

## Japanese Internment: From Maple Ridge to Manitoba



Japanese School at the Hammond Farmer's Hall. 1918

Japanese settlement in Maple Ridge began by 1896. These early settlers worked in labour positions and farmed. By 1911 over 75 families and 300 people of Japanese descent were living in the District.

By the 1920's the Japanese community had built their own Buddhist Temple, School, Community Hall, and Berry Growers Co-op. They were involved in all aspects of the Maple Ridge community, including local politics, sports, festivals and fairs.

During the early years of World War II the Japanese Community of Maple Ridge took part in community relief projects and fundraised for Victory Bonds to support Canadian Soldiers overseas. On December 7,

1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, bringing themselves and the US into WWII.

This action brought out divisions in the community turning neighbours into enemies.

In January of 1942 Prime Minister Mackenzie King authorized the R.C.M.P. to register all Japanese people, including those born in Canada and Britain. The local Japanese community was shocked. Some received this news after spending an evening volunteering for the Canadian war effort. The Japanese were soon ordered to leave for internment away from the BC Coast.

On April 24, 1942 the Maple Ridge Gazette reported that the last of 118 Japanese families had left the area, most heading to work the sugar beet farms of Manitoba. Most had little reason to return to Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows. All their property and most of their belongings had been sold with proceeds to Federal coffers. In 1949 the District of Maple Ridge voted to disallow their return.

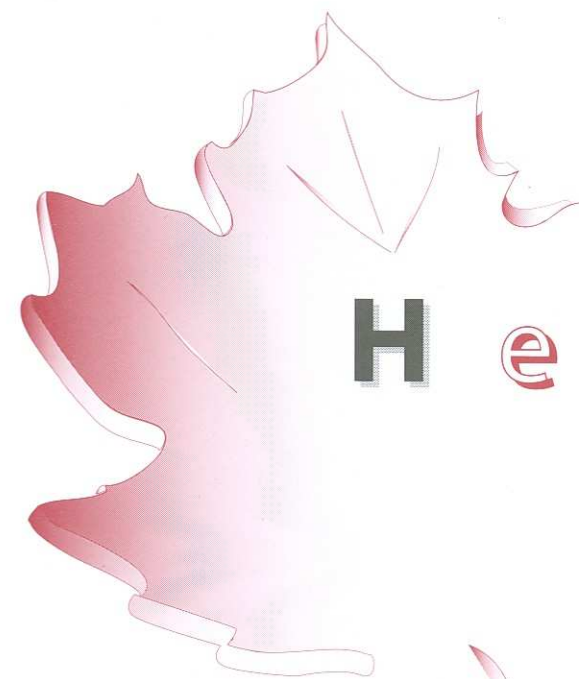


## Events + Projects

Plaque tour February 24, 2007. Please contact Diana Hall at 604-467-7402 or [dhall@mapleridge.org](mailto:dhall@mapleridge.org) if you wish to join us or should you require additional information.

### 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.org](mailto:plan_enq@mapleridge.org).



# Heritage Here

Fall 2006

2007  
Plaques  
Tour

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### 2007 Heritage Week Events

The Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission has a busy scheduled planned during Heritage Week. The Heritage Awards ceremony will take place on February 19 at St. Andrews Heritage Hall. On February 24, at 9:55 am, the Commission members of Council, and Maple Ridge Residents will go on a bus tour to unveil our most recent collection of plaques. Please call Diana Hall at 604-467-7402 if you would like to join us.

This newsletter is devoted to the images and information on the 2007 Plaques.

### Davidson's Pool: Our Popular Swimming Hole



Swimmers at Davidson's Pool 1940's

People soon discovered the joys of swimming and fishing east of Maple Ridge Park in the pool named for early settler J. Davidson. There was **only a trail beside the South Alouette River** until 1934, when the municipality built Fern Crescent.

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**CROSS'S HOME AND CABINS**—The development of the new road encouraged Vancouver residents to begin building summer homes in the picturesque Yennadon area, known for its recreational horseback riding.

