



Heritage Here

SPRING 2014

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A VISION FOR MAPLE RIDGE'S HERITAGE TO 2020 AND BEYOND

The District of Maple Ridge will recognize and celebrate our rich historic legacy through the conservation and interpretation of significant heritage resources. Our Heritage Program will support the sustainable development of our urban structure and our rural areas, and assist in the development of a complete and healthy community. As we plan for an exciting, digital future, we will respect our past by providing a balance for change and new development that recognizes the importance of our historic communities, our rural lands and our natural landscapes.

Maple Ridge's past, present and future will be connected through community and cultural celebrations, partnerships and heritage activities that will preserve our tangible and intangible heritage resources, provide educational opportunities and enrich the lives of our citizens and visitors.

THE COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION celebrates completion of the Heritage Plan. Through 2013 the Planning Committee, Craig Speirs, Faye Isaac and I, with planner Lisa Zosiak, with heritage consultant Don Luxton, refreshed our heritage vision and developed action plans that promise to revitalize the Commission's mandate. The plan process included workshops with the Community Heritage Commission and the Historical Society. Opportunities for public input were provided through two questionnaires distributed through e-mail, Facebook, and at various community events and also at a public open house held in June.

The four guiding strategies are: Recognition, Management, Education, and Communities. The actions that grow out of these themes are grounded in existing legislation and the strong work that the Community Heritage Commission has achieved since its inception as an advisory committee in 1992.

Communication is the first concern expressed in the plan. We want to continue the community consultations started when you responded enthusiastically to our online survey. We are ready to join you in creating media tools that inform us all and bring Maple Ridge history to the forefront.



Heritage Contributors

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

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The other prominent topic articulated in the plan is the need for a new museum and archives for Maple Ridge. The Community Heritage Commission confirms its support for the Maple Ridge Historical Society as it works toward fundraising and building a new heritage centre.

We wrapped up 2013 by hosting a successful Community Heritage Commission Networking Conference. We have other projects in the works, but this event will be re-integrated into the Heritage BC annual conference, so it may be a while before we can invite that much larger gathering to our home.

This year offers many more opportunities to celebrate. Our neighbour Pitt Meadows is 100 years old. Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel celebrates 50 years of service to our community. Maple Ridge Historical Society opened our first museum 40 years ago. Tell us about your landmark moments and let us help you celebrate.

Finally, our Commission meetings are open to the public on the first Tuesday evening of each month from September to June. We hope you will come to tell us about your heritage interests and initiatives.

Yours in telling the Maple Ridge story

Brenda L. Smith, Chair

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION NETWORKING CONFERENCE 2013

THE COMMISSION was delighted to support Heritage BC by hosting the annual Community Heritage Commission Networking Conference on November 30.

We enjoyed this opportunity to showcase our Heritage Plan and our strong partnerships with the Maple Ridge Historical Society and District of Maple Ridge. On our behalf, Craig Speirs emceed the event and welcomed Heritage BC's new Executive Director Kathryn Molloy.

Program highlights:

- Welcome: Mayor Ernie Daykin
- The Heritage Plan— Getting From Yesterday to Tomorrow: Moderator Ian McLeod, Mainstreet Communications with panelists Christine Carter, Maple Ridge Director of Planning and Don Luxton, Don Luxton and Associates
- CHC Presentations: Cheryl Livingstone-Leman, City of Prince George and Jill Cook, Coquitlam Heritage Society
- Marking Our Milestones: Wraps, Signage, Mosaics in Downtown Maple Ridge: Rachel Ollenberger, Engineering Technologist—MR Engineering Department
- Walking Tour: Erica Williams and Dick Sutcliffe
- Staging a Community Anniversary Celebration: Yvonne Chui, MR Parks and Leisure Services, Recreation Manager Arts and Community Connections
- Heritage Branch Update: Pam Copley, Community Heritage Planner

- Heritage BC—New Beginnings: Kathryn Molloy, Heritage BC Executive Director.
- Closing comments: Councillor Mike Morden

Maple Ridge Historical Society President Erica Williams developed an impressive walking tour of heritage markers, signage, mosaics and public art. Music was provided by CHC member Steve Ranta and Whisky Minstrels. Thank you to all the volunteers who joined this project.

We thank the local merchants who donated door prizes and services. We look forward to strengthening our relationships with the business community. And we invite participants back to Maple Ridge to enjoy more of our hospitality and learn more about our rich history.

Brenda Smith



Registration Team: Sandra Ayres, Gina Leigh, and Julie Koehn



Audience

*Craig Speirs, MR
CHC Chair and
Kathryn Molloy,
Heritage BC
Executive Director*



*Photographs by
Erica Williams*

MAPLE RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

40 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP.

THE COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION congratulates Maple Ridge Historical Society on 40 years of collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing the Maple Ridge story.

Mark your calendar for these 2014 opportunities to join the party:

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

View your contributions to museum and archives collections on display at Maple Ridge Library. The August theme is the 40th Anniversary of the Historical Society and the 30th Anniversary of the museum and archives in the Brickyard.

