

# Heritage Here

Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2015

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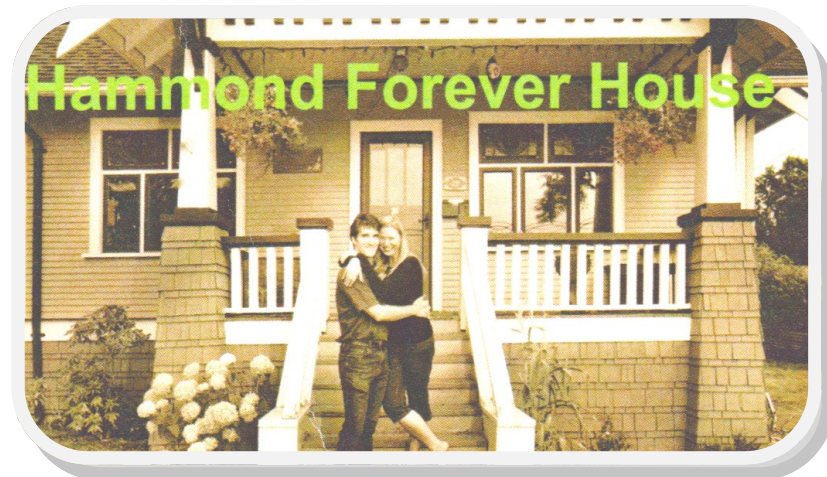


**MAPLE RIDGE**

British Columbia

## THE WHITEHEAD RESIDENCE LEADS THE WAY

By James Rowley who lives in *Hammond Forever House*



My wife Leanne and I are very lucky to have been able to purchase a historic property in Port Hammond from her parents. In February, the property was designated Heritage under Maple Ridge's Heritage Revitalization Agreement provisions. This process involves identifying why a property is significant.

For example, the Statement of Significance for our house reads, in part:

"It is a good example of residential building that used generous wood detailing to achieve a delightful, sound design that weathered well: a style of building called the Craftsman bungalow, that the owner/builder copied from a house on Dewdney Trunk Road near Webster's Corner (the centre of the Finnish community in Maple Ridge).

"The house is important for displaying – through its substantial design – the prominence and prosperity of Port Hammond in the Maple Ridge area in the early 20th Century, only overtaken by Haney after the development of the Lougheed Highway in the 1930s. The house is also important for its association with Carl Whitehead (originally Carl Konstantin Ollinpoika Walkeapaa, then C.K. Olson, a Finnish immigrant, and millworker at the Hammond Cedar Mill, one of the major cedar processing mills on the Fraser, and the town's major employer), who built and moved into the house in 1923, after having lived in a smaller house next door on 114th Avenue. The house is important for its association with Mr. Whitehead (a literal translation of his original Finnish surname Walkeapaa) and the Finnish immigrant community in Maple Ridge."

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### Community Heritage Commission Members

- Sandra Ayres, Community-at-Large
- Faye Isaac, Maple Ridge Historical Society
- Cyndy Johnson-McCormick, Community-at-Large
- Len Pettit, Community-at-Large
- Eric Phillips, Community-at-Large
- Steve Ranta, Community-at-Large
- Mayor Nicole Read, Alternate Council Liaison
- Brenda L. Smith, Maple Ridge Historical Society
- Councillor Craig Speirs, Council Liaison
- Lisa Zosiak, Staff Liaison—Planning Department
- Sunny Schiller, Committee Clerk

### Join the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission

Become a member:

The Community Heritage Commission is committed to projects aimed at promoting heritage education and public awareness. If you are interested in joining the Community Heritage Commission, please submit a letter of interest to:

Community Heritage Commission  
c/o the Maple Ridge Planning Department  
11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9  
Fax: 604-466-4327  
Email: [lzosiak@mapleridge.ca](mailto:lzosiak@mapleridge.ca)

The CHC meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month from September to June. You are invited to come and tell us about your heritage interests and initiatives. Note: the September 2015 meeting has been rescheduled to August 11.