J.H. Cross of Vancouver built a summer home on the north bank of Davidson's Pool in 1938. The home contained beautiful wood paneling from a demolished home on Marine Drive. The Cross's soon built a row of small cabins to house their visiting friends when they came out to fish on week-ends. When the Cross's daughter Winona married Stan Moyes and settled on the south bank of the river, they built a wooden footbridge across the pool joining the two properties.

After World War II, Cross's Cabins were rented by families and singles. Both home and cabins had to be demolished when this area became a park in 2001.

## Maple Ridge Park



**Women swimming in the Alouette at Maple Ridge Park. 1912**

In September of 1924 the British Columbia Electric Railway Company gave 35 acres of woodland to the Municipality of Maple Ridge for park use. Residents and families were already coming here for recreation. The site has an excellent swimming hole on the Alouette River.

Early visitors to Maple Ridge Park would travel a half-day by horse and buggy for picnics or camping. On July 1, 1927 the Municipality of Maple Ridge threw a Gala Dominion Day Event in the park for its formal opening.

The Park has undergone many changes. The campground is gone, and swimming in the Alouette River has been replaced with two successive water parks.

## Maple Ridge Cemetery



**1926 photo of flowers heaped over fresh grave from the oldest section of the Maple Ridge Cemetery**

When the District of Maple Ridge was incorporated in 1874 it included about 20 families scattered between the Pitt River and Ruskin. In 1878 the Municipality established the cemetery on a half acre donated by George Howison and William Nelson. The municipality spent \$200 to prepare the land, improve drainage and built a fence. By 1895 the community purchased an additional half acre from the original donors.

Aside from grave markers, no formal records were kept before 1897. A flood in 1950 further destroyed burial records. Identities of most people buried in Cemetery 1 are known, but not their exact locations.

In 1915 the District of Maple Ridge purchased a the second section of the cemetery. The land was in a terrible state of underbrush and ragged trees so immediate preparations were made to clear the land.

In 1917 the first plots in cemetery 2 were purchased. After that the Cemetery grew rapidly with section 3 and 4 being added in the 1950's and sections 4 and 5 more recently.

When you look around this cemetery you will notice people from many ethnic groups. These include Katzie First Nations, Kanaka, Japanese, East Indian, Chinese and many more.

Today the cemetery is a tranquil and beautiful site shaded by original maple trees. Restoration projects have kept the stones and markers looking fresh even after a hundred years. The gates, designed by local artist, Colin Southwell, represents the natural beauty of the area.

Please respect the cemetery and report any vandalism immediately.

## Hammond Stadium: For the Love of the Game

**BASEBALL TOWN**- Hammond has been a baseball town since the 1920s. Every summer crowds would watch teams play on McIver's field and at Hammond Park. Hot competition between Haney and Hammond sometimes led to outright fights on the field.

**BASEBALL LEAGUES** - The Hammond team joined the Dewdney League in the early 1920s, to compete with Haney, Coquitlam, Port Moody and Ioco teams. D. Hartnell of Hammond Cedar formed a team, giving players jobs at Hammond Cedar Mill. They won the championship of B.C. in 1924. They went on to beat Calgary, but could not compete further because of early snowfall.

**HAMMOND RECREATIONAL PARK**—Baseball player Ted Bowyer organized the Hammond Community Association to raise \$13,000 to buy the 7 ½ acre property, to clear the land, seed the field and build the 2000 seat stadium, as well as the field's surrounding tall board fence. Morris Electric donated the large baseball scoreboard.

The Pony League tournament on May 21, 1951 included the girls who ran as Baseball Queen. The official Grand Opening was on July 19, 1951.

**PEEWEE AND PONY LEAGUES**—By 1955 younger children wanted to play baseball, so Peewee and Pony Leagues formed. The Maple Ridge Pipe Band led the parade to Hammond for an afternoon of games in June of 1955, opened by MLA Lyle Wicks.

**STADIUM NAME**-The Stadium in Hammond was officially called the Maple Ridge Stadium. In 1970, it was renamed the Bowyer Stadium. At the same time, the stadium in Haney was named for its founder, Pete Telosky. Today, one of Hammond's best known player is Larry Walker Junior.



**Opening of the Pony League Tournament, May 21, 1956, at Hammond Stadium**