

Corporation of the District of



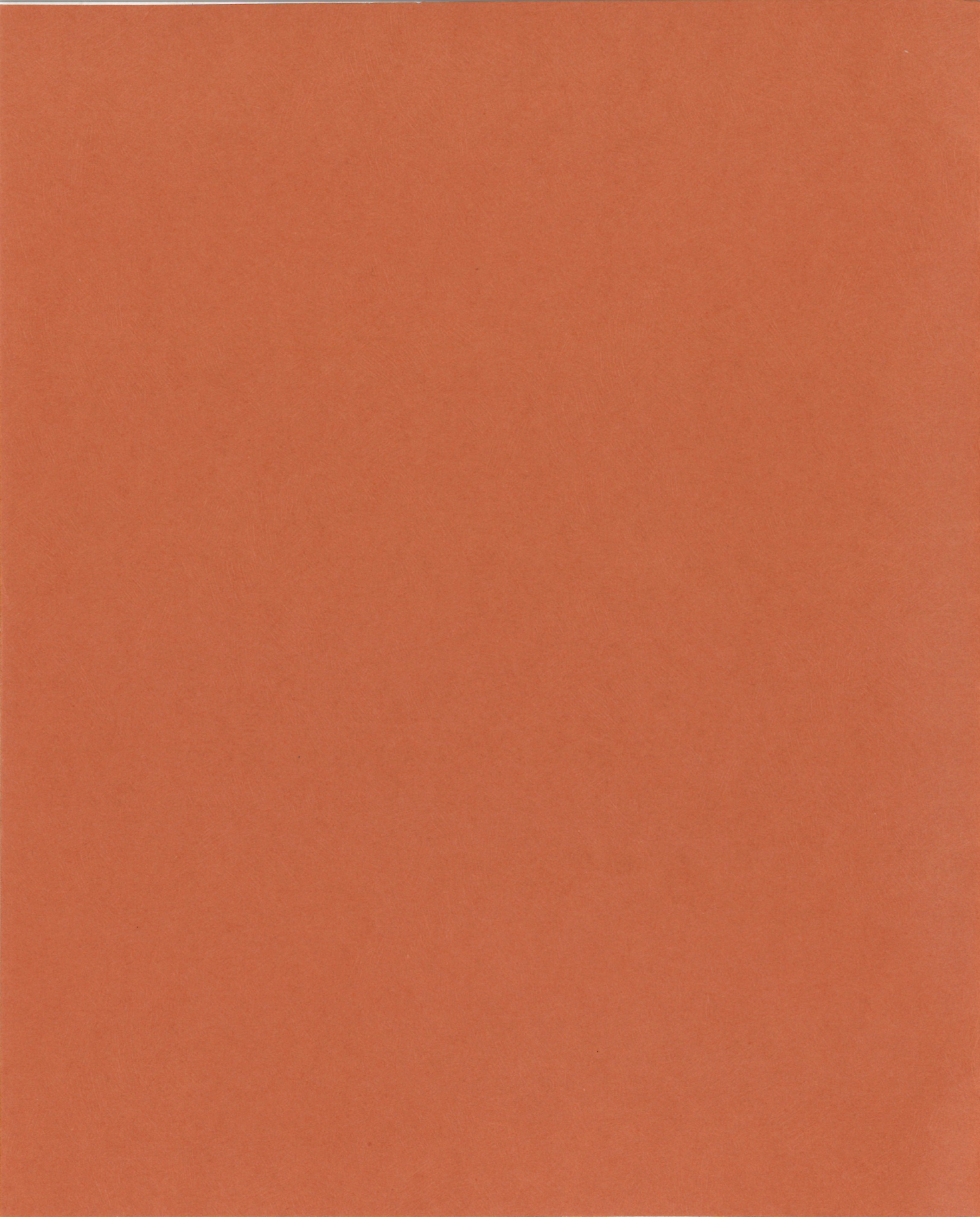
Maple Ridge

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL CEREMONIAL COUNCIL MEETING

September 12th, 1974

to commemorate the 100th Anniversary
of the Incorporation of the Municipality

September 12th, 1874



**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAPLE RIDGE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
AT THE MAPLE RIDGE GOLF COURSE**

On September 12th, 1874 Maple Ridge was incorporated as a Municipality. Following the election of a Council on October 3rd, 1874 the Statutory Meeting of the First Municipal Council was held on Saturday October 10th, 1874.