To subscribe to *Heritage Here*, notify the Staff Liaison or visit [www.mapleridge.ca](http://www.mapleridge.ca) and go to "Notify Me" on the left hand side of your screen.

### From the Chair

What is history? I think that history is what happened while you brushed your teeth this morning, and what happened 3000 years ago, as well as everything that happened before, between and after.

Family historians embarking on the search for ancestors often ask where history ends. My answer: "Your life is history. Look for Great Grandma while you record your own story."

The conversation continues. "My life is ordinary. Nobody wants to hear about me. But my Dad was in the War." My response: "Tell Dad's story, about how he met your mother, and how they raised their kids."

"My kids don't care about our family. Why should I keep this old stuff if they aren't going to appreciate it?" I return: "So tell the stories of your stuff so that others will be able to understand its value."

In Maple Ridge, our museum overflows with the objects and stories that tell us who we are and where we have come from. Whether your ancestors came centuries or decades ago, or you just moved here, you are part of this community's story. By learning the stories and telling them to our families and our neighbours we build the foundation for our future.

Since the beginning of 2014, the Community Heritage Commission has welcomed guests to tell us about our history and where we are going. We have heard from Catherine Skoro about the Kanaka Park Fruit Tree Project, and Lorraine Bates about Country Fest Agricultural Fair established in 1901. Joan Gibson, Kerry Haynes and Rene Taylor brought us news of the Maple Ridge Funeral Home's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In June, Marg Johnson updated modern history by sharing the thrills of her job as Maple Ridge Film Production Liaison. See page 3 for her review of this important aspect of our daily lives and our economy.

If you have a story to tell, a project to describe, a passion you want to share, please get in touch. You might find a place on the CHC agenda as a delegation. Or on the pages of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing your stories and news of your events.

Yours in telling the Maple Ridge story  
Brenda L. Smith, Chair

## Motion Picture Production in Maple Ridge

By Marg Johnson, Maple Ridge Film Production Liaison

Maple Ridge has been a popular location for the motion picture industry since the 1980s, and judging from the number of enquiries we're getting from film and TV production companies it's certainly not slowing down.

Many of our iconic landmarks and buildings have 'starred' in movies and TV shows including: Memorial Peace Park, the ACT Theatre, Billy Miner Pub, Iron Mountain Store and 224<sup>th</sup> Street. The latter has stood in as a location everywhere from Chicago to New York, and is often decked out in Christmas decorations in mid-summer. Memorial Peace Park will be the location for the Movie of the Week *Ice Sculpture* where the film crew will be kept busy trying to prevent the sculptures from melting in the summer heat!

Numerous TV shows have filmed here over the years from *McGyver* and *21 Jump Street* back in the '80s and '90s to more current shows such as *Arctic Air*,

neighbourhoods in Hammond a few years ago. Nearby residents were thrilled to be able to watch night scenes of Nick Nolte chasing Robert Redford down a back alley and forcing him to jump over a fence to escape. Still very nimble!

Earlier this year, the Ridge Studios opened up in the old Bingoplex on 224<sup>th</sup> Street. This is an ideal location as they're in the heart of downtown Maple Ridge and close to where all the action is. They're currently building courtroom, laboratory and hospital sets, as these are some of the most requested locations from production companies. Judging from the number of enquiries they've had the studio will be very busy.

The motion picture industry employs approximately 35,000 B.C. residents, including nearly 1,000 from the Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge area. Among them are writers, location managers, directors and production assistants. The economic benefit of a typical 'shoot' or film day is approximately \$10,000, which includes items such as props, property rentals, catering, location fees, paint and wood for set decorating. Many businesses in the community benefit greatly from this creative industry. In 2014 Maple Ridge hosted 334 shoot days, which equates to a \$3.4 million economic boost to the area.

