A new high tech Public Library opened in the Spring of 2001, the new Greg Moore Youth Centre in the Summer of 2001 and a multi-purpose Performing and Visual Arts Centre opened in 2002.

Our many sports fields and recreational facilities host children and adult team sports, that range from soccer to hockey; lacrosse to speed skating; and baseball to swimming, throughout the community. The first phase of the new Albion Sports Complex opened in 1998 when it was first used to host the BC Summer Games.

. These multi-purpose sports fields are developed on 42 acres of land accessed from 240 Street, adjacent to the community fairgrounds. Phase one includes three softball diamonds, three baseball diamonds, two sand-based turf soccer pitches, two sand-based turf rugby-football fields and two all-weather soccer fields. Two new artificial turf fields have since been added to the District's inventory developed in cooperation with the local School District.

The arts community is very much alive in Maple Ridge. Whether it's an evening concert at the bandstand or state of the art theatre, a dynamic art exhibition, a poetry reading at the art gallery or musicians performing at a local café, there is much to inspire and to be inspired by.

The Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council serves as an information and resource center for arts and culture in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, developing interest and support for the artistic community and our cultural heritage.

Pride in our heritage is evident in the preservation and restoration of buildings and homes of our early residents. One of these heritage homes houses the Maple Ridge Museum. A footpath, marked with plaques and interpretive information, connects several of these buildings guiding visitors as they take a walk through the past. The Maple Ridge Historical Society is responsible for the care of these buildings, conducting tours, collection and research.

Maple Ridge has a vital community spirit and we love to show it off whenever we can. This spirit becomes obvious at the many well attended, family-oriented celebrations held throughout the year.



Community Facilities

The District of Maple Ridge boasts a wide variety of leisure facilities, both public and private.

Public Facilities

..# Leisure Centre

This award-winning centre has three indoor swimming pools - a 25 metre, a freestyle and a wading pool; a large whirl pool, and change rooms equipped with lockers; fitness equipment, racquetball and squash courts. In 2001 a 40,000 sq. ft. expansion was opened with a new teaching pool, waterslide, steam room, sauna, gymnasium and expanded fitness area, and boxing centre. Programs offered at the centre include swim lessons and events, aqua-fit classes, and hydro-fit. The general fitness program offers nutrition services, fitness testing, counselling, training, aerobics and weights. A Corporate Fitness Program includes the use of all the centres facilities for a fixed monthly rate. Up-to-date equipment, including shower wheelchairs and pool lifts, makes Ridge Meadows leisure programs accessible to people of all abilities. The centre has contracts with Westcoast Kinesiology, and Golden Ears Physiotherapy to provide on-site services to facility patrons. (604) 467-7322.

..# Greg Moore Youth Centre

The Greg Moore Youth Centre welcomes all youth 13 to 18 years of age. It provides a safe and secure location offering positive alternatives including recreation, social, education, and physical opportunities, counselling, training, health services, an area for basketball, floor hockey, skateboarding, rock climbing, and indoor soccer. The lounge offers a big screen TV, games area with three pool tables, foosball, air hockey, and a quiet area for conversation. A computer room is also available to the youth. The Greg Moore Youth Centre also houses community partners such as Re-Connect, Big Brothers, and Bowman & Associates.

..# Ridge Meadows Seniors Activity Centre

This exceptional 25,000 sq. ft. facility opened in 1999 and includes: an auditorium with stage, a kitchen/concession/lounge area, a number of meeting rooms, a craft room, games room, fitness room, snooker room, and a wowoodworking shop. The facility not only serves the residents of the 119-unit condominium tower, but it also serves the seniors of both Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. (604) 467-2993

..# Hammond Community Centre and Pool

The Hammond Community Centre is the focal point for the Hammond neighbourhood. Facilities here include an outdoor pool (open during summer months), playground, sports field and recreation hall.

..# Team Sports

Our many sports fields and facilities host children and adult team sports that range from soccer to hockey; lacrosse to speed skating; and baseball to swimming to name just a few. New multi-purpose sports and tennis courts were completed recently and \$4 million in cash and services was raised through the "Fields for Kids" project to construct new playing fields at the Albion Sports Complex. Two artificial turf fields have recently been completed adjacent to secondary schools.