At 3:00 p.m. on September 12th, 1874 Her Worship Mayor Betty J. Dube and the Aldermen led by a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Pipe Band, proceeded to an area at the Maple Ridge Golf Course where the first organizational meeting of the Council was held in 1874.

Her Worship Mayor Betty J. Dube then welcomed the special guests and paid special tribute to the large number of citizens of the Municipality who were in attendance.

There then followed a Special Ceremonial Meeting of Council to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality. The Minutes of the historic meeting are here recorded.

THE MAPLE RIDGE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 1874

Councillor John Bell
Councillor Henry Dawson
Councillor John Hammond

Warden Wellington Harris

Councillor Thomas Henderson
Councillor George Howison
Councillor John McKenney

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MAYOR BETTY J. DUBE

On behalf of the Municipal Council and Staff, I wish to extend a sincere welcome to each and everyone of you who are present this afternoon. As you know the occasion marks the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality on September 12th 1874. At the time of incorporation it was the third municipality to be formed in British Columbia, preceded only by Langley and Chilliwack.

The Crown Colony of British Columbia was formed in 1858 with the capital being Fort Langley, under the far sighted Governor, James Douglas. During that year a party of 150 Royal Engineers under the command of Colonel Richard Moody was sent to the Colony with the purpose of surveying parts of the country suitable for settlement. The people of British Columbia owe much to the work of these early surveyors who laid out allotments of land for public purposes, and many of the routes on which today's highways carry residents and visitors to all parts of the Province.

The earliest settlers in Maple Ridge were men of the Hudson Bay Company who were based at Fort Langley; however, they were soon joined by men of the Royal Engineers who in 1863 when the detachment was withdrawn, were given the opportunity of being discharged and were offered free grants of 150 acres of land. A number of discouraged gold miners took advantage of the offer of crown lands and were soon joined by others.

John McIver, a cooper for the Hudsons Bay Company at Fort Langley in 1859, selected high land on the north side of the Fraser River and having cleared much of the heavy timber, established a dairy farm which he named "Maple Ridge". It was John McIver who held the organizational meeting of the First Municipal Council at his home on October 3rd, 1874 and it seemed appropriate that the 1974 Municipal Council should hold this Special Meeting on the site of that original meeting of 100 years ago.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Franklin presented the following report:

One hundred years is a very short time in the life of a municipality: In 1874 Maple Ridge consisted of a few scattered residences situated within a large area. Shortly after incorporation the Municipal Council adopted a by-law levying a tax of 1¼ percent of the assessed value of all unimproved lands and a road tax of 1½ cents per acre on all lands within the boundaries of the Municipality. The assessed values and taxes for 1874 are not recorded; but in 1881 assessed values of \$58,000 produced \$1,026 for "general purposes".

In 1974 the taxable property in Maple Ridge has an assessed value of \$72,238,000 and by a general mill rate of 36.955 the Municipality raised \$2,980,000 for "general and Municipal purposes".

The first by-law adopted by the Municipal Council was for the regulation and general conduct of business and the second by-law was to regulate the duties of the Assessor: It would appear that these actions were prime indicators of the Municipality's interest in sound management and financial control that has continued to this day.

In the near future the Municipality will approach the taxpayers for permission to enter into a major recreation development together with major public works programs for the ensuing 5 year period.

Moved by Alderman Franklin
Seconded by Alderman Smith

That the report of the Finance Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Alderman Boyce presented the following report:

During one of the first meetings of the Municipal Council of 1874, it was moved "that a road forthwith be made along the line between Mr. McIvers and Mr. Hammonds land, a distance of one mile, commencing on the Fraser and running due "North:" Thereafter, the minutes are filled with resolutions pertaining to the construction of roads and pathways and the payment for corduroying certain roads. The going rate for corduroying was \$8.50 per chain and it was agreed that \$2.00 per day be allowed for persons working statute labour in payment of taxes from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6: p.m.. By 1876 drains and ditches were being authorized on property adjacent to the first roads and an order was made that all roads be cleared of all obstructions such as fences. During that year a pathmaster was appointed and shortly after that a foreman, Mr. Thomas Henderson.

Since that time our Works Department has grown to become a modern group manned by technicians and a labour force capable of carrying out most tasks pertaining to water service, drainage, sidewalks, road construction, sewer construction and maintenance. During 1974 the works programs amount to \$2,392,000.

During the first century the works force has overcome many problems; however there are many basic problems still to be faced. Many of the older services need to be updated; there is a need for sidewalks in many of the earlier settled areas of the community; and as parts of the Municipality become more urbanized there is an increasing demand for services.