HERITAGE TEA

On April 05 reunite with friends old and new. You are invited to the annual Heritage Tea will take place at the Ridge Meadows Senior Centre from 1-4pm. Come to enjoy the displays and food and conversation. The next day ask your neighbours over for cucumber sandwiches.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Reserve August 10 for the party at the brickyard site in James Hadgkiss Park. Eat cake and enjoy the Tiller's Folly free concert. Wear your historic costume or your silly hat. Be inspired to tell a story of your family's past.

SING AND DANCE

"Music on the Wharf" will delight audiences in Port Haney on July 14, 28 and August 11, 25. This popular series is presently accepting artists' submissions. Tune that guitar and hum a little.

HISTORY GOES TO MARKET

You will find staff and volunteers in Memorial Peace Park May 24 and Sept 13. History Goes To Market has become a popular feature of the Haney Farmers Market. Eat pie and share stories.

PUT IT IN PRINT

Check your copy of the *Maple Ridge Historical Society Newsletter* through the year for "History Makers" articles telling us more about the folks who have built the organization. And watch for launches of new publications telling the Maple Ridge story. Sharpen your pencil and put your story on record.

JOIN THE FUN

Lots of volunteers are needed to make these events memorable. You are invited to take a bigger share in the party by contacting Allison at the museum and archives (604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com).



H e r i t a g e H e r e

WELCOME TO HISTORIC PORT HAMMOND



For more than 20 years CYNDY JOHNSON-McCORMICK worked for the Provincial Government.

After many years of volunteerism with the Hammond Community Association, West Maple Ridge Community Policing, and Hammond Neighbours she is now in her third year with the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission.

Her hobbies include: gardening, horses and renovating her own heritage home.

IT WAS LIKE OPENING A CAN OF WORMS, asking a question that has been the cause of debate for years if not decades, “Hammond” or “Port Hammond”.

When the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission decided to replace the broken sign on Maple Crescent and on 207th Streets welcoming you to the historic neighbourhood I was given the task of procurement of a sign maker and an iron worker/blacksmith.

I decided we had better get the name right on the new signs and took an informal poll by asking 100 people their thoughts at the Haney Farmer’s Market, Hammond Neighbour Day and the Hammond Day BBQ with 83 people choosing the original namesake of “Port Hammond”. Overwhelmingly the people had spoken wanting to recognize and retain the historical significance of the area. That didn’t stop the other 17 from wanting to get their point across too and opt for a more modern identity.

In the end, beautiful, hand-forged, scrolled, original iron signposts with “Welcome to Historic Port Hammond” in era-correct font welcomes “Hammondites” home. The signs will be here for many years to come but I suspect the debate will go on even longer.



Cyndy Johnson-McCormick



E v e n t s + P r o j e c t s

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 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, V3X 6A9,
Fax: 604-466-4327,
E-mail: <lzosiak@mapleridge.ca>



Meet the New Chair

BRENDA L. SMITH FAMILY HISTORY CONSULTANT



Brenda L. Smith is a writer and researcher in Maple Ridge. Presently, Brenda serves as a community member of the Maple Ridge Community Literacy Committee and Chair of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission.

For twenty-five years, while living in the Central Interior of British Columbia, she developed and presented programs to teach research, organizational development, public speaking and theatre skills. She is a founder of Island Mountain Arts. Her experience in journalism includes a time as Community Editor of the *Quesnel Cariboo Observer*.

Since 2010, Brenda serves the Maple Ridge Historical Society on Community Heritage Commission. She was secretary of the British Columbia Historical Federation's Publications Committee Secretary from 2008 to 2013, and she chaired the Education Committee from 2005 to 2012. She writes for the *Maple Ridge Historical Society Family History Newsletter*, and leads the Hammond Family History Project. She presents research methodology programs for libraries, museums and archives, family history societies and other interested groups.

For the Cloverdale Genealogy Collection of Surrey Libraries, Brenda developed and teaches two workshop series: START SEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY—A BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP, and START WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY—A COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP. She also presents for Capilano University, Langley Centennial Museum and Maple Ridge Historical Society.

In October 2005 at Fort Langley, BC, Brenda joined Langley author Warren Sommer and members of the Old Cemeteries Society of British Columbia in presenting "Down To Earth," a symposium on historic cemeteries. In 2006, she was the recipient of the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission *Sheila Nickols Heritage Achievement Award for Community History and Heritage Teaching*. In 2008, Brenda organized a family history event to compliment the "Children of Fort Langley" Reunion during Brigade Days at Fort Langley National Historic Site. In 2010 She conceived and presented "Putting Granny In Context: Using Family History Research Techniques to Discover Women in History" to the Canadian Committee on Women's History Conference. In Winter 2011, for the Heritage Commission, she organized a History Club For Kids at Maple Ridge Public Library.

WELLSPRING

**COMMUNICATIONS
RESEARCH—WRITING—INSTRUCTION**

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