Private Facilities

Many private organizations offer various recreation opportunities as well. With our mild climate golf is a popular pastime, and Maple Ridge's six scenic courses offer year-round enjoyment. There are several riding centres and equestrian clubs for horse lovers. Fitness centres, gymnastics clubs, dance studios and martial arts organizations also help to keep Maple Ridge residents active and fit.

Community Halls

Maple Ridge has a total of 21 community halls, which host gatherings of all kinds. From business meetings to music recitals or preschools to wedding receptions these facilities are utilized continually throughout the year. A complete listing of halls is available in the Parks & Leisure Services brochure or on the website. For facility rental information, contact each hall directly.

Parks

Sixty-six park sites are located within district boundaries with uses ranging from research to boating and camping; to sports fields and playgrounds; to nature reserves and picnic areas. The parks system is divided into three park levels. Neighbourhood parks are located in residential areas and provide grassy areas and play equipment for our youngest residents. Municipal Parks, the largest areas, make provisions for specific activities and often protect natural features. Community Parks are designed to meet community needs and offer open spaces for sports activities. Our municipal golf course and local fairgrounds round out the Municipal Parks system. A complete listing of parks and their amenities is available through the Parks & Leisure brochure or the website at 222.mapleridge.org/parks.

..# Golden Ears Provincial Park

Maple Ridge is the entrance to Golden Ears Provincial Park, a 55,625 hectare playground for nature enthusiasts, hikers, mountain climbers and horseback riders. This park encourages family recreation along Alouette Lake and the numerous creeks and lakes in the Coast Mountain Range. It provides boat launching and camping facilities. An extensive trail system allows hikers and horseback riders to explore the magnificent natural beauty that abounds in this park.

..# Maple Ridge Park

Located along the South Alouette River at the corner of 232nd Street and Fern Crescent, this park offers a campground, picnic areas, washrooms, baseball diamond, horseshoe pitch area, playing field, and wooded trail. An expanse of mature forest nurses a wide array of native plants and wildlife. Each autumn the South Alouette River welcomes large populations of spawning Pink and Chum salmon. The Spray Park is open to the public early June to September. This freshwater playground offers an imaginative assortment of equipment for "spray-playing", and is completely wheelchair accessible.

..# Malcolm Knapp U.B.C. Research Forest

A training facility for forestry students, the U.B.C. Research Forest is also open to the public. Here, U.B.C. students learn forestry techniques such as logging, silviculture, and pesticide use. Much of the forest is a remote wilderness and home to a variety of forest animals, including cougar and deer. More than 20 kilometres of trails, designed to give visitors an insider's look at modern forestry, are available for walkers or experienced hikers. Information (604) 463-2712.

..# Kanaka Creek Regional Park

Protecting one of the most distinctive, attractive and undisturbed streams in the western Lower Mainland, Kanaka Creek Regional Park has access points at various locations, with a

network of trails running the length of the park. The focal point of the park is Kanaka falls, a spectacular water canyon popular as a picnic spot. The Bell-Irving fish hatchery, also located in the park, is open for tours. Information (604) 462-8643.

..# **Whonnock Lake Park**

Whonnock Lake is a typical bog lake of the coastal forest region. It is home to native plants and thriving colonies of beavers and muskrats, as well as to breeding populations of loons, mallard ducks, and numerous small birds. The lake is stocked annually with rainbow trout, and supports a substantial recreational fishery.

This popular year-round playground offers canoeing, kayaking, swimming, hiking and nature study. Park facilities include a barbecue pit, concession stand, picnic tables, a playground, washrooms, canoe rentals, drinking water and a sandy beach. A competitive paddling program is run by Ridge Canoe & Kayak Club (RCKC).

..# **Allco Park**

Allco Park is located at 248th Street and 132nd Avenue, and approximately 50 percent of the 27 acre site is fully developed. The features include picnic facilities, equestrian and walking trails, and scenic nature areas.

