



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

Summer 2007

Albion Ferry 50th
Anniversary

2

Albion Plaque

3

Getting rid of Ivy

4



Former Blueberry Queen Alice Tippe with cake (Dave Miller the background)

Fifty Years Albion Ferry

The most recent addition to the CHC's ongoing plaque program is the commemorative plaque dedicated to the Albion Ferry. Fifty years ago the first ferry made the crossing between Maple Ridge and MacMillan Island (Fort Langley), and the anniversary was celebrated with much fanfare on Sunday, 3 June 2007.

It couldn't have been a better day. The sun blazed down from a cloudless sky as an audience of over 200 gathered at the Maple Ridge ferry landing site. The plaque, located at the entrance for foot passengers to the ferry, was unveiled jointly by Acting Mayor Al Hogarth and Dave Miller, President and

(Continued on page 2)

Heritage Contributors

Community Heritage Commission

Barbara Swanson

Sheila Nickols

Helmi Braches

Claus Andrup

Lynne Probyn

Kathleen Cotter

Jim Connor

Maple Ridge Councillor Craig Speirs

Staff Liaison Diana Hall

Published by

Maple Ridge
Community Heritage Commission

11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC
V2X 6A9

604.467.7341 tel
604.467.7329 fax
plan_enq@mapleridge.org
www.mapleridge.org



CEO of Fraser River Marine Transportation Ltd. There were more speeches, a sandwich and salad lunch, and a booklet containing photographs as well as reminiscences and anecdotes written by ferry crews and staff was sold. Business in commemorative hats and pins was equally brisk, while a barbershop quartet entertained the audience with nostalgic tunes.

There was also a “balloon race”—for a toonie one could buy a tagged balloon, release it and hope for its being returned to the Albion Ferry offices; the owner of the balloon that travels farthest will win. Results will be known in September.

But the unrivalled star of the party was Alice Tippe, Blueberry Queen and Miss Maple Ridge of 1957, who was centre stage at the ferry opening 50 years ago. In 2007 she wore the original sashes and with her sunny, outgoing nature conquered everyone’s heart. Together with Dave Miller, Alice officiated at cutting the huge cake, which was blue, of course, and decorated with flags and ribbons.

After lunch guests were treated to a spin on the river on board MV *Klatawa*. Groups of fifty had the unique pleasure of spending 20 minutes on the ferry without cars and were allowed to climb up to the bridge, from where the ferry is steered with the help of a computer. While the captain took his merry load a short stretch upriver, a Seaspan tugboat and a Coastguard vessel accompanied the ferry.



Alice Tippe, Blueberry Queen and Miss Maple Ridge 1956-1957 (centre), and her Princesses Marlene Davis and Maureen Lussier singing along with the Vancouver Thunderbird Chorus barbershop quartet.

All day the mood was festive and positive. Any thoughts of the demise of the Albion Ferry in two years’ time were dispelled by the vocal support from several dignitaries, who vowed they will fight for the ferry to stay even after the opening of the Golden Ears Bridge. Wouldn’t we all like that!

—Helmi Braches

Note: Copies of the booklet “Albion Ferry: Our Lives 1957–2007” are for sale for \$5 at the Maple Ridge Museum and at the Albion Ferry office (604 467 7298).

Albion Ferry

Copies of the booklet "*Albion Ferry: Our Lives 1957–2007*" are for sale for \$5 at the Maple Ridge Museum and at the Albion Ferry office (604 467 7298).

In 1957, after decades of promises, Maple Ridge and Fort Langley were connected with a ferry.

With 50 years of operation the Albion Ferry is the longest serving ferry crossing the Fraser River in the Lower Mainland. In 2009, after the completion of the Golden Ears bridge, it will be the last of the river ferries to be replaced by a bridge.



Photo Robert Watson

T'Lagunna



Photo: Wes Smurzynski

Klatawa

"In the 50 years of the existence of the Albion Ferry, the vessels have made approximately 3 million one-way trips, or 1.5 million kilometres, or about 20 trips to the moon and back. In 2006 the MV Klatawa and the MV Kulleet combined to carry 4 million people and 1.5 million vehicles."

(Drew Snider, TransLink)

Compare: 855,381 vehicles in 1979 (Hansard)



Photo Duane Cooke

Kulleet

T'Lagunna was the first ferry on the Albion–Fort Langley run. In 1978 the larger Klatawa came in service with T'Lagunna as a supplementary ferry. In 1985 Klatawa's sister ship Kulleet started operating, eventually replacing the T'Lagunna.

The conversion of Klatawa to diesel–natural gas mode put her in the limelight and earned her a place at Expo 1986 as the first natural-gas powered passenger ferry in the world. Kulleet was converted in 1988.

When one of the vessels is sent for refit every couple of years their sister ship Klitsa mostly takes over.

Local historian Fred Braches donated his time and skills to produce a commemorative plaque for the District and for the Community Heritage Commission. Excerpts from the plaque are shown on this page. Unless otherwise shown, photos courtesy of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Fred also produced the document "*Albion Ferry: Our Lives 1957–2007*" to celebrate this anniversary



The first passengers walking off the ferry on June 3, 1957. Waving: Mrs. McMartin from Haney.

Protecting our Natural Heritage over the Summer

Ivy = Trees = Trouble

Depending on your personal point of view ivy is either a pernicious weed or a thing of beauty. In reality it is both but for trees in our domestic gardens it spells trouble. As can be seen in many parts of our community ivy has taken a firm grip on a number of our beautiful trees. Check out Shady Lane, 124th Ave between 216 and Laity, where heritage-like trees may be in trouble. Growing like it does, several metres a year, it can continuously wrap a tree in a thick web of strong stems and leaves proving an excellent environment for tree damage to occur. Ivy is not parasitic and does not suck the life out of the tree. Those thousands of tiny root-like hairs seen on every stem only serve to hold the stems in place. The required food for the ivy comes from the environment and its roots firmly planted in the ground. The vines trap and hold moisture against the trunk often causing decay to set in. In addition, the large mass of vines and leaves adds considerable weight, may smother new growth, hide decay and add an increased area to catch high winds and ice or snow causing an increased likelihood of tree fall. One of the easiest ways of eliminating ivy on trees is to cut out sections of EACH and EVERY stem on the tree about 3 to 4 feet above the ground. Once cut the ivy above the cut will die and may be left until it is dry enough to pull the stems off the tree. As the ivy provides nesting sites for many birds it is probably best to cut off the stems in late summer or early fall. Please check your trees and if ivy is growing up the trunk remove it before it damages your beautiful trees.

Jim Connor



Events + Projects

Jane Baile, Parks Operation Supervisor recently attended a Community Heritage Commission meeting to discuss invasive plant species weeds and the impact they can have in the community. The District of Maple Ridge is responsible for weed clearing on public property but the maintenance of private property is the responsibility of individual citizens.

For more information on invasive species, and how you can help control them, contact the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia at: <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca>



Ivy grows through and eventually topples tree.

Becoming a member

The Commission is committed to projects aimed at promoting heritage education and public awareness.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Heritage Commission? If so, please submit a letter of interest to the Community Heritage Commission, c/o the Maple Ridge Planning Department, 11995 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, BC, V3X 6A9, by fax to 604-466-4327, or by email to plan_enq@mapleridge.ca.