As the Municipality enters its second century the inventory for equipment amounts to \$1,271,000 which includes no less than 70 vehicles of many types. The Engineering and Works Departments are staffed by competent and qualified persons capable of providing the best of services to residents of the community.

Moved by Alderman Boyce

Seconded by Alderman Byrnell

That the report of the Works and Utilities Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alderman Smith presented the following report:

In 1874 our community of approximately 50 families occupied a heavily forested area. The early settlers cleared much of the land and farmed their properties. Since 1874 the community has passed through periods of low standard development, lack of municipal services, economic depression, some renewal and now a period where the needs are realized for the retention of farm lands and yet also the need to house the many people who are coming to the community.

It is with interest that I have noted that as early as 1877 the Municipal Council was negotiating with the Province for material with reference to the survey of a plan of the Township. Since those days the Municipality has adopted a plan for the development of the Community which is a guideline for the future. The Municipal Council has adopted high standards pertaining to subdivision and the services of those subdivisions; it has taken important steps to protect the creeks and natural amenities of the community, has developed a system and plan for parks acquisition that is second to none and is doing everything possible to provide an environment that is satisfactory to the urban and rural residents now numbering some 30,000 persons.

The standards that have been adopted reflect the philosophy of our times. As we enter the Second Century, we should feel confident that we can build on the achievements of the past and capitalize on technological development to maintain and improve the quality of life for the rapidly increasing population of the District of Maple Ridge.

Moved by Alderman Smith
Seconded by Alderman Griffin

That the report of the Planning Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN BYRNELL PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT

Madame Mayor, on behalf of the Service Committee it is my pleasure to present the following brief report.

On reviewing the Municipal records it is noted that the Municipal Council of 1889 set up a Board of Health made up of three Councillors: This followed a diphtheria epidemic which struck the district in 1888: Patients were taken to the Methodist parsonage for quarantine and were attended to by a medical student, the Methodist Minister and some of the mothers of the patients: The Board of Health was given the right to inspect premises and the Medical Health Officer occasionally visited the community by boat from New Westminster to attend to the public health of Maple Ridge and to inoculate school children.

The first Health Centre in Maple Ridge was built in 1953 under the sponsorship of the Lions Club and it was the First Community sponsored Health Centre to be constructed in the Province. It cost \$21,000 and four years later was doubled in capacity at the price of \$22,000.

It is difficult to believe that in one hundred short years the Health Services of the Community have grown to the point where we now have a highly modern Health Centre catering to the physical and mental well being of the people of the Municipality. In passing, I might add that it was not until 1958 after the second referendum that the Maple Ridge Hospital was built and yet today we have a modern 106 bed acute care and a 75 bed extended care hospital of which we may all be justly proud.

Moved by Alderman Byrnell

Seconded by Alderman Boyce

That the report of the Service Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Williamson presented the following report:

An examination of early Municipal records indicates that shortly after the incorporation of the District of Maple Ridge the Municipal Clerk must have doubled in the role of Constable; however, in the early 1890's Chief Constable Edwin Pope was appointed to the position and remained with the Municipality until 1921 when he retired. In those days the Chief Constable also served in the role of sanitary inspector, licence collector, pound keeper and Fire Marshall.

In 1922 the Chief Constable, was supplied with an automobile and part-time constables served in various parts of the District. In 1936 policing of the Municipality was taken over by the British Columbia Provincial Police, a force which was absorbed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on 15th August, 1950. At this time the Municipality is policed by a detachment of 28 men and it is known that the unit is under-manned in relation to the duties they have to perform and to the growth of population in the area. The detachment is backed by the facilities of national force whose record is second to none.

Organized fire fighting facilities in Maple Ridge are of comparatively short duration. In 1945 after a tragic fire in which two young people were killed, a volunteer fire brigade was formed. Under Fire Chief Jack Stanger volunteers took regular training. From that humble beginning the brigade has risen to a total force of 57 volunteers operating from 2 of the most modern fire halls in Canada, operating with fully up to date and modern equipment including 9 vehicles. The record of the Volunteer Fire Brigade is studded with acts of bravery and devotion to the community.

Moved by Alderman Williamson
Seconded by Alderman Franklin

That the report of the Public Safety Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN GRIFFIN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

On behalf of the Public Relations Committee of Council it gives me pleasure to make the following report.