..# **Blaney Bog Regional Park**

In 2000 acquisition was completed of this 250 acre conservation area. Partnering in this acquisition included several community groups, the District of Maple Ridge, the Province and the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks department has assumed ongoing responsibility for managing the Park.

..# **Maple Ridge Equestrian Trail Network**

Maple Ridge's unique network of horse trails is protected under the Official Community Plan. The trail encompasses over 100 kilometres of local riding and hiking trails, as well as 50 - 60 kms in nearby Golden Ears Provincial Park. These trails are maintained by volunteers with help provided from Provincial funding and Federal grants. Horse riding in Maple Ridge involves a range of riders, from the occasional recreational rider to top-level international competitors.

..# **The Dikes**

The diking systems of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows are a year-round source of pleasure for local residents and visitors. The extensive system, built to protect low-lying lands from flooding, also serves a recreational purpose. Fair weather brings out multitudes of people who ride horses, walk, and cycle while enjoying the natural beauty that surrounds them. The lands bordering the dikes are a habitat to many species of birds and abundant wildlife, making the dike system a haven for naturalists and bird-watchers.

..# **Trans Canada Trail**

April of 2000 marked the opening of the Trans Canada Trail. A 23 km section of the trail crosses Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows from the Pitt River Bridge to the Albion Ferry. An interpretive program is part of the trail. For more information visit TCT website at www.tctrail.ca

..# **Bike Routes**

Some of the best cycling in the Lower Mainland is in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Attracting professional racers and cycling enthusiasts, a network of paved roads, dikes and park trails are accessible throughout both communities. Copies of the Ridge Meadows Bike Routes

Map is available from Parks & Leisure Services.

Our Heritage and Historic Sites

The Coast Salish Indians were this area's first inhabitants. They lived and hunted here for centuries before the first European settlers who worked for the Hudson Bay Company arrived in 1874. Incorporated in 1874, Maple Ridge looks back with pride on the rich heritage that began with our First Nations people and continues to the present. Preservation of symbols, images, and stories of the past allow us to learn, remember and reflect.

..# Maple Ridge Historical Society

The Brickyard Office at the Maple Ridge Museum is home to the Historical Society, whose purpose is to preserve the history of Maple Ridge for future generations. The work of the society is to arrange for the care of historical buildings, collect oral histories, research old-time families, conduct guided tours, and many other related activities. (604) 463-5311

..# Haney House

Built in 1878 for Thomas and Annie Haney, this home remained the residence of Haney descendants until 1979, when it was willed to the municipality by Thomas Haney's daughter, Elizabeth Hawley. With a grant from BC Heritage Trust, the house was restored and now displays many furnishings and artifacts from three generations of the Haney family. Haney House is located at 11612 - 224th Street. (604) 463-1377

..# Maple Ridge Museum

Housed in the historic home of the manager of the Haney Brick & Tile Co., the Maple Ridge Museum displays objects from our First Nations heritage, our pioneer past, and the history of local industry. The museum is open to the public for drop in tours on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The Dewdney-Alouette Railway Society has created a diorama which shows CPR trains and tracks in a 1920's landscape. Outside, a 1940's vintage caboosie is open to the public. Railway Society members are present on the last Sunday of each month to "talk trains" and operate the diorama. To book group tours or appointments for research and general information call (604) 463-5311.

..# St. Andrew's Heritage Church

Built in 1888 on land donated by Thomas Haney, St. Andrew's became a United Church in 1925 and served until 1956. In 1984, with a grant from BC Heritage Trust the exterior of the Church was restored and is now used as a small

..# Fraser River Heritage Walk

Follow a paved footpath from the Maple Ridge Museum to historic Haney House and on to Port Haney Wharf and the historic buildings of Port Haney. St. Andrew's Heritage Church, the Masonic Hall, the 1911 Bank of Montreal, and a 1930 Japanese kindergarten, identified by plaques and interpretive material, help bring history alive on this walk.