On the set of the TV movie filmed for Hallmark Channel titled *Love at the Thanksgiving Parade*, taken in Memorial Peace Park April, 2012.

For production details see:  
[www.imdb.com/title/tt2415496/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2415496/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)



*Motive*, *Supernatural* and *Arrow*. We've seen our share of feature films here as well, among them *Jumanji*, *Twilight*, *Planet of the Apes* and *Life on the Line*. The latter filmed in the City of Maple Ridge Operations Department and starred John Travolta and Kate Bosworth. The thriller *The Company You Keep* filmed at several

If you own a business or property and would like to register it in our location database, please contact Marg Johnson, Film Production Liaison with the City of Maple Ridge at [mjohnson@mapleridge.ca](mailto:mjohnson@mapleridge.ca). You may also register your property with Creative BC at [www.creativebc.com](http://www.creativebc.com).



## **Hammond Forever House** continued from page 1...

The Heritage Revitalization Agreement is a powerful tool in the City's kit to preserve our heritage, but only if homeowners can be persuaded to sign on. There is a five-year Municipal tax exemption to help with costs of the designation, but there are still few people signing up. As far as we are aware, ours is still the only HRA which did not involve an increase in density as part of the re-development. Owners simply looking to preserve and perhaps renovate their homes (without selling off any land) seem wary. What is stopping them?

In July, after several years of planning and bureaucracy, The Whitehead Residence will be renovated. I believe that protecting and preserving homes in our community involves sensitive renovation and improving energy efficiency to ensure their continued livability. In this way, heritage and sustainability go hand in hand.

We call our home Hammond Forever House because it's time we thought of our homes as long-term investments. If by putting down roots we take better care of our homes, we reach out to our community and we reduce our environmental impact. This is also the shift in thinking that we need to preserve our heritage neighbourhoods. If you would like to know more about Hammond Forever House you can follow the story at [www.hammondfh.ca](http://www.hammondfh.ca) and for a limited time (until the renovation starts) you can arrange a tour!

Note: In June, James and Leanne invited the community to tour Hammond Forever House before renovations started and to discuss the concept of heritage home sustainability. Hopefully, they will ask us back to view the "after" that their home will become over the summer.

For information about Heritage Revitalization Agreements contact Lisa Zosiak, Planner [lzosiak@mapleridge.ca](mailto:lzosiak@mapleridge.ca)

## **COMING SOON...**



### **Canada Day**

Maple Ridge Historical Society joins the free celebrations in Memorial Peace Park and at Haney House on Canada Day. Dress up in costumes, play with games, and heritage crafts. There will be a touchable artifact booth and a photography exhibit under our tents. Instant Polaroid cameras will be on hand to take your picture. This event runs from 10am – 3pm.

### **Music on the Wharf Program Summer 2015**

Mark these dates for fine concerts on the Port Handy Wharf. The line-up includes: July 13 The John Pippus Band (acoustic soul-folk, rough and ready blues); July 27 MoZayic (four-piece Afro-Carib and soul band); August 10 for 5 on a String bluegrass; and August 24 singer-songwriter Reid Jamieson. Concerts start 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Bring your lawn chair and join the crowd on the river. For information call 604-463-5311.

### **History Goes to Market on September 19**

Tell your story at the Haney Farmers' Market. While you enjoy the music and shop for supper, take time to explore the displays with this year's theme Main Street: at the Heart of the Community.

### **GETifest in Memorial Peace Park September 19**

Join the Golden Ears Transition Initiative 2015 as we celebrate Main Street and Maple Ridge Heritage. For updates watch [www.gearsti.org](http://www.gearsti.org)

### **Local Voices this Fall**

This popular series of neighbours talking with neighbours returns to Maple Ridge Library on Thursdays at 7:00 pm: 03 September Helene Levasseur, Mike Gildersleeves, Alex Pope; 01 October Alan Woodland, Bernice Gehring, Kat Wahamaa; 05 November Shirley Lecker, Eileen Dwillies, Peggy Lambert.