In my role as Chairman of Public Relations, I am associated with representatives of many service clubs, fraternal organizations, the School Board, the Park and Recreation Commission, many church organizations, the Advisory Planning Commission, the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, the Maple Ridge Fall Fair Society, the Senior Citizens Housing Society and the Royal Canadian Legion to name but a few of the groups which are actively working on behalf of the Community.

Each of these associations and groups has a special interest in the Community and appeal to various segments of our population; however it is difficult to imagine that all this came into being within one century.

Before 1875 children wishing to be schooled had to go to New Westminster or Langley. After that date Mr. James Sinclair taught school near the present site of St. John the Divine. The children made their way there on foot and on horseback through trails cut in the Forest.

Visiting ministers served the spiritual needs of the new community in the early days. Methodist and Presbyterian congregations use the Methodist Church on alternate Sundays. In those days Church picnics were the height of excitement and featured tours by horse and wagon: Dances, box socials and barn building bees filled the social lives of our pioneers and it is on this background that today's groups and organizations were formed.

One of the aspects of the Public Relations Committee that has given me the greatest pleasure this year has been arranging for suitable recognition of Misses Joan Harrison, Kathy Lamont and Lorraine King for the bravery they displayed in rescuing Mr. Kosaka and Mr. McNab from drowning during an ice accident on Whonnock.

Moved by Alderman Griffin
Seconded by Alderman Franklin

That the report of the Public Relations Committee be accepted.

CARRIED

MOTIONS:

**MOVED by Alderman Franklin
SECONDED by Alderman Smith**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge record its sincere appreciation and thanks to Prime Minister Trudeau for his thoughtful message on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Williamson
SECONDED by Alderman Byrnell**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge records its sincere appreciation and thanks to Premier Dave Barrett for his message on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Griffin
SECONDED by Alderman Boyce**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge record its sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. David Stupich, Provincial Minister of Agriculture for attending the Special Meeting of the Council on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Smith
SECONDED by Alderman Franklin**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge record its sincere appreciation and thanks to special guests and citizens of the Municipality for attending the Special Meeting of the Council on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Municipality.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Byrnell
SECONDED by Alderman Williamson**

WHEREAS during the past 100 years persons from many lands have made Maple Ridge their home, thereby creating a mosaic of many cultures.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that on September 12th, 1974 the Municipality of Maple Ridge pay tribute to its pioneers and senior citizens who helped found our community and thereby directly contributed to the growth of Maple Ridge.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Smith
SECONDED by Alderman Franklin**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge express to the youth of this Municipality, who shall become the leaders of tomorrow, its faith in their ability, and knowledge, which will be used in the 100 years ahead to make this District an even better place in which to live.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Boyce
SECONDED by Alderman Griffin**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge express its appreciation to the hundreds of citizens from all walks of life whose devotion, interest and hard work will ensure the success of Century '74 celebrations.

CARRIED

**MOVED by Alderman Byrnell
SECONDED by Alderman Williamson**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge record its thanks to all those citizens, groups and organizations who have caught the spirit of Century '74 by undertaking their own centennial projects.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Council urge all citizens groups and organizations who have not yet done so to join this spirit of participation and undertake projects in relation to Century '74.

CARRIED

MOVED by Alderman Franklin
SECONDED by Alderman Smith

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the District of Maple Ridge express its appreciation to the representatives of the news media in keeping the public informed on all matters affecting the interests of the Municipality and in fostering the principles of democracy by reporting and commenting fairly on all matters of public interest.

CARRIED

CLOSING REMARKS BY MAYOR BETTY DUBE

Before suggesting that this Special Meeting of the Maple Ridge Municipal Council adjourn I wish to take this opportunity to say a few words: As noted within the reports of the Aldermen the Municipality has accomplished a very great deal in the past one hundred years.

A very great deal that has been accomplished is due to the vision, courage, determination and clear thinking of the early pioneers of the community. Without their resourcefulness and faith in the future the Municipality would not be in its present state; as we enter the second century of the Municipality's life, we are beset by many serious problems and pressures that were not present a few short years ago. At this time, I suggest that today's Council examine the accomplishments of the past and pledge its intent to carry into the future the same courage, determination and faith as was displayed by the pioneers of Maple Ridge.

THE MAPLE RIDGE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 1974

Alderman D. Boyce
Alderman G. Byrnell
Alderman I. Williamson

Alderman R. Franklin
Alderman D. Griffin
Alderman K. Smith

MAYOR BETTY J. DUBE