..# Heritage Advisory Committee

This Committee advises the Municipal Council on matters relating to the heritage of Maple Ridge. Past and current projects include the Heritage Plaque program, Heritage "Walkabouts", and the restoration of the Warfingers Office at Port Haney (in co-operation with the Historical Society). The Committee is appointed by Council and is composed of seven members who serve one or two year terms.

The Arts

Maple Ridge has a thriving art community and is home to a number of artists, musicians and writers. Any number of events can be enjoyed throughout the year be it an art exhibit or fair, a summer concert at the band stand, the successful jazz and blues festival, a gallery poetry reading, or listening to a local musician while sipping coffee at a café. Whether you enjoy creating or admiring, there is lots to inspire in Maple Ridge.

..# **Maple Ridge Arts Council**

The Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Arts Council serves as an information base and resource centre for arts and culture in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. This group works to increase interest and support for the area's artistic community and cultural heritage, as well as acting as a liaison between the arts community, the public, government, and other organizations. As well, the Arts Council organizes Poetry Readings, a Candlelight Concert Series, Arts and Craft programs and Art Exhibitions. They now operate the Arts Centre and Theatre located in the heart of Maple Ridge. Call 604-476-2787 or website at [//www.theactmapleridge.org](http://www.theactmapleridge.org)

In 2006, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows hosted the British Columbia Community Theatre Festival, "Mainstage 2006". The event was so successful that The Act along with 367 delegates will also be hosting the "Mainstage 2009" event which runs for nine days.

..# **Maple Ridge Art Gallery**

This volunteer-run gallery in the heart of downtown Maple Ridge offers 13 different shows each year, with works by professional and amateur artists from Maple Ridge and beyond. The gallery strives to present excellence and diversity, with annual highlights including a special ethnic exhibit each Christmas and a display of the artwork of talented students from local schools. The gallery also sponsors workshops in arts education, and holds a number of special events throughout the year.

..# **The Bandstand**

The local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion spearheaded construction of a 35 foot tall bandstand, located in Memorial Peace Park and completed in May of 1994. The gazebo-type structure, 37 feet in diameter, was built to host concert bands, music groups, drama organizations, church congregations, and Legion events.

..Community Events

Maple Ridge is very much a family community and the many celebrations and events held throughout the year reflect that as well as expressing our community spirit. No matter what the event, there is invariably something for every age. It is rare to attend an event without running into someone you know. For festival details visit our website at www.communityfestivals.org or call 467-7325.

..# **Maple Ridge Mountain Festival**

The Mountain Festival, an annual event that takes place in May, starts off the year's festivities. The multi-cultural parade follows Dewdney Trunk Road to 224th Street. The parade is followed by entertainment in Memorial Park. Mountain Festival also hosts a golf tournament and sponsors a variety of entertainment for the entire family.

..# **Home Show**

With hundreds of commercial exhibits and displays this event draws over 35,000 visitors annually. The Home Show also stages McDonald's Fun Zone, a Psychic Fair, the Times Taste of Ridge Meadows and West Coast Amusements Carnival. For more information call 604-467-3950.



..# **Caribbean Festival**

Thousands of citizens enjoy live Caribbean bands, great music, colourful costumes, dancing, arts and crafts and delicious food.

· **Maple Ridge Agricultural Fair**

The Agricultural Fair is an authentic old-fashioned country fair originating in 1901. Focusing on livestock displays, the fair is an opportunity for children to learn about animals' habits and care. The event also includes a petting zoo and a midway, as well a logging show and entertainment for young and old to enjoy.

..# **Jazz & Blues Festival**

The first Maple Ridge Jazz & Blues Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006. This event features some of B.C.'s best jazz and blues artists performing on two outdoor stages in the center of town. The event offers an arts and crafts village, a food fair and plenty of activities for children.

..# **Christmas in the Park and the Santa Claus Parade**

Thousands of viewers turn out to see this "free" community celebration which begins the holiday season. Enjoy watching brightly decorated floats and the anticipation on children's faces as they await the arrival of that special man to our community. Parade entries from various businesses and organizations compete for prizes, but there is no question which is the most popular float.

Community Events Year Round

Click on [[Community Events Calendar](#)]

